

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, September 18, 2016

13TH 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 in memory of wife, +**Mary Frances**.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, father, +**Albert Nicholas Popovich** on the 5th Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord (Sept. 19), offered by son, Albert.

Annual Parish Picnic: 12 Noon at West Mifflin Park, Shelter #1 off of Bettis Road. **Today**, all members of our worshiping community will enjoy an abundance of fellowship at the social event of the year: St. Nicholas Church Summer Outing at a nearby picnic site. Invite your relatives and friends, as well, to this fun-filled event. With plenty of good food such as Kolbasi, Hamburgers and Hot Dogs on the grill, plus, homemade Holupki and Haluski to feast upon, you invited to bring a side dish or dessert to complement the meal. Purchase your tickets for the affair downstairs in the parish auditorium or at the park. Cost: \$8.00 for Adults; \$5.00 for Children 6-18 yrs.; Free for kids 5 yrs. and younger. There will be plenty of recreational and exciting games to be played, besides Bingo, 50/50 Raffle, Chinese Auction and Door Prizes (without a door). You cannot afford to miss this most pleasing gathering of our church family; come and relish in the company of folks who share our precious Orthodox Christian Faith. Come and have the "time of your life!"

Tuesday, (Sept. 20)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Joseph & +Mary Genci**, offered by Joseph Genci (Ganzy).

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

Wednesday, (Sept. 21)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God.

Saturday, (Sept. 24)... 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon: Hearing of Confessions.

Sunday, September 25, 2016

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 (Sunday)

Tone: 5

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14 (Sunday)

Galatians 6:11-18 (Before Exaltation)

John 3:13-17 (Before Exaltation)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 93-95; 108 / Red Book: 108-110; 124

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant: +**Anthony Panichelli** (Father), offered by Susan Miller (Daughter).

Matthew 21:33-42

Luke 20:9-16 – In this **parable**, the **man** represents God the Father, and the **vineyard** refers to God's people. The **vinedressers** are the leaders of the Jews entrusted to care for the people. Each **servant** (vv. 10-12) **sent** by the owner stands for an Old Testament prophet who comes to call people back to God, while the **beloved son** (v. 13) refers to Christ Himself. When the Son is cast **out of the vineyard** (v. 15) to be **killed**, this is understood on two levels: (1) that Jesus was killed outside of Jerusalem; and (2) that Jesus was crucified by foreign soldiers, not by those of His own vineyard. The **others** (v. 16) who later receive the vineyard are the Gentiles brought into the Church.

Math. 21:41 – Again, the Jewish leaders convict themselves. Using their own principles, the elders convict themselves in their answer to Christ's parable.

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.

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.

HUMILITY QUICKENS LOVE FOR MALICIOUS PEOPLE

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

A man who is wrathful with us is a sick man; we must apply a plaster to his heart – love; we must treat him kindly, speak to him gently, lovingly. And if there is not deeply rooted malice against us within him, but only a temporary fit of anger, you will see how his heart, or his malice, will melt away through your kindness and love – how good will conquer evil. A Christian must always be kind, gracious, and wise in order to conquer evil by good. – St. John of Kronstadt

But how can we address such a person in love, when he has insulted us and spoken to us with disrespect? Love sprouts forth from our heart for such a person when our soul, seeing the meekness and humility of Christ, becomes humble. Then we will become like the Lord Himself, who loved even those who were spitting upon Him and crucifying Him, forgave them, and loved them to the Cross. It is in humility that we are able to love another who has this wrath, this sickness. It is through humility that we can love even the person who shows malice toward us.

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>

THE VINEYARD AND THE HUSBANDMEN

The Gospel for this 13th Sunday after Pentecost consists of the parable of the vineyard and the wicked husbandmen. A man who had planted a vineyard and dug a winepress in it went into a far country, leaving it in the care of the husbandmen. Several times he

sent servants to receive its fruits, but the husbandmen ill-treated or killed them. Then the owner decided to send his son; the husbandmen, eager to get hold of the inheritance, killed the son. What can the lord of the vineyard do but destroy these wicked men and let out the vineyard to others? Jesus intends this parable primarily for the Jews, who, like the wicked husbandmen, have killed those sent by the owner, and will kill the son himself (one notices how well the words “they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him” apply to Jesus’ Passion, when He was taken and crucified outside the holy city), so that the work in the vineyard – that is to say in the establishment of the messianic kingdom – will be entrusted to the Gentiles. But the parable also applies to us personally. Have we, who are His husbandmen, His stewards, worked selflessly in the Father’s vineyard? Have we not all too often despised the repeated messages and calls from the lord of the vineyard – indeed, His Word itself, and the ministry of the angels, and the example of the saints? Each time we sin, do we not share the guilt of the Jews in the murder of the Son? Have we not deserved to be excluded by God from His service and His Kingdom? This is the severe warning that the gospel brings us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THIS SATURDAY (SEPT. 24) AT 9:30 A.M. AT OUR ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH CEMETERY!

Please offer your assistance to John Fedornock as he works on his Boy Scouts’ Eagle Project to maintain and beautify our sacred burial grounds in West Mifflin. Put on your working clothes and commit yourself to this labor of love at the parish cemetery. Food and drinks will be provided for the crew who manifest their stewardship in serving the Lord and His House!

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.

PLEASE COME AND HELP MAKE PIROHI FOR THE FALL FESTIVAL THIS TUESDAY (SEPT. 20TH) 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.

CONGRATULATE MARY REGDON WHO WILL CELEBRATE HER 100TH 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.

BACK TO CHURCH SCHOOL BEGAN LAST SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 11TH)!

When we hear of Sept. 11, as Americans and people of the world, one moment comes to mind. Where we were and our loved ones when the twin towers were destroyed amidst the other planes that went down. How we respond to such a catastrophe can teach our children a lot about who we are as Orthodox Christians. Have we told them that God loves them, that Jesus Christ, His Son and Equal with God the Father: One God, also has a heart of forgiveness and that we are to pray for our enemies that they come to learn of better ways of living? Is there actually as Christian teaching going on in their lives outside of Church? It is vital that what we teach in Church is taught in the home or else Church School will be looked at as a past-time tradition. Please live the faith in action And Conversation with our youth. Let them know YOU love them and that God wants them close to Him. Bring them to Church. Let God speak to them, too.

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.

SPAGHETTI DINNER NEXT SUNDAY FROM NOON TO 4 P.M. AT ST. JOHN’S IN EAST PITTSBURGH, PA!

The great value \$10 ticket will get you a delectable entrée of Authentic Italian Spaghetti, Fresh Salad, Rolls and Dessert and Beverage. ALSO, you will be serenaded by true paisano lounge crooners (think Sinatra, Fisher, Martin)... and maybe, a live act! Tickets are priced at \$10, whereas, children under 12 years of age pay only: \$5. A Bake Sale with scrumptious cakes and cookies shall take place, as well. And, a splendid Gift Basket Raffle shall complement the repast. Email Fr. Jonathan at janotec77@gmail.com or call him at (412) 427-4195 for more details.

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