

# Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



Vol. 4, No. 33

## 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

**Sunday, August 14, 2016**

## 8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Tone: 7

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

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

**DORMITION FAST BEGINS** (No meat or meat products eaten this Lord's Day).

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of +**Michael Bodnar**, offered by daughter, Gerry Lakatos.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Florence Koscik**, offered by daughter, Beverly Packy.

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**Monday, (Aug. 15)...** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Mary Kindya**, offered by Very Rev. John & Pani Marie Brancho.

**Thursday, (Aug. 18)...** 7:00 P.M. Great Vespers on the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, with the Blessing of bread, wheat, wine & oil.

**Friday, (Aug. 19)...** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, with the Blessing of Grapes and other fruits before the dismissal prayers of the Liturgy.

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**Sunday, August 21, 2016**

## 9<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Tone: 8

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

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

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Florence Koscik**, offered by daughter, Beverly Packy.

**Matthew 14:14-22 –**

**14:14-21** – This miracle, reported by all four evangelists, shows **Jesus** feeding a **great multitude** of His people as He fed the Israelites in the desert. The Church Fathers see in this an image of the Eucharist, an idea made clear in John 6. In 15:32-39, another miracle is mentioned in which Jesus feeds four thousand people with seven loaves and a few small fish. While certain modern scholars have attempted to say that these are merely the same story, the witness of the gospel is clear that they are two distinct accounts, with Christ Himself referring to both of them separately (16:8-10). **Moved with compassion** is used frequently concerning the Lord (20:34; Mark 1:41; 6:34; Luke 7:13), showing that His power and authority are extended to those who suffer.

A spiritual interpretation given by the Fathers teaches that the **five loaves** indicate the five books of the Law (Genesis through Deuteronomy), which are broken open in Christ and thus

feed the universe. The **two fish** represent the Gospel Book and the Epistle Book, the teaching of the fishermen. The gathering of the leftovers by the apostles (v. 20) shows that the teachings the faithful are unable to grasp are nevertheless held in the consciousness of the Church.

**14:19** – Jesus shows us that we should never eat without first giving thanks to God. The terminology points to the Last Supper (26:26) and leads to a Eucharistic interpretation of this miracle. Just as the **disciples** distribute the bread **to the multitudes**, so also Christ feeds the Eucharist to His flock through the hands of His bishops and presbyters.

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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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### **HOLINESS COMES ONLY TO THOSE WHO ARE WATCHFUL**

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

Not an hour should pass without taking time to examine our heart, for the hour of judgment can come at any time, and we must be ready to give account to God for our lives. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read, "Blessed are the pure in heart, / For they shall see God" (5:8). It is clear that without a humble and contrite heart, we will not see God.

St. Isaac of Syria tells us, "No one has understanding if he is not humble, and he who lacks humility lacks understanding." The prescription given to us by all the Holy Fathers points out that discrimination and watchfulness are the path to achieving purity of heart. Someone who is proud and who has not rooted out the sickness within his or her heart will be unable to please God, for only holiness of life opens the doors to the paradise that awaits us.

We cannot make any spiritual improvement if we do not seek to please God with holiness of life; yet any good in our deeds must be attributed to God. "There is none who does good, no, not one," and "there is not a just man on earth who does good / And does not sin" (Rom. 3:12; Eccl. 7:20).

If we find we've neglected our spiritual struggle and acted with foolish abandon, we, in our weakness, must turn to God in repentance. This can happen only with an hourly examination of the heart. We must resolve to turn ourselves around, with God's help, and fight against the enemy of our souls, for holiness comes only to those who struggle.

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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/acroddiocese> Twitter:**

**<https://twitter.com/acrodnews> You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>**

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### **FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND!**

On the eighth Sunday after Pentecost we read one of the gospel accounts of the multiplication of loaves. With fives loaves and two fishes, Jesus feeds a crowd of more than five thousand. This account throws light on the Saviour's human concern and kindness: "And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude: and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick." It also throws light on the way men can collaborate in God's work: Jesus makes use of His disciples – and wants to use us – in distributing bread to the multitude. "..., He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes." But above all, the multiplication of the loaves is the sign of a spiritual reality: Jesus is the food of our soul, the living bread come down from heaven. Nor do we speak only of the gift that Jesus makes of Himself in the Eucharist. His presence, His word, His invisible action are already a food, the true

manna, of which we can say, as did the disciples in another part of the gospels: "Lord, evermore give us this bread."

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**BRING GRAPES AND OTHER FRUITS TO THE LITURGY FOR SANCTIFICATION THIS FRIDAY ON THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD!**

Adhere to this relevant and noteworthy custom of our faithful worshipers in celebrating this great feast of the Church. The blessing of grapes, as well as other fruits and vegetables on this holy day is the most beautiful and adequate sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the paradise of God's unending Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord.

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**ANY DIOCESAN MEMBER MAY ATTEND THE 23<sup>RD</sup> DIOCESAN COUNCIL-SOBOR GRAND BANQUET ON TUESDAY, OCT. 11<sup>TH</sup> IN JOHNSTOWN, PA AT 7 P.M.!**

Besides all the clergy and voting delegates from parishes throughout our Diocese, faithful members have the privilege to attend the Grand Banquet which will be served on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M. in the Holiday Inn Downtown, located at 250 Market Street in Johnstown, PA. You have a Banquet Choice of Filet Mignon or Salmon. The cost for this elegant dining experience is: \$50.00. You should make out the check to: St. Nicholas Church and submit it to the financial officers in the auditorium church office no later than Sunday, Sept. 4, 2016.

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**CAMPERSHIP DONORS TO DATE:**

Helen & Michael Beres: \$300; Thomas Pingor: \$300; Dave & Andrea Urban: \$400; Joan Ribovich: \$100; Trona Paganico: \$100; Pani Debbie Zak: \$150; Sue Semancik: \$300; Mothers' & Daughters' Guild: \$300; Senior A.C.R.Y. Chapter: \$300; Proceeds from Candy for Campers: \$161 (\$1 per bar); Helen Revak: \$100; Ruth Krenicky: \$100; Donald Bodnar: \$100; Junior A.C.R.Y. Chapter: \$500; Mary Ann Grossett: \$100. The children of our parish have participated in the First Diocesan Camping Session this summer, and many of them will stay an additional week or two. The fee for a Diocesan camper has been increased to \$300 this year. Donate towards the Campership Fund this year,

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**PURCHASE A GOOD SUPPLY OF DUCATS TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE OF 4 TICKETS TO THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS VS. PITTSBURGH STEELERS FOOTBALL GAME ON OCT. 2, 2016 AT 8 P.M.!**

See any of our Sr. ACRY members for the \$10 raffle tickets and support the organization as it prepares to host next year's Convention in Homestead. The lucky individual holding the winning ticket will also receive a parking pass and hotel lodging at the Marriott Pittsburgh Airport. The Drawing Date is Sunday, Sept. 18, 2016. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize is \$500.00, with the Drawing on Monday, Sept. 19. And the 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize is \$250.00, with the Drawing on Tuesday, Sept. 20. This exciting fund-raising project is based on the PA lottery 1<sup>st</sup> Evening Pick 3. All unclaimed prizes are the property of Homestead's Sr. ACRY Chapter #11.

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**ANNUAL FALL FOOD FESTIVAL – OCTOBER 21-22, 2016!**

The Church Board is seeking one or two persons to volunteer as chairperson or co-chairpersons of the Annual Fall Food Festival, to be held on Friday & Saturday, Oct. 21 & 22. This fund-raiser is an important activity to generate much needed funds for the church. If you are interested, please communicate your interest to a parish officer as soon as possible. Also, if you would like to be a member of the Fall Food Festival Committee, please inform the parish board members as well. Thank you, Tom Pingor, Church President.

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**ASSIST JOHN FEDORNOCK IN HIS EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT MAINTAINING OUR CHURCH CEMETERY!**

Hello, my name is John Fedornock of troop 230 in Harrison City. For my Eagle Scout project, I am painting the fence and entry gate, as well as the brush around the fence, at our church cemetery. I am asking for donations in financial support, and later will be seeking your time and labors as well, as I attempt to complete my project. On a Saturday (tbd) we will be looking for volunteers to help with painting. Students will be able to earn service hours for school as well. Please see me for more information or if you would like to make a donation. Thank you for your support in this worthwhile project.

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**MARK DOWN ON YOUR CALENDARS THE DATE OF THIS YEAR'S CHURCH PICNIC: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER, 18, 2016!**

Last year's summer outing was such an enjoyable affair that we'll be returning to the same facility: West Mifflin Park on Bettis Road, Shelter #1. We are pleased to announce that Danielle Bartko & Jessica Krchmar have graciously agreed to be the chairpersons for the fun-filled event. Our church president, Tom Pingor and the dedicated parish officers offer their full support and cooperation, as do all the parishioners of St. Nicholas. Speak with Danielle or Jessica and ask how you can contribute to the success of this pleasing social activity.

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**MOTHERS & DAUGHTERS GUILD ANNUAL TEA – THIS SATURDAY, AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup>!**

The Mothers' & Daughters' Guild of Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church of Homestead, PA is having its Annual Ladies Tea on Saturday, August 20, 2016. This wonderful and pleasing event shall include: Mystery Prizes, Raffles, Theme Bingos and Door Prizes. There will also be a special award given to the lady wearing the "Best Hat." Tickets are \$20.00 for adults and \$5.00 for young ladies. Tickets will be sold downstairs following the Sunday Liturgy. Please support our fine organization by coming and bringing friends and relatives, as we women of the church are all "Mothers or Daughters." Phone Father Michael Zak at (412) 461-3264 to reserve your tickets. We invite you to come for a relaxing and enjoyable afternoon. The price of your ticket includes: a luncheon of tea sandwiches, cookies and beverages.

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**LEARN TO READ/TRANSLATE OLD CHURCH SLAVONIC!**

Father John Brancho will offer classes in Old Church Slavonic at the Seminary in Johnstown, PA on Fridays from 1-3:30 P.M. Classes begin on

September 12<sup>th</sup>, through December 19<sup>th</sup>. The fee is \$200 for the fall semester for the 3-credit course. To enroll, please contact Fr. Brancho at (814) 539-5043.

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**OFFER YOUR DISTINGUISHED DIOCESAN DONORS CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHURCH THIS YEAR!**

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[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)