

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. 5; No. 3

Sunday, January 22, 2017

31th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Tone: 6

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 96-98; 150 / Red Book: 111-114; 169-170

Bulletin Sponsor: **Nick Ditmore's** 11 Birthday, offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Anna Janicko**, offered by Anna Demchisin.

Friday, (Jan. 27)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Anna Janicko**, offered by the Family.

Saturday, (Jan. 28)... 7:00 P.M. Vespers.

Sunday, January 29, 2017

32nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AND ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

Tone: 7

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 99-101; 175 / Red Book: 114-117; 197

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Fr. Deacon Marc's** Birthday, offered Allison & Anastasia.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Ruth Ann Krenicky** on the 40th day of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Susan Miller & Joan Ribovich.

Matthew 4:12-17

4:15 – The term **Galilee of the Gentiles** indicates that many non-Jews lived in the region.

Having a mixed population, it was not considered a genuinely Jewish land, even though many Gentile residents had converted to Judaism during the Maccabean period. Because many of the Jews there had been influenced by the Greek culture and its customs, they were generally considered second-class citizens by the Jews of Judea.

4:17 – **Darkness** means ungodliness. Here it represents the Gentiles' unawareness of God and the Jews being under the shadow of the Old Covenant. To sit in darkness means to be overcome by spiritual ignorance. The **great light** is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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.

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>

WHERE DO WE LAY BLAME?

The Morning Offering by Abbot Tryphon

A humble and spiritually active man, when he reads the Holy Scriptures, will refer everything to himself and not to another.

St. Mark the Ascetic

We all have a natural tendency to lay blame on others, when in truth we must blame only ourselves. When facing our own sins and shortcomings, it is easy to put the blame on others, yet our faith tells us that spiritual progress can come only with the acquisition of a humble and contrite heart. As long as we put the blame on others for our shortcomings, we remain stagnant on the spiritual path. The saints give a clear witness that progress toward holiness comes when we look only at our own faults.

It is far more comfortable to see the wickedness of others, for in focusing on them, we can forgo the all-important work of changing our own behavior and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform our fallen nature. Focusing on others' shortcomings allows our self-serving pride to grow stronger. So we remain puffed up and wallow in unfounded pride.

When we keep our attention focused on our shortcomings, we keep vigilant until our last day, guarding our souls until the final judgment. When we take our eyes off our faults and focus on our neighbor's sin, we deprive ourselves of precious time for repentance. Since we do not know the day or hour of our last breath, we must treat every moment as though it is our last.

PREPARATION FOR THE BLESSING OF HOMES, CONTINUING THIS WEEK!

Before the Priest arrives at your home, here are a few reminders on how to prepare:

- + In the main room of the home, usually the kitchen or dining room, have placed on the table a white cloth, a candle and/an Icon or cross. You may place a small container of Holy Water on the table as well. (Note: Father will bring water with him.)
- + Turn off TVs, radios, computers, etc. so as to keep focused on the blessing service.
- + Please make sure that pets are heeled or restrained so as not to get underfoot while Father goes through the home.
- + If you have any items to be blessed (Icon, Cross, etc.), put them on the table where the blessing
- + When the Priest arrives, have everyone in the home gather around the table where the blessing takes place. Participation is important!
- + Invite friends or neighbors to participate and witness the beauty of this holy tradition.
- + If you need to discuss a personal matter with Father, this is the time to do so.

The sanctification of residences will be conducted from Monday to Saturday each week during the afternoon hours 1-5 and the evening hours 7-9. If you have a preference for an afternoon or evening visit, please notify Fr. Michael. Your priest shall begin blessing the homes of parishioners living in the Homestead, Munhall, and West Mifflin areas, proceeding within the city of Pittsburgh and concluding in outlying areas (north, south, east and west). Remember, the invitation to the priest to come and bless your home is an invitation to ask for the mercy of God upon the household. The sprinkling of the Holy Water is a sign of God's presence in home as an extension of His Holy House, the Church. It is a time to renew our commitment to God as we begin another year in His mercy and love for mankind.

WHEN DISCARDING PREVIOUSLY BLESSED HOLY WATER... make certain that you do not spill the sanctified liquid down the sink drain. The blessed C2O should be poured on the good earth, around plants, shrubs, trees, on the lawn or on any ground surface.

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 1st and 3rd 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.

WIN A WEEK'S STAY AT CAMP NAZARETH DURING THE DIOCESAN SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAM! The Junior A.C.R.Y. members of our parish are selling raffle tickets to award a young person of your choice a free week at our Diocesan Youth Center near Mercer, PA during the Deaneries camping sessions in the months of July & August, this year. Purchase a ducat for \$10 each or 3 tickets for \$20 and increase your odds of winning this fantastic prize to reward a child "the time of his or her life" in an environment where youths become "friends, forever"!

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. Proto. Frank Miloro.

COME AND SEE WHAT'S NEW AT THE BOOKSTORE... All occasions and Paschal 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.

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.

MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE "PIG SKIN" GAME, OUR PARISH WILL BE ACTIVE PLAYERS IN THE SUPER BOWL OF CARING ON SUNDAY, FEB. 5TH! On the first Lord's Day in February, all faithful of St. Nicholas are kindly asked to bring a non-perishable food item or two and offer a small monetary contribution to the International Orthodox Christian Charities at the 9 A.M. Divine Liturgy. The canned goods and food supplies will be collected and given to the local "Rainbow Kitchen" in their charitable service in feeding the hungry and aiding the needy in the Homestead area. May we all imitate the "Good Samaritan", helping our neighbor and the "least of Christ's brethren." The youths of the church shall hold soup pots to receive your monetary gifts at the conclusion of Liturgy and groceries can be placed in the containers located in the vestibule.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER POSITION AVAILABLE AT OCMC! The Orthodox Christian Mission Center is now accepting resumes for the position of Development Officer. The Development Officer position represents the Orthodox Christian Mission in all aspects of its fundraising, but particularly among the constituencies in the West and Mid-West. This person will work with, and assist, all staff members in the identification, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship of individuals who may or should have an interest in supporting the mission of OCMC and its programs. A Bachelor's Degree is required. A proven record of success in the field is highly desirable. Interviews begin in February. To apply, submit your resume and cover letter, including a brief statement of fundraising qualifications, to Fr. Martin Ritsi, Executive Director, Orthodox Christian Mission Center, 220 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086, or by e-mail to missions@ocmc.org.

ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY – ANNUAL MEETING – 2ND NOTICE! The St. Nicholas Cemetery Association will its 2017 Annual Cemetery Association Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 11:45 A.M. All Cemetery Association members and parishioners are encouraged to attend.

THE JANUARY MEN'S CLUB MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW AT 7:30 P.M.! The officers for this organization will meet at 7 P.M. to discuss the budget for donations in this new year. Please inform the President, Brian Smoley, if you have any questions.

THE P.O.Y.A. (PITTSBURGH ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULTS) WILL HOLD THEIR NEXT "ORTHODOXY ON TAP" ON SUNDAY, FEB. 12 AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE SHARP EDGE BEER EMPORIUM ON S. ST. CLAIR STREET IN SHADYSIDE! The featured speaker shall be His Eminence, Metropolitan Savas of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh. All young adults ages 21-40 are invited.

INFORM MICHELE TOMKO AND SIGN-UP FOR ACB TRAINING! 8-10 of our parishioners have already expressed an interest in this medical course of procedures. Sign your name to the designated list in the parish hall and notify Michele Tomko of your interest in participating in these nurse-directed sessions.

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)