

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. 7

Sunday, February 19, 2017

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE AND SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Tone: 2

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 84-86; 177-178 / Red Book: 99-102; 199-200

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of +**Joseph & +Marie Mauer**, offered by Albert & Jackie Mauer.

Birthday petitions are intoned for: **Mary Kalansky**, offered by the Family; **Rachal Fedornock** (Feb. 19), 13 years old.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, the priest, +**Rev. Fr. John Matey**, offered by son, John Matey.

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

Tuesday, (Feb. 21)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**James Arendash**, offered by the Columbus Singles Culture Connection.

Saturday, (Feb. 25)... 7:00 P.M. Vespers (Cheesefare Sunday).

Sunday, February 26, 2017

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE AND SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Romans 13:11b-14:4

Tone: 3

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87-89; 178-179 / Red Book: 102-105; 200-201

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Mary Frances Skero**, on the 6th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by husband, Andrew Skero.

1:00 P.M. Vespers on Cheesefare (Forgiveness) Sunday.

Matthew 25:31-46 – Here is the majestic climax of the discourse, which is not simply a parable, but a prophecy of the universal judgment that will indeed come. Since the Cross is now near to Him, Jesus raises the hearer to the sight of the glory of the Son of Man on His judgment seat and the whole world before Him.

The standard of judgment is uncalculated mercy toward others. The works produced by faith are emphasized, for saving faith always produces righteous works. What we do reflects our true inner state. **The least** (v. 40) refers to all the poor and the needy. The needs described in this parable include both physical and spiritual needs. Thus, the **hungry or thirsty** (v. 44) are

not only those who need food and drink, but also those who hunger and thirst of the hope of the gospel.

25:32 – Christ uses **sheep** to illustrate the righteous, for they follow His voice and are gentle and productive. **Goats** indicate the unrighteous, for they do not follow the shepherd and they walk along cliffs, which represent sin.

25:34 – **Inherit** is a term used with regard to sons and daughters rather than strangers or servants, for the righteous become children of God by adoption (Gal. 4:4-7).

25:40 – To see Christ in everyone is the fulfillment of the great commandment to love your neighbor as yourself (22:39).

25:41 – That the **fire** was **prepared for the devil** shows that God did not create hell for man; rather, people choose this torment by their coldness of heart.

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>

AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN CHARITY

The Morning Offering by Abbot Tryphon

The Church, if she is to be authentic in her Christian witness, must grapple with the challenges of society, starting with its most marginalized sector. If the Church does not teach with a loud voice that fasting is about more than refraining from certain foods, she is falling in her duty to preach the fullness of Christ's gospel. The Church's ministry must include service to the poor and downtrodden, for her role does not stop with her liturgical services, but begins there. St. John Chrysostom teaches that fasting without accompanying good deeds is like a ship going from port to port without cargo.

The newly canonized St. Sophrony of Essex wrote: "A man is not saved by having once shown mercy to someone, although, if he scorns someone but once, he merits eternal fire. For 'hungered' and 'thirsty' is said not of one occasion, not of one day, but of the whole life. In the same way 'ye gave me meat,' 'ye gave me drink,' 'ye clothed me,' and so on, does not indicate one incident, but a constant attitude to everyone. Our Lord Jesus Christ said that He Himself accepts such mercy from His slaves (in the person of the needy)."

St. John Chrysostom, perhaps the greatest preacher of all time, told us: "Do you wish to honor the Body of the Savior? Do not despise it when it is naked. Do not honor it in church with silk vestments while outside it is naked and numb with cold. He who said, 'This is my body,' and made it so by his word, is the same who said, 'You saw me hungry and you gave me no food. As you did it not to the least of these, you did it not to me.' Honor him then by sharing your property with the poor. For what God needs is not golden chalices but golden souls."

PURCHASE ANY OF THE CANDLES THAT WERE BLESSED THIS PAST WEEK ON THE FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD! Speak with Robert Ruschak to learn of the prices of the various waxed tapers that were sanctified at the conclusion of the feastday Liturgy.

I.R.S. STATEMENTS ARE READY TO BE PICKED UP DOWNSTAIRS AT THE CHURCH OFFICE!

Parishioners can stop over at the church office this morning during the coffee social to pick up these

financial papers.

A SEARCH FOR CHURCH TREASURER!

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church is currently seeking a parishioner in good standing for the very important position of Treasurer. If you believe you have the qualifications and experience to fulfill the requirements of this office and have the desire and willingness to serve our church in this capacity, please see our church Council President, Thomas Pingor, immediately for consideration. Thank You!

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.

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"!

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-LENTE BREAKFAST NEXT SUNDAY! 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.

COME, HELP US MAKE PIROHI ON TUESDAY, FEB. 21 AT 6 P.M. IN THE PARISH HALL! See Jean Colantoni during today's coffee social or call 412-491-7090 and let her know if you are able to help.

"NAVIGATING LIFE USING YOUR SPIRITUAL COMPASS!" The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh and the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese are pleased to announce a co-sponsored retreat for College Students and Young Adults ages 18-35. The Retreat will be held at Camp Nazareth and Conference Center in Mercer, PA from March 17-19, 2017 and will feature keynote addresses by Very Rev. Dr. Edward Pehanich and Mr. Nick Lionas. The weekend event will be filled with learning, fun, fellowship, worship, and time for reflection and rejuvenation! Visit either pittsburgh.goarch.org or acrod.org for more information and to register for the Retreat. Online registration has begun, since Feb. 1. If you ever struggle with "staying on track", or if you ever feel like you don't know where you're headed in your life, then don't miss out on this unique encounter! It will give you some great insight and tools to help you navigate even the roughest times. Register today!

TAKE YOUR MEDICATION WITH A SMALL PORTION OF FOOD & DRINK BEFORE PARTAKING OF HOLY COMMUNION AT THE SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY!

Those of our faithful members who are prescribed medication upon arising in the morning may consume a small portion of food & drink, besides the medicine and still be able to approach the chalice at the Divine Liturgy in receiving the Eucharist. In these instances, breaking of the fast is permissible.

FROM YOUTUBE TO YOU! BEETREAT! FEBRUARY 25, 2017 AT HOLY TRINITY GREEK

ORTHODOX CHURCH, PITTSBURGH, PA! The parish address is: 985 Providence Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. The event is from 9:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. for Youths (6th to 12th grade), Parents & Youth Workers. To Register: BeTheBee.goarch.org/retreats. Questions? Contact Rhea Ballas: youth@pittsburgh.goarch.org Led by Steve Christoforou – host of "Be the Bee" and the Beetreat. "Be the Bee" is a weekly You Tube series exploring how we can focus on what is good and beautiful in our lives. Visit youtube.com/y2am to learn more.

CENTRAL REGION DIOCESAN LENTEN RETREAT – SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017 (9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.) AT ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH, 903 ANN STREET, HOMESTEAD, PA!

Schedule: 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy – All Souls' Saturday; 11:00 A.M. Coffee Social; 12:00 Noon – First Session; 1:30 P.M. Lunch; 2:30 P.M. Second Session; 4 P.M. Vespers. (Includes Continental Breakfast and Light Lunch) Cost: Free Will Offering. Registration Deadline: March 18, 2016. Cathy Pawlik, 10 J Longfellow Drive, Munhall, PA. 15120. cmpawlik@verizon.net (412) 461-2110 or (412) 889-6702 (Cell Phone). Sponsored

by the National A.C.R.Y., this Encounter provides tremendous spiritual benefits to those who participate, even if only for a day. Our youths are asked to attend, since a great program has been planned for them.

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)