

# Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



## American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

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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

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**Sunday, November 20, 2016**

**22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Tone: 5

Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 93-95 / Red Book: 108-110

Altar Candles' Sponsor: +**Martha Opsitos'** 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Ann Marie Kline & Family, and George Opsitos & Family. +**Michelle Dzvonik**, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

Altar Flowers Sponsor: + **Michelle Dzvonik**, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

Anniversary prayers extended to **Aaron & Alisha Zak** on the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of their Marriage (Nov. 14), offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servant, +**Michelle Dzvonik**, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord and for: +**Sophie Virosek**, offered by Michael Dzvonik & Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**George Rohaly**, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by wife, Jean.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Peter & Helen Mochnach**, and +**Charles & Marylou Gilchrist**, offered by Chuck & Robin Gilchrist.

**7:00 P.M. Vespers on the Feast of the Synaxis of the Honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven, with the Blessing of Bread, White, Wine & Oil.**

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**Monday, (Nov. 21)...** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on Feast of Archangels Saints Michael & Gabriel and all the Heavenly Hosts.

**Wednesday, (Nov. 23)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**John & Helen Pido**, offered by the Family.

7:00 P.M. (Moleben) Prayer Service of Thanksgiving on the eve of the national holiday.

**Thursday, (Nov. 24)...** National Holiday of Thanksgiving Day.

**Saturday, (Nov. 26)...** 7:00 P.M. Vespers.

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**Sunday, November 27, 2016**

**23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Deacon's Service, with the Distribution of Holy Communion: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Tone: 6

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 96-98 / Red Book: 111-114

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Cathy & Samantha Trumpower** Birthdays, offered by Douglas.

**Luke 8:41-56 –**

Math. 9:18-26 – Authority over life and death is in the hand of God alone (Dt. 32:39; 1 Kg. 2:6). Being of one essence with the Father, Jesus has this authority (Jn. 5:21). The healing of this woman demonstrates Christ’s power to cleanse and heal. In the Old Testament, hemorrhage caused ceremonial defilement, imposing religious and social restrictions, for contact with blood was strictly prohibited (Lv. 15:25). This suffering woman, accounting herself unclean, nevertheless approaches Jesus secretly and with great faith. In verse 22, Jesus (1) brings her **good cheer** because of her faith; (2) corrects her thinking, for neither could she hide her touch from Him, nor is she excluded from Him because of her illness; and (3) exhibiting her **faith** to all, so that they might imitate her.

**Luke 8:43, 44 –** For the Jews, contact with **blood** caused defilement and led to religious and social isolation (Lev. 25). The **woman** displays bold faith by approaching both Christ and a ruler of the synagogue (v. 41) in a crowd, potentially defiling all of them and subjecting herself to ridicule.

**8:45 – “Who touched Me?”** does not simply mean a physical touch, but rather, “Who touched me in faith?” Just as “the temple sanctifies the gold (Math. 23:17), so also matter is sanctified by Christ’s incarnation, and the power of Christ works through even His garment. To touch Christ’s garment in faith is to touch Him. In the Church, we touch Christ through icons, oils, water, bread, wine, etc. When this is done in faith, the power of Christ is received.

**8:47 –** Jesus calls **the woman** forward both to take away her fear and **trembling** and to strengthen Jairus for the forthcoming news of his daughter’s death (v. 49)

**Luke 7:11-17 –** This 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 (Ezk. 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 (Jn. 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 a window’s **only son** is raised from the dead, putting an end to her weeping (Saint Ambrose)

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**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.

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**BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST**

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

Every time we gather together in celebration of the Divine Liturgy, we are not just commemorating an event that happened two thousand years ago, nor simply reenacting the Last Supper Christ shared with His disciples. When we come together to celebrate the Eucharist, we are entering into an event already in progress.

Each and every Liturgy celebrated unites us with an event that is taking place in the here and now. Liturgy is not celebrated anew, for only one Eucharistic banquet was celebrated, and that was when our Lord offered up the first Mystical Supper together with His disciples. Our offering is a rejoining of ourselves to that very moment in time when Christ is with His disciples.

At the moment of the Eucharistic offering, we are made holy, just as the words spoken by the priest suggests: “Holy things are for the holy.” In the Eucharist, we are made a holy people and set apart from the world. We become a people brought together in Christ, no longer apart and no longer alone. In each Liturgy we are rejoined to Christ and made as one Body, which is the Church.

The bread that has been set forth for the Eucharistic offering becomes the Body of Christ and prepares us to be the Body of Christ. We are united in our celebration of the Divine Liturgy with the eternal Eucharistic banquet that is ongoing in Paradise. As the faithful, we are brought together with all the saints who have gone before us. We will be united with them and our fellow Christians as one Body, which is the Church

**JAIRUS’ DAUGHTER**

The gospel for this teaches us to trust even in cases which seem hopeless. The Good News brings together two episodes. A woman, who for twelve years had suffered from an issue of blood which long

medical treatment had been unable to alleviate, touches Jesus and is healed. The ills which affect our bodies and souls are therefore not incurable, however serious and long-established they may be. Even when apparent spiritual death is concerned, still, one must hope against all hope. The daughter of Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, seemed dead, and when Jesus said that she was not dead but asleep, the people ridiculed Him. But He, taking the young girl by the hand, commanded her to arise, and she arose. Thus we must not despair, either for oneself or for others, even when the appearance of spiritual death has set in. One must never say "For me, or for this or that person, nothing can be done." In such extreme cases, one can no longer count on human intervention: one must allow Jesus alone to work in a sinful soul. "And he put them all out., and took her by the hand..." This great message of hope, which coincides more or less with the beginning of the Christmas Fast, shows that portions of the Scriptures which are fixed quite independently of it can harmonize with this liturgical period. The gospel for today also speaks, in its own way, of the victory of light over darkness.

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

**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE DOWNSTAIRS FOR THE PITTSBURGH DEANERY "ST. NICHOLAS CHARITY DINNER," BENEFITING CHRIST THE SAVIOUR SEMINARY ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH!** Doors will open at 2:30 P.M. and a superb buffet-style dinner shall commence at 3:00 P.M. at Banquets Unlimited, located at 200 Bridge Street in Wilmerding, PA. The price of tickets are: \$30 for Adults; \$10 for Children under 12 years of age. Please order your tickets by November 30<sup>th</sup> and come enjoy this festive gathering in the spirit of Saint Nicholas, the Patron Saint of our people. A Special Guest will appear at the Dinner; a Carol Sing-A-Long is being planned and ornate Nativity-related decorations and gifts will be awarded lucky ticket holders in a Holiday Raffle Drawing. Our faithful members have already offered lovely prizes for this popular activity; inform Fr. Michael of your willingness to submit an item or two for the Drawing.

**A DEVOUT COUPLE OF OUR FAITHFUL MEMBERS DESIRE TO DONATE THE ICON OF CHRIST THE PANTOCRATOR!** The news of this substantial donation to the church was conveyed to Fr. Michael and our parish is certainly thankful and blessed by these members for offering the magnificent "window to heaven" that will be written on the center of the nave ceiling. We humbly seek the monetary gifts of additional faithful members to finance the additional artwork, such the Christian symbols, Scriptural verses, and crosses in the nave. Give to the Icon Fund today!

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ANNUAL TURKEY BINGO TODAY IN NORTHSIDE PITTSBURGH!** Doors open at 2 – Bingo starts at 3. Come and experience an afternoon of fun amongst family and friends. Winners will receive a turkey to take home. Please come hungry! Meals, refreshments and other goodies will be available for purchase from our ethnic kitchen. Donation is \$10 for admission and 3 Bingo cards. Additional cards and "Specials" will be available for purchase. The parish will also have a Steeler Ticket Raffle (2 tickets for the Steelers vs Browns on Sunday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, scheduled for 1 P.M.), a Chinese Auction, a Food Raffle and a variety of homemade baked goods available. Please RSVP at [fr.sleepless@gmail.com](mailto:fr.sleepless@gmail.com) or at 412-766-4691.

**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.

**ACRY CANDY ORDERS ARE DUE TODAY!** The sweets will be delivered by Sunday, Dec. 11

**2017 MISSION TEAM OPPORTUNITIES – ALBANIA (YOUTH) AND GUATEMALA (HEALTHCARE)!**

There is a team heading to Albania March 10 -20 which will work with Albanian Orthodox youth leaders, including OCMC Missionary Dn. Stephanos Ritsi, to host a youth and youth adult conference. The conference will focus on strengthening the faith of young Orthodox Christians throughout Albania. It will also seek to raise awareness of youth ministries available through the Albanian Orthodox Church. If you have a passion for youth ministry or desire to aid to the awareness of Orthodoxy around the world, go.

There will be a healthcare team going to Guatemala March 17 – 26 which will provide medical services to patients at the Fr. Andres Giron Clinic in Aquacate. This is a fantastic way to use your skills as a healthcare professional for the Orthodox Church. Not only will you provide medical care, but you will also help educate the community about healthcare. Pediatricians, dentists, midwives, nurses, and other medical technicians are needed. Healthcare professionals gave give the gift of hope and healing by volunteering, please consider this opportunity!

For the Albania youth team, click the following link;

[https://www.ocmc.org/about/view\\_team.aspx?Teamid=1186](https://www.ocmc.org/about/view_team.aspx?Teamid=1186)

For the Guatemala healthcare team, click the following link:

[https://www.ocmc.org/about/view\\_team.aspx?Teamid=1187](https://www.ocmc.org/about/view_team.aspx?Teamid=1187)

**FR. MICHAEL WILL BE AT THE CLYMER PARISH RENOVATIONS BLESSING NEXT SUNDAY (NOV. 27<sup>TH</sup>!** Father Deacon Artemios will celebrate the Deacon's Service at 9 A.M. in our church, with the distribution of Holy Communion.

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