

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

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Pastor – Very Rev. R. Michael Zak, Cell phone:(412)-804-8865

Deacons: Fr. Deacons Artemius Stienstra & Dr. Marc Wisnosky

Sub- Deacon: Andrew Halapin, Jr.

Cantor/Choir Director: Danielle Bartko

Weekday Cantors – Donald Bodnar Jr. & Michele Tomko

Parish Council President: Tom Pingor

Vol. 4; No. 41

Sunday, October 9, 2016

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service of the Third Hour: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Tone: 7

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 99-101 / Red Book: 114-117

Bulletin Sponsor: **Andrea Urban's** 70th and **Melissa Ditmore's** Birthdays, offered by the Family.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Nick & Gerri Novotni** on their 13th Wedding Anniversary (Oct. 11), offered by Nick & Gerri.

Birthday prayers intoned for: **Emma Fischer** (Oct. 9), offered by Trona & Families and for: **Robert Ruschak** (Oct. 10).

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Pani Madeline Matey** (Mother), offered by son, John G. Matey.

Wednesday, (Oct. 12)... 7:00 P.M. Service of Saint Nectarios with the Anointing of the sick, in body and soul.

Thursday, (Oct. 13)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Rose I. Pingor**, offered by Children & Grandchildren, and for the deceased, **+Pauline & +John Abaray**, offered by Children.

7:00 P.M. Vespers on the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God, with the Blessing of Bread, Wheat, Wine & Oil.

Friday, (Oct. 14)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God.

Sunday, October 16, 2016

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Tone: 8

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 102-104 / Red Book: 117-119

Bulletin Sponsor: **Nick & Gerri Novotni's** 13th Wedding Anniversary, offered by Nick & Gerri.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Trona & Bob Paganico's** 47th Wedding Anniversary, offered by Children & Grandchildren.

Luke 5:1-11 –

5:1 – The Lake of Gennesaret is also known as the Sea of Galilee. It is about 13 miles long and 7 miles wide.

5:3 – Sitting was the traditional position for a teacher. **Seated** is the traditional Jewish position for teaching with authority. Some early Christian preachers (for example, St. John Chrysostom) sat while the people stood.

5:4 – Launch out into the deep: St. Ambrose sees the spiritual meaning of this command as an invitation to give one’s life over to the deep mystery of the knowledge of the Son of God.

5:6 – The Lord draws people to Himself by things that are familiar to them. As He drew the Magi with a star (Math. 2:2), as He would draw tax collectors by a tax collector (5:29), here he draws the fishermen with **fish**.

5:8 – Peter’s cry in the face of divine power is not a rejection of **Jesus** (contrast 8:37). Rather, being suddenly cast in the light of Christ, holy people such as **Peter** become keenly aware of their own unworthiness (compare Isaiah 6:5; Rev. 1-17).

5:10- The great **catch** of fish (v. 9) is an image of the apostles bringing mankind to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and it fulfills the prophecy of Jeremiah 16:16. In the festal hymn of Pentecost we sing to Christ, “Through the fishermen, You drew the world into Your net.”

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS are 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Monday thru Friday.

EMERGENCY SICK CALLS can be made anytime. Please notify your Pastor when someone is taken to the hospital; Sacred Scriptures remind us to call the presbyter to anoint the sick.

MARRIAGES are celebrated on Saturdays and Sundays. Consult the Pastor at least 6 months in advance and before wedding reception plans have been made. Marriages cannot be celebrated during Lent or Advent, or on Fridays.

BAPTISMS are scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays at 11 A.M. Two God-parents are required; at least one of whom must be an Orthodox Christian by Faith, and the other a practicing Christian. An infant’s first or middle name must be a saint’s name.

CHURCH FUNERALS are provided for parishioners who are current in their spiritual and financial obligations to the Parish. Otherwise, burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

PLURALISM VERSUS ABSOLUTE TRUTH

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

As our society has become more pluralistic, it has been easy for some to fall into the error of believing that it does not matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere. Just as we have seen the progressive moral bankruptcy of our society, we have also witnessed the wholesale sellout of traditional Christianity by much of America’s religious community. The partial adherence of many of America’s denominations to the traditional gospel call to repentance, forgiveness and redemption through Christ has given way to a new kind of “salvation.”

These “churches” are now more concerned with social idealism than seeing souls saved through entering into a relationship with Jesus Christ. They have ignored our Lord’s own words, “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36). They have shown forth for all see that their loss of faith has led to a replacement of the Good News of salvation in Christ with a mandate to build a Utopian society where social justice and peace reign forever. They have forgotten that Christ said we would never attain this outside of His Kingdom, “which is to come.”

What do we as Orthodox Christians do to counteract this treacherous loss of traditional, otherworldly Christianity? Surely the answer is not less fasting, less prayer, and less penance. We must rekindle our zeal for Christ. We must give ourselves over to the joy that is ours in living a life in Him. It is not in the things of this world that we will ultimately find happiness, but in living a life rooted in Jesus Christ.

We have been given a great and holy gift. During each celebration of the Divine Liturgy, we sing the words, “We have seen the True Light, we have received the Heavenly Spirit; we have found the true Faith, worshipping the undivided Trinity, who have saved us.” Let us commit ourselves anew to living this holy faith as true witnesses to the Lord. We have in our possession a great pearl. Let it be the inheritance we leave our children and the treasure we share with our neighbors.

FOLLOW OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE! Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org> Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddioocese> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews> You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddioocese>

THE MIRACULOUS DRAUGHT OF FISHES

The gospel for today allows us to witness a process of profound transformation take place in Peter's soul. This transformation shows itself in the way that Peter addresses Jesus. At the beginning of the episode, he calls him 'Master', at the end, he calls him 'Lord'. The first term implied that Peter recognized in Jesus a special authority, a superiority. The second term implies that Jesus has a certain sovereignty, a power over Peter himself, and also expresses the humble dependence that Peter feels towards Jesus. When someone who has accepted Jesus as 'master' then accepts Him as 'lord', great spiritual progress has been effected. Peter, falling to his knees before Jesus, says to Him: 'Depart from me; for I am a sinful man'. The miracle produces in Peter a very vivid awareness not only of the power, but also of the holiness of Jesus: for Jesus could not perform such works were He not very close to God. Peter has had personal experience, in his everyday life, of Jesus' goodness and purity, and the miracle somehow consecrates this impression of holiness. Jesus must withdraw from him, Peter is not worthy of being so close to Him. It is not that the holiness of Jesus constitutes a danger – it is the contrast between this holiness and Peter's sinfulness which is too intense; it is like an intolerable burn. Contact with absolute holiness cannot but cause a sinner moral agony; for, as with the woman taken in adultery, the silent presence of this holiness is, in itself, a judgment and condemnation. If very few Christians have a lively and agonizing awareness of their sins, it is because Jesus is not truly present to them. We touch here on a point which is important, and that concerns 'evangelization' and 'conversion': one does not progress from the consciousness of sin to the presence of Jesus, but, on the contrary, it is from the presence of Jesus that one becomes conscious of sin. It is the way we look at Jesus (or, rather, our awareness of the way that Jesus looks at us) which produces repentance in us.

IN MEMORY OF DEPARTED LOVED ONES OR FOR THE HEALTH OF YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS, DONATE TOWARDS THE NEW ICONS THAT WILL BE WRITTEN IN OUR CHURCH!

As the proposal for the completion of the painting of the nave ceiling and the writing of new icons and calligraphy (Scriptural verse) from iconographer Dennis Bell and the painters has been received, we seek among our beloved parishioners generous donors of these sacred images for our place of worship. Christ the Pantocrator medallion icon (14' in diameter) can be offered to St. Nicholas Church for \$5,000.00, with the two supporting angels (each 11' x 12') \$2,000.00 each. The calligraphy (Scriptural verse) across the lower wall in the nave can be donated for \$1,400. If you desire to gift our parish with these "windows to heaven" or give of your finances to pay for a portion of the cost, speak to Father Michael or the church financial officers, Sue Semancik or Cheryl Tomko. Your stewardship in the Lord's House is certainly God-inspired and adds to the "heaven on earth" appearance in this holy dwelling place.

OUR PARISH IS SEEKING A MAINTENANCE PERSON! St. Nicholas Orthodox Church of Homestead, PA is currently seeking a maintenance person. Candidates should submit a letter of interest along with qualifications/experience to the church office immediately for consideration. Thank You, Tom Pingor.

DONATE WELCH'S FRUIT SNACKS FOR THE LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS! Fr. Michael is, once again this year, serving as a Tutor in Reading for the First Grade students at Barrett Elementary School in Homestead. Every Wednesday afternoon for approximately two hours the pupils are mentored by adults of the local churches in reading and comprehending the text assigned. The youngsters are treated to snacks before the session starts and enjoy the fruit snacks immensely. Please bring the boxes to the parish hall and place them in the designated container.

ANNUAL FALL FOOD FESTIVAL – OCTOBER 21-22, 2016! Attention all church members: Please sign up to participate in the annual church fundraiser – The Fall Food Festival. Sign-up sheets are in the hall. Volunteers are needed to prepare food such as pirohi, stuffed cabbage, soup and haluski. Look for times to come down to the parish hall and lend your support. Also, we need volunteers to work in the kitchen during the festival, help with the bingo, basket raffle, 50/50 raffle and bake sale. So please sign-up as soon as possible. Also, place a family ad in the Fall Festival Program Book that will be published for the event; Michele Tomko will inform you of the monetary amount to become a Festival Sponsor, Friend or Pledge. Write your name on the List of Patrons (\$5) or Boosters (\$2) on the table in the auditorium. Also, if anyone is interested in donating a gift basket of \$100 value for this event or would like to donate toward making a basket, please see Pani Debbie.

PICK UP YOUR LETTER, FALL FESTIVAL FOOD AND BINGO TICKETS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE IN THE PARISH HALL!

If you have not already done so, please stop downstairs following the Liturgy this morning to pick up your share of Bingo & Food tickets for this month's Festival. Certainly your support and stewardship at this main fund-raising event of our parish is vital. Enable our religious community to stage a successful festival for the glory of God and the enjoyment of all patrons.

WALK FOR MISSIONS 2016 TODAY IN SOUTH PARK AT 1 P.M.! The Mayan people of Guatemala are entering into the Orthodox Christian Faith in rapid fashion because of the missionary efforts of dedicated clergy & laity in that poverty-stricken country. Offer to walk for the evangelizing of these humble and God-fearing individuals. Raise pledges and use the Walk for Missions form attached to last Sunday's bulletin. Bring your pledge forms and collected money to the South Park Ethelbert/Harbor Shelter area at 1 P.M. Lunch and light refreshments will be served following the Walk.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS OR ADULT PARISHIONERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DONATE CANDY TREATS FOR TRICK OR TREATERS IN HOMESTEAD ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON OCT. 30!

Working with the Presbyterian Church and another local parish, a "Trunk or Treat" affair will be staged in the parking lot of the parish across the street from ours. This shall take place during the afternoon hours of 3-5 P.M.

on the day before Halloween. And the kids of the local community will have a “boo-tiful time masquerading in the downtown area, receiving due rewards for their effort. Speak with Father Zak if you or a parish group wish to perform this service.

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