

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. 43

Sunday, October 23, 2016

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (Sunday) Tone: 1 Gospel: Luke 7:11-16 (Sunday)
Hebrews 13:7-16 (Fathers) John 17:1-13 (Fathers)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81-83; 114-115 / Red Book: 95-99; 130-131

Altar Candles' Sponsors: **Michael & Helen Beres'** Wedding Anniversary, offered by the Family and **+Ernie Vasil's** 1st Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Tracy, Ernie J. and wife, Mary Ann.

Prayers for the health of the infant and grandson, **Nathaniel Salio**, offered by Ruth Salio.

Monday, (Oct. 24)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Elizabeth Bigda**, offered by Helen Beres, and for the deceased **+Mary Kindya**, offered by Clara Vana.

Saturday, (Oct. 29)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Peter N. Palyok**, offered by Anna D. Palyok (Wife).

11:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon: Hearing of Confessions

7:00 P.M.: Vespers

Sunday, October 30, 2016

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9 Tone: 2 Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 84-86 / Red Book: 99-102

Altar Candles' Sponsors: **Michael & Helen Beres'** Wedding Anniversary, offered by the Family and **+Ernie Vasil's** 1st Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Tracy, Ernie J. and wife, Mary Ann.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Ann & +John Yurcisin** and **+Michael Banosky**, offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Anna Brugos**, Mother on the 17th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord and for **+Shirley Brugos**, Wife on her birthday, offered by Edward Brugos & Family.

Luke 7:11-16 – This is one of three resurrections performed by our Lord as recorded in the Gospels. They confirm the promise given to the prophet Ezekiel that God will one day open the graves and raise all the dead (Ezekiel 37:1-14). Many people have exercised authority over the living, only the Son of God “has power over both the living and the dead” (funeral service).

While Christ has power through His word alone (John 11:43), here He also **touched** the coffin to show that His very body is life-giving. This event also prefigures Christ's own Resurrection. As Mary would weep for Jesus at the Cross, yet her tears would be turned to joy by the Resurrection, here widow's **only son** is raised from the dead, putting an end to her weeping (St. Ambrose).

John 17:1-13 – Christ's prayer is often called the High Priestly Prayer, as it contains the basic elements of prayer a priest offers to God when a sacrifice is about to be made; glorification (vv. 3-5), remembrance of God's works (vv. 2, 6-8), intercession on behalf of others (vv. 9, 11), and a declaration of the offering itself (vv. 1, 5)

The hour has come signifies Christ is Lord over time. "He voluntarily willed to ascend the Cross in the flesh" (hymn of Orthodoxy Sunday). **Glorify** refers to the redemption of all creation that will be accomplished through the Cross and Resurrection – the purpose for which Christ was sent into the world. In this redemption, the Father and the Son are glorified. This is why the Cross, which is a sign of death, is glorified in the Church as "life-giving" and the "weapon of peace."

17:3 – The knowledge of **the only true God** is far more than intellectual understanding. It is participation in His divine life and in communion with Him. Thus, **eternal life** is an ongoing, loving knowledge of God in Christ and the Holy Spirit.

17:4 – Christ's **work** can never be separated from who He is. This verse is a statement each believer can make at the end of life, no matter how long or short that life may be.

17:6 – **The men whom You have given Me** are the apostles. They are the ones through whom God's **word** comes to us. This handing down of God's word to successive generations is called apostolic tradition.

Isaiah prophesied that in the days of the Messiah, the knowledge of **the Name of God** would be revealed (Is. 52:6). **Your name:** In the Old Testament times, the phrase "the Name" was reverently used as a substitute for God's actual Name "Yahweh," which was too sacred to pronounce. The fuller revelation of the Name was given to those who believe in Christ, for Christ **manifested** the Name not only by declaring the Father, but by being the very presence of God and sharing the Name with Him.

17:9 – Christ first prayed for Himself (vv. 1-5) and secondly **for them**, the apostles (vv. 6-13). Only then does He pray **for those whom you have given Me** – all who will come to believe in Him. Here **the world** is the portion of humanity in rebellion against God, those who prefer darkness to His light.

17:11 – **Holy Father** is echoed in the Eucharistic prayer of Didache 10:2: "We give you thanks, Holy Father, for **Your holy name** which You have made to dwell in our hearts."

17:12 – **The son of perdition** ("destruction") is Judas Iscariot (6:70, 71). Old Testament prophecy alludes to Judas (Psalms 40:10; 108:2-13; Zec. 11:12, 13), and Judas becomes a type for all who will fall away in the last days.

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.

POLITICS CANNOT BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

The gospel demands that Christians usher the Kingdom of God into this world, not by political ideology, but by the individual Christian's transformation of self. This command to usher in the Kingdom of God does not mean we should be neutral in the face of evil; rather it is a recognition that the Church is only the Church when she is there for others. The Church must be immune from any possibility of turning the message of Christ into anything that diminishes focus on the Crucified One, for her glory as the Church is in Christ crucified. St. John Chrysostom said: "If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find Him in the chalice."

Orthodoxy is the incarnation of beauty, while political extremism is devoid of poetry and art. Political extremism destroys beauty, while the Church embodies the very essence of beauty. The Church must never surrender to any political ideology, because she must always stand on the side of the weakest and poorest of society. When the Church aligns herself with one camp or another, she is in danger of being absorbed into worldly ideologists that obscure her beatific vision. Neither the democrats nor the socialist nor the monarchical form of government is needed for the Church to thrive, if she is committed to living out her biblical vocation of pointing to Christ Jesus, the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

The manifestation of the Kingdom of God cannot be brought forth into this world by any political movement, nor by force of arms, but by the changing of the hearts of men and women everywhere. Only when Christ is manifest in His people will the Kingdom take root, and peace and justice will reign in this world. The darkness cannot be overcome by any political movement, but only by the introduction of the light of Christ.

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 PAINTING COMMITTEE OF ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH WILL MEET ON MONDAY, OCT. 24TH AT 7 P.M. IN THE PARISH HALL! Church Officers and parishioners are also invited to attend this session as we discuss the completion of the painting of the ceiling area in the nave of the church.

HAVE YOUR NAME APPEAR IN THE DIOCESAN "YEARBOOK" – THE 2017 A.C.R.Y. ANNUAL THIS YEAR! Enable the National A.C.R.Y. Organizations to help those in need by sponsoring an ad in this informative publication which is filled with innumerable photos of parish life throughout our God-saved Diocese and spiritually-rich written articles concerning our precious Orthodox Christian Faith. Patrons are \$6.00 per name; Boosters are \$3.00 per single identification; Memorial Listings can be submitted for \$6.00 per name of the departed. Andrea Zober is currently receiving the ad finances and sponsors' names for next year's journal; make certain that your name is listed in this "Who's who of Diocesan personnel!"

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.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT! "I have completed the project at the cemetery. The brush has been cut back, the front gate has been painted a bright yellow and the fence is a glossy black. Thank you to everyone who graciously donated to my project. And to everyone that came out and help paint, I am truly thankful." Thank you again for everyone's support! John Fedornock

THE FALL FOOD FESTIVAL WAS A HUGE SUCCESS BECAUSE OF YOUR STEWARDSHIP! Our parish of St. Nicholas is certainly blessed to have within her congregation so many dedicated, conscientious and hard-working stewards who contributed so much of their time, talents and treasures for the recent food festival and the many weeks leading up to it. We commend the Chairperson, Tom Pingor, church officers, members of our various organizations and all faithful parishioners for your splendid efforts and generous contributions and donations, enabling this fund-raising project to great enhance the parish treasury. May the Lord God grant to all the beloved "saints" of this Orthodox community of believers many years of good health, peace and happiness! Well done, good and faithful servants of the Lord!

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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