

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

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Sunday, August 21, 2016

9TH 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, +**John Rudosky**, offered by Rose Mary Roscoe (Sister).

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Lena Pristash** on the 6th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord and +**George Pristash**, offered by Carol, Larry & Bill Dunn.

Thursday, (Aug. 25)... 10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Alexander Arendas** on the 40th day of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by wife, Ann and Family.

Saturday, (Aug. 27)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**deceased members of St. Nicholas Rosary Society**, offered by the Rosary Society.

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

Sunday, August 28, 2016

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & DORMITION OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, WITH THE BLESSING OF FLOWERS AND HERBS

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16 (Sunday)

Tone: 1

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23 (Sunday)

Philippians 2:5-11 (Feast)

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

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81-83; 169-172 / Red Book: 95-99; 192-195

Bulletin Sponsor: **Anna Bartko's** 6th Birthday, offered by the Family.

Intonation during the Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy for a departed father, +**John Harris** on the 33rd Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by daughter, Deborah Harris.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Mary Kindya**, offered by Jean Colontoni.

Matthew 14:22-34 –

14:22-33 – Only God has dominion over nature; thus, this miracle confirms the divinity of Christ.

14:27 – This is the second time Christ permits His disciples to be caught in a storm. The first time He was with them; here He had left them alone. In this way, Christ strengthens their faith that He will always be with them in the midst of the storms of life. **It is I** is literally translated "I Am," which is the divine Name of God; Christ reminds the fearful disciples of His absolute and divine authority over their lives.

14:28-30 – Peter’s faith allows him to walk **on the water**. Note that Peter does not ask to walk on water per se, but to come to Jesus; his desire is not to perform miracles but to be with the Lord. Peter is able to participate in this divine miracle as long as he keeps his focus on Christ. As soon as he is distracted, he begins to **sink**.

14:31 – The Greek term for **doubt** here means “wavering” or “hesitation.” The cause of Peter’s sinking was not the storm, but the doubt; thus Christ does not rebuke the wind, but Peter.

14:33 – This is the first time the disciples confess that Jesus is **the Son of God**. Knowing that only God can be worshiped, they confess Christ’s divinity by worshipping Him. **The boat** is symbolic of the Church.

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.**

OPEN WIDE THE DOORS TO THE KINGDOM

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

The question recently came up among the clergy of our diocese as to whether it is proper to allow a man to attend services while wearing an earring. It seemed to me that asking that he remove the earring would make him feel unwelcome, and unless it was causing undue distraction for other worshipers, the Church needed to accommodate these variations in style.

Style is style, and it is ever changing. Men of my generation were the first long-hairs in more than a century (yes, I was a hippie) and sported paisley bell-bottoms, tie-dyed shirts, and beads. The young have always experimented with their own generational style. That said, the Church has the duty to require those entering into the temple to dress modestly so as not to show disrespect to God’s house or to distract other faithful.

We are losing our youths, as statistics are clearly showing, so let us not make it even easier for them to leave by placing demands on them that are, ultimately, unimportant. I have worked with youths my entire monastic life, and they respond to me both when they come to the monastery and when I visit college campuses, because they sense I accept them just as they are.

I know a man whose neck and hands are tattooed with a barbed-wire design. He is now living out his repentance as a Benedictine monk because somewhere along the way he was made to feel welcome in a church. When I met him, I told him he would be a great example to youths of the truth that the door to repentance is open wide to all.

The great elder Archimandrite Sophrony of St. John the Baptist Monastery in Essex, England, once greeted the visiting daughter of a monk with great joy and sweetness, even though she had a large purple Mohawk. Love and acceptance open wide the doors to the Kingdom. We must love young and old into the Church just as they are.

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>

WALKING ON THE WATER

Today’s Gospel lesson contains precious information that applies to our spiritual life. The wind-tossed waters on which Peter wants to walk could be compared to our difficulties and, especially, to our temptations. Why does Peter sink? Is it a sign that he was presumptuous, and should not have attempted to walk on the water? But Peter had asked Jesus for permission. He did not leave the ship without a positive invitation from the Lord: “Come!” We can learn from this that we should never undertake anything extraordinary without a call, an order from the Master. But the center of gravity of this

episode lies elsewhere. As long as Peter goes towards Jesus, as long as his attention remains fixed on that goal, he is able to walk on the sea. It is when his attention is distracted from his goal, when he notices the storm surrounding him that he starts to be afraid and, so, to drown. Thus, in our moments of temptation, we must look directly, constantly, at the person of Jesus. We must fix in our minds the image of the Saviour and pay no attention to the surrounding storm. If we look back at our spiritual defeats, we will see that it is always at the instant when we stopped looking at Christ and going straight towards Him that we have begun to be beaten. As soon as we allow our attention to be distracted by the wind and the waves, as soon as we delay in order to consider the temptation and discuss it, instead of going straight towards, Jesus, we are lost – for we always find ourselves weaker than the adversary. We are saved from temptation (and all distress) only when we make up our minds to look at Jesus alone, and not at the obstacles. Briefly, instead of facing the temptation and fighting it head-on, what matters is, instead, to face the Saviour, and to substitute His person for the temptation. Many storms surround and threatens us. “Lord.... bid me to come to You...!

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.

ANY DIOCESAN MEMBER MAY ATTEND THE 23RD DIOCESAN COUNCIL-SOBOR GRAND BANQUET ON TUESDAY, OCT. 11TH 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 11th 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.

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 2nd Prize is \$500.00, with the Drawing on Monday, Sept. 19. And the 3rd Prize is \$250.00, with the Drawing on Tuesday, Sept. 20. This exciting fund-raising project is based on the PA lottery 1st Evening Pick 3. All unclaimed prizes are the property of Homestead’s Sr. ACRY Chapter #11.

ANNUAL FALL FOOD FESTIVAL – OCTOBER 21-22, 2016! Attention all church members: Please sign up to participate in the annual church fundraiser – The Fall Food Festival. Sign-up sheets are in the hall. Volunteers are needed to prepare food such as pirohi, stuffed cabbage, soup and haluski. Look for times to come down to the parish hall and lend your support. Also, we need volunteers to work in the kitchen during the festival, help with the bingo, basket raffle, 50/50 raffle and bake sale. So please sign-up as soon as possible. This is a great way for you to give back to our church and raise much needed funds.

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.

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. Susan Miller will be collecting for a Chinese Auction, and anyone who wishes to donate an item or two for this activity can see her. Speak with Danielle or Jessica and ask how you can contribute to the picnic’s success

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

AN EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FROM THE BOROUGH OF HOMESTEAD! “Thank you for your gift of love for our community day.” – Rev. Louise Bentoni, council woman of the Borough of Homestead. Our parish submitted a financial donation to the city for the Community Day event on Saturday, July 23.

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