

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. 35

Sunday, August 28, 2016

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

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: **Mothers' & Daughters' Guild**

Birthday prayers extended to: **Cathy Pawlik**, offered by Aunt Mary Waselko & cousins: Karen, Janice & Ralph and to: **Adam Zak**, offered by the Zak Families.

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.

Monday, (Aug. 29)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**William Pingor**, offered by Rose Pingor (wife).

Thursday, (Sept. 1)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Anna Vranai & +Rose Evancho**, offered by Mary (Daughter) and Martha Adams.

Sunday, September 4, 2016

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

Tone: 2

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 84-86 / Red Book: 99-102

Matthew 17:14 –23

17:14-16 – Sickness in Scripture is often connected to demonic activity. By **kneeling**, this father shows humility, but he lacks faith. While the **disciples** also lacked faith (v. 20), Christ rebukes the man for placing the blame on the disciples when it was his greater lack of faith that prevented the boy's healing. In effect, Jesus defends His disciples in front of the multitudes but later rebukes them privately (vv. 19-21), teaching us that we ought first to correct people in private.

17:19-21 – St. John Chrysostom notes this rebuke is directed at the nine disciples who could not cast out the demon, whereas "the pillars" of faith – Peter, James, and John (Gal. 2:9) – were not included in the rebuke, as they had been on the mountain with Christ (v. 1).

This kind (v. 21) refers to all powers of darkness, not simply those that cause a particular illness. The banishment of demons requires **faith** (v. 20), **prayer**, and **fasting** (v. 21), for there is no healing and no victory in spiritual warfare without all three. Beginning with the Didache, the Fathers have taught that both the person in need of healing and the person performing the healing must believe, pray, and fast. While it is not recorded that an apostle literally moved a **mountain**, the Fathers are clear that they had this authority if the need had arisen (certain saints did make crevices appear in mountains). Furthermore, not everything the apostles accomplished was written down. Beyond the literal meaning, this promise is also an illustration of the power of faith and prayer in all areas of life. "Whatever we ask, without hesitation and believing in God's power, we shall receive" when we ask for spiritually profitable things. (St. Theophilus).

17:22, 23 – Jesus predicts His death and Resurrection a second time to show that He is going to His Passion freely and not being taken against His will.

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.

SIN IS ILLNESS, AND THE CHURCH IS THE HOSPITAL

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

Our Orthodox Christian faith defines sin as an illness that is in need of healing, not as a crime that requires punishment. The Church is a hospital for the soul whose therapists (priests) first sought therapy and then became therapists. As a healing institution, the Church is a place for broken souls. We come before Christ as tarnished images, far from what God intended. Yet this very Creator God is patient and loving, quick to forgive. He invites us to holiness, to be made whole. His grace is sufficient to lift us up out of our mire and into the height of a joy that is meant to be eternal. We need only humble ourselves and ask for help, and the Kingdom is ours.

Heaven and hell are not about location but about relationship. All that is needed is our response, followed by action. We say yes to God's invitation while seeking out the therapy that is ours within the life of the Church. Wholeness (holiness) is ours through this relationship with Christ, whose redemptive act upon the Cross, together with His conquering of death by death, delivers us from the depths of estrangement. We are lifted up to God, having been made whole, and eternal communion with God is our destiny.

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>

THE DORMITION OF OUR LADY THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

It is the chants for vespers and matins that one finds the special significance which the Church attaches to the feast of August 28. This significance is twofold, and is given exact expression by a phrase which is sung at vespers: "The source of life is laid in the grave and her tomb becomes a ladder to heaven." The first part of this – "the source of life is laid in the grave" – indicates that we commemorate the death of the most Blessed Virgin. If, each year, we celebrate reverently the anniversaries of the deaths of the Forerunner, the apostles and the martyrs, there is much more reason to celebrate the death of the Mother of God, who is also our mother, and whose holiness and glory go far beyond that of the elect. But the feast of August 28th is more than the commemoration of Mary's death. The second part of the phrase says: "... and her tomb becomes a ladder to heaven." The tomb of anyone who has died in Christ is, in a certain way, a ladder which leads to heaven. All the same, Mary's case is exceptional. The liturgical texts which are sung imply something more: "Open wide the gates and receive above the world the Mother of the everlasting Light... For today heaven is opened to receive her... The angels hymn the most holy falling asleep... that we celebrate with faith... Let all the sons of earth tremble in spirit... and celebrate with joy the venerable Assumption of the Mother of God." This

makes it clear that more is involved than Mary's soul being received into heaven. Although in the Byzantine calendar, the feast of August 28th does not bear the name of the feast of the Assumption, our texts express belief in the bodily assumption of Mary. According to this belief, Mary's body did not suffer the corruption which follows death; it did not stay in the tomb. Mary, raised from the dead, was carried to heaven by angels (the Assumption differs from the Ascension in that Christ rose to heaven by Himself). The Assumption is the feast, not only of Mary, but of all human nature. For, in Mary, human nature reached its goal. One week after the start of the liturgical year, we celebrate the birth of the most Holy Virgin. Two weeks before the end of the liturgical year, we celebrate the death and glorification of Mary. Thus, associated with and subordinate to the cycle of Jesus' life, the cycle of Mary's life manifests the destiny and development of a human nature which is entirely faithful to God. It is the human race which is carried up and received into heaven with her. Mary was granted privileges which cannot be ours. However, the perfect flowering of grace that we marvel at in Mary on August 28th suggests what the line of development could be in a soul which applied itself to making the great gifts received during the liturgical year – the gift of Christmas, the gift of Easter and the gift of Pentecost – bear their fruit.

SECOND BANNS OF MARRIAGE ARE ANNOUNCED: for Emilie Jones of our parish and Roy McDonald IV, who will be united as husband and wife at the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony in St. Nicholas Church on Saturday, Sept. 17 at 3 P.M. If anyone has a valid reason why this wedding cannot take place, then, let this objection be brought to the attention of the Pastor, Fr. R. Michael Zak, immediately.

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 next Sunday, September 4, 2016.

ACQUIRE A GOOD SUPPLY OF DUCATS FOR YOUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS TO BUY AND 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.

SIGN YOUR NAME TO THE LIST OF FAITHFUL ATTENDING THIS YEAR'S CHURCH PICNIC WHILE BRINGING SIDE DISHES OR DESSERTS FOR THE MEAL! 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. Cost for participants: \$8.00 for Adults; \$5.00 for Children 6-18 years; Free for kids 5 yrs. and younger. 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.

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. Danielle Bartko has signed up for this course and you can carpool with her to Johnstown for the classes.

FATHER MICHAEL WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE NATIONAL A.C.R.Y. CONVENTIONS IN POTOMAC, MD. NEXT WEEKEND! In case of an emergency where a priest is needed, please phone Very Rev. Jonathan Tobias at (412) 824-0246. Fr. Zak shall leave on Sept. 2nd and return on Sept. 5th.

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)