

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

Homestead, PA 15120

Rectory Office Phone: (412) 461-3264

Church Office & Auditorium: (412) 461-9437

Web Site: www.stnichomestead.org

E-mail Address: stnic@stnichomestead.org

E-mail Address: frmzak@gmail.com

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. 39

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).

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, brother, +**Stephen Bozdos, Jr.**, offered by his sister, Ann Arendas.

Monday, (Sept. 26)... 7 P.M. Great Vespers on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, with the Blessing of Bread, Wheat, Wine & Oil.

Tuesday, (Sept. 27)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross (Strict Fast Day), with the Blessing of Bread, Wheat, Wine & Oil.

Wednesday, (Sept. 28)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Joseph Ganzy**, offered by Martha Ganzy (Wife) and for +**Mary Kindya**, offered by St. Nicholas Senior A.C.R.Y. Chapter.

Friday, (Sept. 30)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**His Grace, The Most Rev. Bishop John R. Martin**, offered by the Family.

Saturday, (Oct. 1)... 7:00 P.M. Vespers.

Sunday, October 2, 2016

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (Sunday) Tone: 6

Gospel: Matthew 22:25-36 (Sunday)

Galatians 2:16-20 (After Exaltation)

Mark 8:34-9:1 (After Exaltation)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 96-98; 113 / Red Book: 111-114; 129

Matthew 22:1-14 – Like the preceding parables, this one also proclaims the transfer of the Kingdom from the faithless Jews to the Gentiles. It is set as a joyful wedding banquet (v. 2), for Christ is often called the "Bridegroom" (9:15; John 3:29), and St. Paul uses a marriage analogy for the Kingdom (Ephesians 5:21-33).

The repeated sending out of **servants** shows the Father's great desire to have His people with Him in the Kingdom. The first group (v. 3) is interpreted to be Moses and those with him, while the second group (v. 4) is composed of the prophets. These groups call those initially invited – the Jews. The third group (v. 9) represents the apostles sent to the Gentiles, those not initially invited, but now called.

22:4 – The **oxen** represents the sacrifices of the Old Covenant, while the **fatted cattle** represent the Eucharistic bread of the New Covenant. (Fatted is better translated “wheat-fed,” or even more literally “formed from wheat”). Thus, both the Old and New Covenants are fulfilled at the wedding of Christ and His Church.

22:7 – Burned up their city: St. John Chrysostom teaches that Christ is prophesying the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70, and thus attributes this destruction to an act of God rather than simply to that of men. Nevertheless, God showed His patience by waiting some 40 years from the time of Christ, giving the entire generation a chance to repent.

22:11-13 – The **wedding garment** would have been provided by the king, and therefore the man had no excuse for not wearing one; thus he is **speechless**. His refusal to wear the garment that was provided is an illustration of those who refuse God's hospitality, or who want His Kingdom on their own terms. Specifically, the garment refers to the baptismal garment, and by extension, a life of faith, repentance, virtue and charity. Without these, a person will ultimately be **cast into outer darkness**.

22:14 For many: Is an Aramaic expression meaning “for all.”

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 WORLD AS SACRAMENT

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

Everything that lives and breathes is sacred and beautiful in the eyes of God. The whole world is a sacrament. The entire created cosmos is a burning bush of God's uncreated energies. And humankind stands as a priest before the altar of creation, as microcosm and mediator. Such is the true nature of things; or, as an Orthodox hymn describes it, “the truth of things,” if only we have the eyes of faith to see it.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

These words ring so true to me, both as an Orthodox Christian and as a man who has always loved the outdoors and found many opportunities to be out in it. Orthodoxy has never viewed the environment or natural resources as being for plunder. It has historically viewed the earth as a place to be nurtured, protected, and preserved for future generations. The plunder of vast areas of Russia happened under the godless Soviets. The great forests that surrounded Athens and Thessalonika – cities built by Greeks, who used stone for construction – were cut down by the Turks, who built only with wood.

Our Church has special supplications and litanies for “seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth,” and for protection in the case of natural disasters. There is even a special prayer from the service said in times of earthquakes: “The earth is without words, yet groans and cries: ‘Why, all people, do you pollute me with so many evils? The Master spares you but chastises me entirely: understand and propitiate God in repentance.’”

Orthodoxy conveys a profound understanding of creation and of the role of humanity as the priesthood of creation. As creatures who are able to alter and reshape the world, we are bound by the Creator to be good stewards. As the whole of the cosmos has

worshiped the Creator, we have built churches that represent a microcosm of this very universe. The promise of redemption is for all creation: the gift of salvation wrought by Jesus Christ.

FOLLOW OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE! Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org> Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddioecese> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews> You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddioecese>

A THANK YOU CARD ADDRESSED TO THE PRIEST AND FAITHFUL OF ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH:

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

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. 27TH) 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 THIS TUESDAY, SEPT. 27TH!

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.

ARE YOUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, GREAT GRANDCHILDREN, GODCHILDREN ENROLLED IN OUR CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES?

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.

PICK UP YOUR LETTER, FALL FESTIVAL FOOD AND BINGO TICKETS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE IN THE PARISH HALL!

If you have not already done so, please stop downstairs following the Liturgy this morning to pick up your share of Bingo & Food tickets for next month's Festival. Certainly your support and stewardship at this main fund-raising event of our parish is vital. Enable our religious community to stage a successful festival for the glory of God and the enjoyment of all patrons of this gala event.

SPAGHETTI DINNER TODAY 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.

WALK FOR MISSIONS 2016 ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9TH IN SOUTH PARK AT 1 P.M.!

The Mayan people of Guatemala are entering into the Orthodox Christian Faith in rapid fashion because of the missionary efforts of dedicated clergy & laity in that poverty-stricken country. Offer to walk for the evangelizing of these humble and God-fearing individuals. Raise pledges and use the Walk for Missions form attached to this bulletin. Bring your pledge forms and collected money to the South Park Ethelbert/Harbor Shelter area at 1 P.M. Lunch and light refreshments will be served following the Walk.

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church