

# 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. 53

**Sunday, January 1, 2017**

## **28<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY; OF THE GENEALOGY**

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10; 17-23; 32-40      Tone: 3      Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87-89; 129-130 / Red Book: 102-105; 146-148

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Anna Marie Popovich**, Mother, on the 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord (Jan. 1), offered by Son, Albert.

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**Monday, (Jan. 2)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Suzanna Tartarka**, offered by Mary, John, Michael (Children).

**Wednesday (Jan. 4)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Helen Novak**, offered by John Novak.

7:00 P.M. Moleben (Prayer) Service of Thanksgiving and Stewardship.

**Thursday, (Jan. 5)...** 9:30 A.M. Royal Hours for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Friday, (Jan. 6)...** Eve of the Nativity of our Lord – Strict Fast Day – Holy Night Supper in the homes of the faithful – 8:00 P.M. Vigil Service for the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Church Choir shall sing Nativity carols before and after the service.

**Saturday, (Jan. 7)...** Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy – Nativity Social in the parish hall after the Liturgy – Begin Fast-free period.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory & honor of the **Harris Family**, offered by Trona & children and grandchildren.

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**Sunday, January 8, 2017**

## **29<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY; COMMEMORATING JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING, AND JAMES THE BROTHER OF THE LORD; SYNAXIS OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19 (Sunday)      Tone: 4      Gospel: Matthew 2:13-25 (Sunday & Synaxis)

Hebrews 2:11-18 (Synaxis)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 136; 138-139 / Red Book: 155-156; 158-159

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of +**Lena & +John Pristash** and +**Lawrence & +Dorothy Dunn**, offered by Larry, Carol & Bill Dunn.

### **Matthew 1-1-25**

**1:1** – **Jesus** means “O Lord, save,” referring to His role as Savior (v. 21). **Christ** means “Anointed One,” the Messiah, the One who is filled with the Holy Spirit. Though the Son alone became Man, God the Father and the Holy Spirit work in Jesus Christ to save us.

Jesus became Man as a Jew, from the lineage of **Abraham**, the father of all Jews, and of **David**, Israel’s greatest king and prototype of the royal Messiah. This **genealogy** reveals that the Son of God so identifies with the human condition that He takes it all on Himself and becomes part of it. Christ’s ancestry includes both righteous and wicked people, faithful kings and murderers, Jews and Gentiles, kings and peasants.

**1:2** – While Luke’s genealogy runs from Jesus back to Adam (Luke 3:23-38), Matthew’s list descends from **Abraham**, with whom God established the Old Covenant of circumcision, to Jesus, the author of the New Covenant. God promised to bless all the tribes of the earth in Abraham (Genesis 12:3; 28:14); this promise is fulfilled in Abraham’s greatest Son, Jesus Christ.

**1:3** – Jewish genealogical lists normally included only men. The mention of women (**Tamar**, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba) is unusual. Each one was either a Gentile or a sinner. The inclusion of these women declares God’s graciousness and prefigures the calling of Gentiles into the Church. It also underscores the role of women in God’s plan of salvation and anticipates the special place of the Virgin Mary in that plan.

**1:6** – Through anointing by Samuel, David was made king. Through his psalms, David was revealed as a great prophet. Thus, David foreshadows both the royal and the prophetic nature of Jesus Christ (Psalm 109). As an adulterer and a murderer, David also functions as a type for all repentant sinners.

**1:16** – **Joseph** can be named as Jesus’ immediate predecessor since Old Testament marriage laws confer hereditary rights on adopted as well as biological sons. The church fathers teach, Mary also was descended from David; **of whom** is feminine in Greek, referring only to Mary. Thus, Jesus is shown to be born of Mary, and not begotten of Joseph.

**1:17** – Christ’s ancestors are arranged in three groups of fourteen generations. Fourteen is the numerical equivalent of the consonants in the name, **David**, underlining Jesus’ descent from David. This also shows the division of the leadership of the Jews, being under judges until David, under kings until **Babylon**, and under priests until Christ.

**1:19** – The righteousness of **Joseph** consisted of a mercy that transcends the Law (Hos. 6:6). Joseph showed this mercy by his unwillingness to expose Mary’s supposed sin, even though he was obliged by the Law to do so. **Her husband:** The Bible calls engaged couples husbands and wife before their marriage (Rachel was called the wife of Jacob before marriage by virtue of their engagement in Genesis 29:21). Thus, Joseph is called the husband of Mary, and Mary is called his wife (vv. 20, 24). In the Church, Joseph is remembered as the Betrothed, pointing out Mary’s ever-virginity.

**1:20** – An **angel** (or “messenger”) **of the Lord** dispels Joseph’s false reasoning by announcing the utterly unreasonable: the pregnancy of the Virgin is by the Holy Spirit. Being born of a virgin proves Christ’s divinity; only a revelation by God could serve as adequate evidence of this miracle.

**1:22** – Matthew repeatedly uses the formula **that it might be fulfilled which was spoken**. This underscores the intervention of God throughout history, demonstrates the continuity between the Old and New Covenants, and indicates the beginning of the new creation.

**1:23** – The conception of Jesus fulfills Isaiah 7:14, where we are told that a **virgin** would conceive and **bear a Son**. He who is conceived in Mary is not a new Person coming into existence but the eternal Son of God now using her womb as His throne. Both the virginal conception by means of the Holy Spirit and the name, **Immanuel, God with us** declare Christ’s divinity.

**1:25** – The use of the word **till** does not imply that Joseph had marital relations with Mary after the Savior’s birth. In the Bible, this word (sometimes translated “to”) is often used to express a situation that actually continues after the event mentioned. The witness of the entire Church throughout history is that Mary remained a virgin for life. **Firstborn:** This term does not imply Mary had additional children, but only that no child was born before Jesus. The firstborn son is traditionally the primary heir and recipient of blessings. Christ is the firstborn over all creation, and thus the firstborn from the dead (Col. 1:15, 18).

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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.**

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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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**PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR THE HOLIDAY SWEETS! We are making "fruit-filled puff pastry stars" with apricot or cherry filling. Place your order with Cheryl, Miki or Jean.**

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**TO ACCOMMODATE ALL OF OUR WORSHIPERS, A CONSIDERATE LAY PERSON HAS DONATED THE CHAIR-LIFT FOR GOD'S HOUSE OF PRAYER! We are so pleased as a parish to have an anonymous donor contribute \$10,000. toward the installation of a chair-lift to enable faithful members experiencing difficulty in walking up and down the stairs of church to use this means of transportation. We are extremely grateful for the generosity manifested by this charitable person(s) and pray that the Lord grant these "People of God" with "every good and perfect gift from above." The chair-lift is operative and shall be inspected within a short period of time.**

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**SUPER BOWL LI (2017) BLOCK POOL! For the second year in a row, our parish will be conducting a Super Bowl Block Pool for SuperBowl LI (51) which will take place on February 5, 2017 between the AFC Champion and the NFC Champion. Each block will be offered at a price of \$25/block. Prizes will be awarded for the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarters at \$100; Half-Time prize is \$300; and the Final Score prize is \$1,000. Please stop by the church hall after Sunday services or contact Tom Pingor to purchase a block or two to support this fundraiser for our church. Thank you for your support! Thomas Pingor, C. Pres.**

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**YOUR ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT! Christ the Saviour Seminary is in need of a vehicle. The inquiry is made within our congregation if there is a parishioner willing to make a donation of a reliable used vehicle – any make, any year, preferably an SUV if possible, or an all-wheel drive vehicle that is necessary for the Johnstown area. The Seminary community is grateful for your attention to this matter. Sincerely, Protopresbyter Frank P. Miloro.**

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**COME AND SEE WHAT'S NEW AT THE BOOKSTORE... All occasions and Nativity cards, children's books and gifts, icons, jewelry, nesting dolls, books and more! Special orders can be made with a nominal deposit... Reserve a couple of the newly published **Keeping the Feasts at Home: In the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Tradition.** The book is a spiritual and educational full-color reference for all to share the faith and traditions of our Diocese... Toddler Toy Box... for infants and toddlers too young for Sunday School. Please donate gently used infant/toddler toys to the bookstore. The toys will be available during Coffee Social/Sunday School.**

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**GIVE TO THE ICON FUND, TODAY! We humbly seek the monetary gifts of additional faithful members to finance the additional artwork, such as the Christian symbols, Scriptural verses, and crosses in the nave.**

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**ST. NICHOLAS MEDOVNIKI COOKIE SALE! St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 903 Ann Street, Homestead, PA 15120. Senior A.C.R.Y. Chapter #11. \$2.00 each; \$10.00/half dozen. Cookies are individually wrapped with a special treat from St. Nicholas himself! Please contact Aaron Zak with orders: [aaronzak@gmail.com](mailto:aaronzak@gmail.com) or 724-910-9719. You can purchase these scrumptious honey pastries in the church hall this morning. See Pani Deborah Zak or any of the Senior ACRY members and secure a good supply of these wonderful Nativity treats for your family, friends and co-workers. They'll appreciate your charitable action in imitation of the holy and beloved hierarch and wonder-worker!**

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**GRATEFUL FOR THIS CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL DONATION! St. Nicholas Church is appreciative of the kind and considerate action of Diane Lacock, who, once again, is offering the Nativity candle for the Feast of the Incarnation on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>. The thick wax taper is given in memory of +Edward & +Dolores Pingor**

and +Wendy Pingor, offered by the Family. We pray that their memory be eternal in the mind of Almighty God, and thank Diane for this appropriate gift to the church!

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