

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. 44

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

Birthday prayers extended to: **Mildred Koreny** (Nov. 1), loving offered by sons, John, Don, Rob, & Gary.

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 +**Shirley Brugos**, Wife on her birthday, offered by Edward Brugos & Family.

Tuesday, (Nov. 1)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Andrew Zak**, +**Peter Holubz, Sr.**, +**Peter Holubz, Jr.**, & +**Michael Zak**, offered by Father Michael & Pani Deborah Zak.

Wednesday, (Nov. 2)... 7 P.M. Moleben Service of Thanksgiving & Stewardship.

Saturday, (Nov. 5)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Donald Grossett**, offered by Mary Ann Grossett (Wife).

Sunday, November 6, 2016

20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Tone: 3

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87-89 / Red Book: 102-105

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Anna Mae Zubeck**, offered by Alan Zubeck (Son).

Luke 8:5-15 – As the **sower** in this parable, Christ fulfills the prophecy in Isaiah 55:10-13. Note that while some might teach a person is permanently saved at the moment he professes faith – a view never held by the historic church – the teaching of Jesus is clear that it is possible to **believe for a while** and then **fall away** (v. 13).

8:10 – Mysteries are not obscure intellectual concepts, but the presence of the Kingdom of God which cannot be defined. A person's unwillingness to understand Christ's parables is due to a rejection of His Kingdom. "If the blindness were natural, it would have been proper for God to open their eyes; but because it was a voluntary and self-chosen blindness, He does not overthrow their free will." Doing so would have been not only to "no advantage for them, but an even greater condemnation" (Saint John Chrysostom).

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.

WHEN PEOPLE DON'T FORGIVE

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

One of the Desert Fathers tells us of a young monk who came to his elder, complaining that he'd been wronged by one of his brothers. Following the Holy Tradition of the desert, the monk had gone to the one who had wronged him, asking for forgiveness. The erring brother refused, so the wronged brother wanted to know what he should do in response. The elder told the young monk that he had walked away justified in the eyes of God and there was nothing left for him to do except to pray for his erring brother.

This story makes it clear that we must always be quick to reconcile with others – even if they were at fault. We are not to remember the wrong done to us or to depend on others cooperating in the reconciliation. Their response is not required, for we will be held accountable only for our own response. Before God, we will be justified.

When another person refuses to accept our heartfelt apology, we must be willing to let it be and walk away, knowing that we've done our part. Abusive people such as these can, if we let them, prevent us from living our own life in Christ, for they keep our focus away from the forgiveness that comes from Christ. When we walk away from such negative people, we walk away having forgiven them, and we commit ourselves to praying for their repentance. There is nothing more we can do.

Keeping our focus on Christ, we do not react, do not resent, and do not lose our inner peace. The sickness that is at the basis of controlling abusive people's attitudes must not be allowed to take away from the inner joy and peace that come from our personal relationship with Christ.

For your own soul's sake and for the soul of the abusers, continue to pray for them, but go your own way. "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:7).

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 SOWER AND THE SEED

Many things should speak to us from this parable. The most obvious is to look at our hearts and see what kind of heart we have. Do we have a hard heart in which the Word of God sits but cannot penetrate because of our pride, our resentment, our anger, our lust? Do we have a shallow heart, a heart that has been plowed a bit, but on which we have not done the real work of repentance? Do we have a heart that is not watchful, so that many seeds have been sown in it? Or do we have a good and noble heart, a heart that has received the Word of God and is united in the pursuit of God?

We are reminded in this parable that the Word of God, which is thrown out into these various soils, doesn't change. The Fathers say that God's love is for all men, and that God's Word is pronounced to all men. And we see that the Word is life-producing. This is the great encouragement of this parable: we don't have to create the fruit on our own; it is not we who give life to this plant. Our hearts are the soil in which the Word of God grows, but the Word of God is life-giving, and it is the Word of God that produces fruit in our lives.

In the fact that the seed has life and the seed gives life to the plant, we are reminded of the importance of the Word of God. St. Paul says in Colossians 3:16, "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly." We are to be those who feed on the Word of God.

Holy Scripture has power; it is the Word of God, and we know that the Word of God is living and active. St. Paul says in Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any

two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” It separates the holy from the profane. It separates that which is honorable to God from that which is dishonorable. St. Athanasius says that the Word of God has life-giving power, and that as we read and meditate on the Word of God make it our food, the Word itself will inflame our hearts with desire for God.

The Word of God itself will bring us to the point where we hate the things of this world and love the things of God. The Word of God is life-giving and powerful; it produces fruit in our lives. That means that we must be men, women and children who read, study, meditate upon, and memorize the Word of God.

How can we as Orthodox do any less than those who don't have the riches that we have? It is a great tragedy that in many Orthodox homes the children don't know the stories of the Bible or the lives of the saints. We wonder sometimes why our children are not interested in the Church, why they are more interested in the world. It's because they do not hear the Word of God.

Those who heard the Word, who received the seeds with a good and noble heart, said Jesus, bore fruit abundantly. May we teach our children to love the Word of God and teach them to love the lives of the saints. Let us teach them not only with our words, but through the actions of our lives as well.

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!”

SOLICITATION OF INDIVIDUAL DONORS FOR THE ICON OF CHRIST THE PANTOCRATOR! Since no member of St. Nicholas has conveyed to Fr. Michael his or her desire to donate this magnificent “window to heaven” that will be written on the center of the nave ceiling, we humbly seek the monetary gifts of individual parishioners to finance the total church artwork expense of: \$10,400. Through the generosity of our beloved faithful, special donations' accounts already exist for the painting and iconography which would completely pay for the coloring and scaffolding of the ceiling area of the nave. As all of our parishioners have been good stewards in beautifying our sacred temple, we pray that you welcome this opportunity to give freely of your treasures to enable this sacred image of Jesus Christ, “The Just Judge” to appear as we look heavenward in God's House of Prayer. Please contribute to the Icon Fund today!

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.

PITTSBURGH ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULTS WILL MEET NEXT SUNDAY IN HOMESTEAD! The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA) will meet for their next “Orthodoxy on Tap” on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 6:30 P.M. The meeting will be held at Duke's Upper Deck Café, 122 West 8th Ave., Homestead. The guest speaker will be Father Paul Abernathy, the director of the Pittsburgh FOCUS center in the Hill District. He will speak on “Healing the Broken Hearted: Orthodox Ministry in the 21st Century. All young adults (ages 21-39) are invited to join us.

MEN'S CLUB RETAINING WALL FINISHING SHALL TAKE PLACE THIS SATURDAY, NOV. 5! Members of St. Nicholas' Men's Club will gather at our church on Saturday, November 5th at 8 A.M. to finish grading the hillside below the parking lot where the retaining blocks were removed from this summer. All men are asked to bring their own spade shovel, if they have one. We are expecting this chore to take about 2-3 hours to taper the small dirt ridge that was left from removing the blocks. Also, the next meeting of the Men's Club is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 7th at 7:30 P.M.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS OR ADULT PARISHIONERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DONATE CANDY TREATS FOR TRICK OR TREATERS IN HOMESTEAD TODAY! Working with the Presbyterian Church, 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. 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.

VETERANS' DAY SERVICES AT ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH CEMETERY! Father Zak will conduct a Panachida (Memorial) Service at the Cemetery Grotto on Veterans' Day, Friday, November 11 at 10 A.M. Please come to the cemetery on that day and participate in the service as we pay our respect to our vets.

THE YEAR IS COMING TO AN END, SOON; ARE YOU CHURCH DUES FOR 2016 PAID IN FULL? Just

two months remain in this present calendar year. Are your financial obligations to the parish still incomplete? If you have any questions regarding this matter, speak with Susan Semancik or Cheryl Tomko.

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