

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. 5; No. 4

Sunday, January 29, 2017

32ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00

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 by 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.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+George Palchik**, offered by Agnes Kane & Mary Ann Grossett.

Monday, (Jan. 30)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+John Lasobik**, offered by Dorothy Kapolka and Eleanor & Elmer Konar.

Tuesday, (Jan. 31)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Michael & +Margaret Baka**, offered by Margaret A. Dietrich and Michael Baka (Daughter & Son).

Wednesday, (Feb. 1)... 7:00 P.M. (Prayer) Service of Stewardship and Thanksgiving.

Sunday, February 5, 2017

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE – TRIODION BEGINS

Begin Fast Free Week

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Tone: 8

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 102-104; 175 / Red Book: 117-119; 197

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of: **+Johanna Bodnar**, offered by Gerry Lakatos (daughter).

Birthday petitions are intoned for: **Nick** (Feb. 6) and **Geri** (Feb. 19) offered by Nick & Geri Novotni.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Ann Timko**, on the 40th day of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Trona & Family.

Luke 19:1-10

19:1 – Jericho was notorious as a place of iniquity and is commonly associated with sinful living.

19:2 – **He was rich:** Jesus said, "How hard it is for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God!"

This encounter between Christ and Zacchaeus demonstrates that grace can accomplish that which is impossible to man.

19:3, 4 – Many spiritual interpretations express the universal significance of this encounter. St. Theophylact sees the crowd symbolizing sins: "Crowded in by a multitude of passions and

worldly affairs, he is not able to see Jesus.” St. Ambrose sees several parallels: (1) Zacchaeus being **short** is indicative of his being short on faith and virtue; (2) that Zacchaeus must ascend a **tree** shows no one attached to earthly matters can see Jesus; and (3) the Lord intending **to pass that way** reveals that Christ will approach anyone willing to repent and believe.

19:8 – Zacchaeus uses the term **give** for his free and generous offering **to the poor**, and **restore** for what he owes those he had cheated, as this was not a gift but required by the Law (Ex. 22:1). By doing both, Zacchaeus not only fulfills the Law, but shows his love of the gospel.

19:9 – The title **son of Abraham** indicates Zacchaeus has become like this patriarch of Israel: he was counted righteous by his faith, he became generous toward the poor, and he was united to the people of God. Early records tell us he went on to be a bishop of the Church.

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/acroddioocese> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews> You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddioocese>

GOD’S GRACE LIFTS US FROM DESPAIR

The Morning Offering by Abbot Tryphon

Many people sail through their life thinking happiness is something they have created for themselves. They think good fortune and success in work and play are things they’ve brought about, either through struggle or by pure luck. And when they experience difficult times or the loss of things that brought them comfort, they despair.

Sometimes it takes the loss of this established order to enlighten our darkened hearts to the reality that only happiness that is of an eternal nature will never be lost. For someone who has been so enlightened, nothing can take away the comfort and security she experiences that are based in faith. God’s grace fills her very essence with such peace that nothing – even loss of worldly comforts – can bring about despair.

How can we possibly despair when we know that the God we worship in the Trinity and who has created us and our world is our co-suffering Savior? He has showered us with such an abundance of grace that no hardship that comes our way can detract from the peace and joy we have experienced in our life in Him.

Compared to this grace-filled life, all else is but folly. Grace has liberated us from the temporal nature of earthly happiness and has taken up residence in our hearts, from which springs forth the healing that transforms us. This grace makes us whole, and our sickness disappears as though it had never been.

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. 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 ground surface.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – ANNUAL MEETING – 1ST NOTICE! St. Nicholas Orthodox Church will hold her 2017 Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 12 at 11:45 A.M. All parishioners are encouraged to attend this very important session. Any parishioner wishing to submit a proposal to the church board should do so in writing on or before February 5, 2017. Any faithful member who would like to be considered a curator for this year, please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the parish hall for consideration by the church board on or before Feb. 5, 2017.

SUBMIT YOUR CANDY ORDER FOR PASCHA! The Choir is sponsoring its annual Pascha fundraiser: Sarris Candy. Orders may be given to any choir member by February 26. Delivery date is expected for April 9. Your support is appreciated. Choir members: Please submit your Sarris Master Order Sheet to Andrea Babbie by the March 1st rehearsal. Additionally: The Choir is grateful for the generous donations given by parishioners and friends during the season of Christ's Nativity. We appreciate your loyal support and wish you a healthy & prosperous New Year. Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever! Members of the Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Choir.

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, Church 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"!

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" that charitably feeds the hungry and aids 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 end of Liturgy and groceries can be placed in the containers located in the vestibule.

ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY – ANNUAL MEETING – 3RD (FINAL) NOTICE! The St. Nicholas Cemetery Association will hold its 2017 Annual Cemetery Association Meeting today at 11:45 A.M. All Cemetery Association members and any parishioners are encouraged to attend.

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 AEC 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.

SIGN-UP FOR THE PRE-LENTEN BREAKFAST ON FEB. 26TH! All faithful are implored to sign their names to the designated paper in the auditorium and partake of the delicious breakfast that our Men's Club will stage following the Divine Liturgy on the last Sunday in February. The appetizing repast will be served

downstairs, beginning at 11 A.M. until 12:30 P.M. with a free-will offering in effect. Following the meal, worshipers shall return to the upstairs for the Forgiveness Sunday Vespers' Service at 1:00 P.M.

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)