

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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Saturday, January 7, 2017

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD & SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 132-135 / Red Book: 149-154

Begin Fast-free period. No fasting until the eve of Theophany (Jan. 18).

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

Nativity Candle Donation: In memory of **+Edward & +Dolores Pingor** and **+Wendy Pingor**, offered by the Family.

Birthday prayers extended to: **Elizabeth Helen Fucsko** on the occasion of her 1st Birthday (Jan. 7), offered by the Family.

Nativity Social, hosted by Father Michael & Pani Deborah and their Families, staged in the auditorium following the Liturgy. All worshipers are asked to come downstairs for refreshments and greet one another at the Birth of Jesus Christ, Lord & Master of our lives.

Sunday, January 8, 2017

29th 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.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Yolanda Sedlak**, offered by daughter, Sandy Rizzo.

Monday, (Jan. 9)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Proto-Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen.

Tuesday, (Jan. 10)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Michael Sukaly, +George Sukal & +Mildred Sukal**, offered by the Family

Wednesday, (Jan. 11)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Frank & +Mary Kolesar**, offered by the Kolesar Family.

7:00 P.M. Moleben (Prayer) Service of Saint Nectarios with the anointing of the sick, in body and soul.

Friday, (Jan. 13)... 4:00 P.M. Great Vespers on the Feasts of the Circumcision of our Lord, St. Basil the Great and Julian New Year, with the Blessing of bread, wheat, wine & oil.

Saturday, (Jan. 14)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great on the Feasts of the Circumcision of our Lord, Saint Basil the Great, and Julian New Year.

Sunday, January 15, 2017
30TH SUNDAY AFTER PETECOST AND SUNDAY BEFORE THE
THEOPHANY

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Tone: 5

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-25

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 93-95; 142 / Red Book: 108-110; 162

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Chris Lacock's** 60th Birthday, offered by the Family.

Birthday prayers extended to God-Mother, **Joan Ribovich**, offered by Susan Miller (God-Daughter).

Matthew 2:1-12

2:1 – Herod: ruled Judea from 37-4 BC. He was a great builder but a cruel leaders. Luke mentions Herod to pinpoint the historical date of the birth of Jesus Christ. An ancient prophecy of Jacob indicated the Messiah would come when a king ruled who was not from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10). As Herod was a non-Jew calling himself **the king of Judea**, the coming of Christ was surely at hand. The **wise men**, or magi, who came **from the East** (most likely Persia), were the scholars of their time. In the Old Testament, Balaam (Num. 23:24) was one of their predecessors, a Gentile determined by faith and not by ethnic lineage.

2:2 – The star proclaims the extraordinary birth of Christ. To ancient pagans, a star signified a god, a deified king (Num. 24:16). Christ being born under this star fulfills the prophecy in Psalm 109:3 and shows all of creation participating in the Incarnation.

2:4 – Herod had to summon the Jewish leaders because he knew little about the Jewish Messiah and he feared losing his throne to this newborn King. The **chief priests** were the political and religious leaders of the Jews, and the **scribes** we high cabinet officers. They knew where the Messiah was to be born, but in spite of all the signs being in place, they had no idea that He had come. The time of the Messiah among the Jews was expected to be accompanied by signs, but these **hypocrites** have not recognized the signs already being performed because their hearts were hardened, and they ignored the works happening all around them.

2:11 – Into the house: Whereas the Jewish shepherds worshiped the Savior in the cave on the day He was born (Luke 2:8-20), the Gentile magi came to worship Him some time later. By then, Joseph and Mary had found a house in which to dwell. This indicates that Christ first came to the Jews and then afterward was worshiped by the Gentiles. The significance of the Magi's **gifts** is revealed in a hymn sung at the Compline of the Nativity. "**Gold** is for the King of ages. **Frankincense** is for the God of all. **Myrrh** is offered to the Immortal One, who shall be three days dead."

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>

"CHRIST IS BORN! LET US GLORIFY HIM!" Christ is born today. He is born not only to us, but in us; and therefore we also are born today. Our souls are born to a new life and a new light when we receive Him Who is the Truth. His whole life is a model for us

to copy. Our first lesson in living, then, must be at the Manger in the Cave. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

IT IS YOUR PRESENCE AT THE DIVINE LITURGY ON CHRISTMAS THAT MAKES THIS CELEBRATION SO SPECIAL! We joyfully welcome all parishioners, special guests and friends of the parish to St. Nicholas Church for the Nativity services. It is our prayer that your spirituality has been uplifted as we render glory and thanks to Almighty God for giving His Only-Begotten Son to His creation for the sake of our salvation. Please come and worship with us again, and as often as possible. There are no strangers here at this sacred temple, only friends that you have not had the pleasure of meeting!

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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!

THEOPHANY EVE HOLY NIGHT SUPPER ON WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18TH AT 5 P.M. IN THE PARISH HALL! As members of the church family we gather together in the auditorium of St. Nicholas to partake of the traditional "Holy Night Supper" consisting of Lenten foods (non-meat and non-dairy) in preparation for our attendance at the 7 P.M. Vigil Service on the Eve of Theophany and the Great Blessing & Distribution of Holy Water to the faithful. Please decide on what Lenten dish or drink you shall provide for the worshipers, and sign your name & food selection on the designated paper, located downstairs on the table near the church office. Dine in the company of friends that we share our precious Orthodox Christian Faith at this Second Holy Night Supper of the season.

ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE WITH THE CHOIR AT THEIR NEW YEAR/ANNUAL BANQUET THIS FRIDAY, JANUARY 13TH FROM 6-10 P.M. AT SHELLY PIE IN TURTLE CREEK, PA! Please contact Andrea Babbie (412-461-4282) for reservations and payment by the January 7 (today) deadline. Date: Friday, January 13, 2017; Location: Shelly Pie, 912 Penn Avenue, Turtle

Creek, PA 15145; Time: 6-10 P.M.; Menu: Pizza Buffet/Tossed Salad/Soft Drinks/Coffee/Tea; Price: \$15;
Payment Due: January 7; Contact Person: Andrea Babbie (Phone 412-461-4282).

INCARNATION: “God became man,” in the words of St. Athanasius the Great, “so that man could become like God.”

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