

# 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

Vol. 4; No. 37

### Sunday, September 11, 2016

## 12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & FEAST OF THE BEHEADING OF THE HOLY PROPHET, FORERUNNER, AND BAPTIST JOHN (Fast Day when no meat or meat products are eaten)

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Panachida Service and Blessing of the Monument for God's departed servant, the Reader,

+**Andrew Talarovich** at St. Nicholas Church Cemetery: 1:00 P.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 15:1-11 (Sunday) Tone: 3 Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26 (Sunday)

Acts 13:25-32 (Feast)

Mark 6:14-30 (Feast)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87-89; 172-173 / Red Book: 102-105; 195-197

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, father,

+**John Yarina** and mother, +**Mary Yarina**, offered by daughter, Mary Ann Kelch.

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**Tuesday, (Sept. 13)...** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Michael Hreha**, offered by Susan Hreha (wife) and +**Mary Kindya**, offered by Ms. Susan Semancik.

### **Wednesday, (Sept. 14)...** Ecclesiastical New Year – The Indiction

7:00 P.M. (Moleben) Service of Saint Nectarios with the Anointing of the sick, in body and soul.

**Friday, (Sept. 16)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Michael Lipa, Jr.**, offered by Barbara (Lipa) Collins.

**Saturday, (Sept. 17)...** 3:00 P.M. Sacrament of Holy Matrimony administered to **Emilie Jones & Roy McDonald, IV.**

### Sunday, September 18, 2016

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

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Tone: 4

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90-92 / Red Book: 105-107

Altar Candles Sponsor: **Andrew Skero**

**Annual Parish Picnic:** 12 Noon at West Mifflin Park, Shelter #1 off of Bettis Road.

### Matthew 19:16-26

**19:16, 17** – This man does not come to test Jesus, but to seek advice from one he considers no more than a **good Teacher**. Christ's response (v. 17) does not deny that He is God, but is designed to lead the rich man to this knowledge.

**19:20** – Formal observance of commandments does not make one righteous before God. This man had an earnest desire for eternal life and sensed that he still lacked something; thus, he continues to press Jesus for the answer.

**19:21** – **To be perfect**, one must willingly sacrifice all and **follow** Christ. Nothing is gained unless this sacrifice is given freely. The specifics of how one follows Christ will be different for each person. Because wealth had such a grip on this rich man, his only hope was to **sell** and **give** away all his possessions. St. John Chrysostom tells us that giving away possessions is the least of Christ's instructions here; following Him in all things is a far greater and more difficult calling.

**19:23-26** – Various interpretations have been suggested for the impossible image of a **camel** going through **the eye of a needle**: e.g., that the word was not camel, but "rope"; or that the eye of a needle was a city gate through a camel might barely squeeze if it were first unloaded of all its baggage, symbolizing wealth. Even the Talmud uses the expression "for an elephant to go through the eye of a needle." Whatever the phrase refers to, it displays the impossibility of salvation for those who are attached to riches. This is clearly evidenced by the disciples' response, "**Who then can be saved?**" Yet by God's grace, even what is **impossible** to man can come to pass.

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DEAR FATHER & PARISHIONERS OF ST. NICHOLAS: We extend our deepest appreciation for the many prayers, cards & gifts, as well as the goodies prepared for all during this difficult time. Your thoughtfulness will remain in our hearts. Love, Pani Eleanor Herbert & Family.

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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.

### THE RICH RULER

The gospel for this twelfth Sunday after Pentecost tells us of a rich and powerful man – "a ruler" – who asked Jesus what was needed to inherit eternal life. Jesus reminds him of the commandments. "All these have I kept from my youth up..." He lacks one thing. Jesus tells him: to sell as his goods and distribute them to the poor. "And come, follow me..." But the man goes sorrowfully away, "for he was very rich." And Jesus says that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Sometimes it is material wealth which stops a man from entering the kingdom but there are possessions other than money. Beauty, intelligence, perhaps some disordered human affection or bad habit: these, just as much, can be hindrances which Jesus tells us to free ourselves of before following Him. What are the earthly goods which hold and hinder me, personally, from following Jesus? How can I put these possessions to the service of the poor, and thus liberate my will? The gospel for this Sunday faces each one of us with this question. It is a good question to consider, especially at the time of Our Lord's Nativity, at the time when Jesus comes to us in complete poverty, possessing nothing.

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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 CHURCH NEW YEAR BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY!

At Matins for this day, we hear one of the gospel texts of the Resurrection of Christ which are read at matins every Sunday. The chosen text is Luke 24:1-12. Perhaps the reason for this choice lies in the words relating to the holy women: "The first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher..." We, too, are invited to turn our thoughts to the Risen Lord at the break of day, at the first light of the year which is beginning on the first day of the week – the week, in this case, being the

year. The central scriptural text for this day is the gospel read at the liturgy (Luke 4:16-22). Jesus, returning to Nazareth, enters the synagogue. He is asked to read the portion of Scripture appropriately to that Sabbath. He opens the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah and reads: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Jesus folds up the scroll, sits down and says: "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." Jesus addresses this same solemn declaration to us at the start of each year. I am poor – perhaps materially, but certainly spiritually. I am captive – captive of my egoism and of my sin. I am blind – for my eyes do not know how to perceive the divine light. I am wounded – perhaps by the external circumstances of my life – but much more to my repeated spiritual failures. And all the time, Jesus is there in front of me, and offers me deliverance. He, Himself, is the embodiment of all deliverance and of all forgiveness. If at this moment, I accept His word, His salvation, everything can become new for me. Today: on the first day of the year this offer is made to me. I have heard this divine promise so many times already, at the start of so many years: and have abused this grace so many times, wasting in sin those opportunities opened for my conversion. But, in spite of this accumulation of infidelities, Jesus still renews His offer to me: this year which is starting can still be for me "a year of grace of the Lord." I do not know if I shall have the strength and the grace to persevere; but at least, on this first day, I can look towards our Lord in a spirit of faith and consecration. The gospel says: "And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him." Would that on this first day of the year my eyes might turn away from the defilements in which they take pleasure and fix themselves on Christ – and remain fixed on Him. For, if I have the courage to keep my eyes on Jesus alone, if I do not turn them aside, I shall no longer fall. Lord Jesus, I look at You. I have listened to Your promises. Let me now hear, in a way that is totally personal and intimate, the assurance: "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."

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**THIRD 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.

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**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.

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**PLEASE COME AND HELP MAKE PIROHI FOR THE FALL FESTIVAL THIS TUESDAY (SEPT. 13<sup>TH</sup>) AT 6:00 P.M.!** We need your assistance this week to prepare the popular Slavic delicacy for the Food Festival in October. All male & female parishioners are welcomed to manifest their stewardship. If you have any questions regarding this labor of love, see Jean Colantoni or phone her at (412) 491-7090.

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**CONGRATULATE MARY REGDON WHO WILL CELEBRATE HER 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY TOWARDS THE END OF THIS MONTH (9/27)!** Send her a card of congratulations, while offering a personal prayer of good intentions for her health, peace and happiness. Mary's address is: 2400 Sharp Avenue, Apartment #110, West Mifflin, PA 15122.

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**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 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!** 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. Also, place a family ad in the Fall Festival Program Book that will be published for the event; Michele Tomko will inform you of the monetary amount to become a Festival Sponsor, Friend or Pledge. Write your name on the List of Patrons (\$5) or Boosters (\$2) on the table in the auditorium.

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**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. Fun-filled games, Bingo, 50/50 Raffle and Door Prizes are on the agenda and the appetizing menu consists of: Kielbasa, Hamburgers and Hot Dogs on the grill, plus, homemade Holupki and Haluski. 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. May our worshipping community enjoy the fellowship of all at this pleasing social event.

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**LEARN TO READ/TRANSLATE OLD CHURCH SLAVONIC!** Father John Branco will offer classes in Old Church Slavonic at the Seminary in Johnstown, PA on Fridays from 1-3:30 P.M. Classes begin on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, through Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. The fee is \$200 for the fall semester for the 3-credit course. To enroll, please contact Fr. Branco at (814) 539-5043. See Danielle Bartko to carpool.

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