

# Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



## American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

Homestead, PA 15120

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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 27, 2016**

## 23rd 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

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of +Lena Pristash, offered by Carol, Larry & Bill Dunn.

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

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**Monday, (Nov. 28)...** NATIVITY (PHILIP'S) FAST BEGINS – No meat or meat products are to be eaten on this day.

**Tuesday, (Nov. 29)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +Mary Lukac, offered by the Children.

**Saturday, (Dec. 3)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +Anna Oross and +Michael Oross, offered by Mary, Helen, John (Children).

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

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

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**Sunday, December 4, 2016**

## 24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22 (Sunday)

Tone: 7

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21 (Sunday)

Hebrews 9:1-7 (Feast)

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Feast)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 99-101; 118-122 / Red Book: 114-117; 134-139

Bulletin Sponsor: **Bob Bartko's** Birthday, offered by the Family.

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: **Christa Pingor's** Birthday, offered by Thomas Pingor (father).

Birthday prayers extended to: **Noah Thorn** (12-10), offered by Godmother, Deborah Harris

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Andrew Janicko**, offered by his daughters, Helen Revak and Mary Janicko.

**Luke 10:25-37 –**

**10:30 – Jerusalem** is the place of peace, symbolic of communion with God. **Jericho**, on the other hand, was renowned as a place of sin. **Jericho** was notorious as a place of iniquity and is commonly associated with sinful living. Falling **among thieves** speaks to the natural consequence of journeying away from God toward a life of sin. The ultimate **thief** is Satan, who spreads lies and heresies among the people of God, luring away both leaders and people. **Life**

means living in God's grace here on earth, while the more abundant life indicates the Kingdom to come.

**10:31, 32** – Titles and positions are meaningless in God's sight when good deeds do not accompany them: "The dignity of the priesthood means nothing unless he also excels in deeds." (St. Cyril of Alexandria). That the **priest** and the **Levite** do not help the man also indicates the failure of the Old Testament Law to heal the consequences of sin.

**10:33** – The **Samaritan**, while a despised foreigner, is an image of Christ (Jn. 8:48), for He "came down from heaven" (Creed) to save even those in rebellion against Him.

**10:34, 35** – The bandages, **oil**, and **wine** are sacramental images for (1) the garment of baptism, which delivers us from the wounds of sin; (2) the oil of chrismation, which gives us new life in the Holy Spirit; and (3) the communion of the divine Blood, which leads to eternal life. **His own animal** indicates Christ bearing our sins in His own body, and the **inn** reveals the Church in which Christ's **care** is received. He pays the price for that care (1 Co. 6:20; 7:23).

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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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### **THE NATIVITY FAST**

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

During this period of prescribed fasting, we are to abstain from meats, dairy, eggs, cheeses, and all animal products. The Church does allow fish on the weekends during the Nativity fast.

Fasting is so important for the Orthodox Christian that many of the Fathers tell us we cannot consider ourselves to be Orthodox unless we keep the fasts. The spiritual discipline of keeping the fast is invaluable to the Christian life, for it helps make us lighter and more open to spiritual growth. We enter fasting periods because we want to go deeper in our life in Christ and gain strength in fighting the passions.

It is important to remember that fasting is not just about the foods we are to abstain from, but also about the quantity of food we eat. It is hardly a true fast if we eat the same amount of food we would normally eat when not fasting. Furthermore, if we avoid simple foods such as vegetables, breads, and vegan soups, and eat rich foods that are just as satisfying as non-fasting foods, we miss the point of the fast. It is hardly fasting if we consume a great variety of food in large amounts.

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**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>**

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### **THE CHRISTMAS FAST EXTERNALS TO INTERNALS**

As the cold weather sets in, we run to warm places like coffee shops, fireplaces in living rooms and of course, our warm church. With this approach of trying to stay warm externally we have an opportunity to go inside our hearts where Jesus Christ dwells. They say that the shortest distance to the Kingdom of Heaven is 18 inches... the length of space from our heads to our hearts.

This Christmas we all desire to get to know God and make space for Him more than last year as the world knows... This is a time of great distraction. The Nativity Advent Fast begins November 28<sup>th</sup> and helps us with not only thinking of Him... but knowing Him, there is a difference! Do we see how helpful is our church in this act? Just before the big commercial season the Church sets us up for success. Like a trumpet blast and

smelling salts for our spiritual senses to stand strong, upright and attentive, we are called to dive into our hearts and cultivate the seed of divinity through increased fasting, prayer and almsgiving. If we become faithful in something small, like a prayer in the morning and the evening everyday... or refraining from meat for only 40 days... then we will become faithful in larger things Scripture tells us. These externals help our internals.

Just as the worldly season says it is all about me, we have the Church saying let us remember who God is and go after Him by going inward. Rather than needing the fanciest boots of the season, we look to having feet that walk in Christ's footsteps, steps of humility and instead of the best gloves, we want Christ's hands that are open and giving freely to all people. Let's prepare for an Orthodox Season of Christmas this November 28<sup>th</sup> with the Fast!

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**WE WERE BLESSED TO STAGE A VERY SUCCESSFUL & PROFITABLE FALL FOOD FESTIVAL!** Once again, we commend all of our beloved parishioners for their unselfish giving of time, talents and treasures to the parish in order for our church to conduct a well-planned Fall Food Festival this past autumn. Additional finances are still coming in and a few expenses remain. But, a clear profit of approximately: \$12,883.11 was realized. May the Lord God grant to all the stewards of St. Nicholas Church, many years of good health, peace and happiness!

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**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE DOWNSTAIRS FOR THE PITTSBURGH DEANERY "ST. NICHOLAS CHARITY DINNER," BENEFITING CHRIST THE SAVIOUR SEMINARY ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>!**

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.

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**COME AND SEE WHAT'S NEW AT THE BOOKSTORE...** All occasions and Nativity cards, children's books and gifts, icons, jewelry, nesting dolls, books and more! Special orders can be made with a nominal deposit... Reserve a couple of the newly published **Keeping the Feasts at Home: In the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Tradition**. The book is a spiritual and educational full-color reference for all to share the faith and traditions of our Diocese... Toddler Toy Box... for infants and toddlers too young for Sunday School. Please donate gently used infant/toddler toys to the bookstore. The toys will be available during Coffee Social/Sunday School.

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**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!

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**ST. NICHOLAS MEDOVNIKI COOKIE SALE!** St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 903 Ann Street, Homestead, PA 15120. Senior A.C.R.Y. Chapter #11. \$2.00 each; \$10.00/half dozen. Cookies will be individually wrapped with a special treat from St. Nicholas himself! Please contact Aaron Zak with orders: [aaronzak@gmail.com](mailto:aaronzak@gmail.com) or 724-910-9719. Pre-orders should be placed by Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Cookies will be available for pickup starting Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

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**YEAR IS COMING TO AN END, SOON; ARE YOU CHURCH DUES FOR 2016 PAID IN FULL?** Just one month remains 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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**VISIT OF THE KARDIOTISSA "THE TENDER HEART" MYRRH-STREAMING ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD TO SAINT NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH, 70600 BARTON ROAD IN ST. CLAIRSVILLE, OH 43950 ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2016!**

Service to the Most Holy Mother of God at 6:30 P.M. Presentation by Father Mark Leasure. Anointing of all present. This icon of the Mother of God from Saint George Orthodox Church in Taylor, PA has been streaming sweet-smelling myrrh for 5 years! Come and Pray with us! No media coverage or Photography in church, please!

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**CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT – SUNDAY, DEC. 11, 2016 AT 5:30 P.M. IN HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN MT. LEBANON, PA!**

Songs and Hymns of the Nativity shall be presented, featuring Orthodox Choirs from the surrounding community. Free-will offering to support the work of FOCUS Pittsburgh. A reception following the concert will be offered by the Holy Cross Philoptochos.

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[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](http://www.saintnicholasorthodoxchurch.com)