

# 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](http://www.stnichomestead.org)

E-mail Address: [stnic@stnichomestead.org](mailto:stnic@stnichomestead.org)

E-mail Address: [frmzak@gmail.com](mailto: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

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**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

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).

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Elmer Konar's** 86<sup>th</sup> Birthday, offered by wife, Eleanor, children and grandchildren.

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

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**Tuesday, (Feb. 7)...** 10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Rose Yenchek**, offered by Michael & Denise Yenchek & Family.

**Wednesday, (Feb. 8)...** 7:00 P.M. (Prayer) Service of Saint Nectarios, with the Anointing of the sick, in body and soul.

**Friday, (Feb. 10)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Mary Bonach**, offered by the Family.

**Saturday, (Feb. 11)...** 7:00 P.M. Vespers on the Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom.

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**Sunday, February 12, 2017**

## SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Service of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Tone: 1

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81-83; 175-176 / Red Book: 95-99; 197-198

Bulletin Sponsor: +**Samantha Ditmore's** 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday, offered by the Family.

### Luke 18:10-14

**18:10** – The **Pharisee** is highly respected and a careful observer of the details of the Law, whereas the **tax collector** is despised as a sinner who collaborates with the occupying Roman forces, betraying and cheating his own people.

**18:11, 12** – The practices of this **Pharisee** are worthy examples to follow. His good deeds (fasting and giving tithes) are the primary weapons against the passions of lust and greed (adultery and extortion). However, without a humble and repentant heart, these outward

practices are worthless and lead only to pride and judgment of others. Note that he prays **with himself**, for God is absent where there is boasting.

**18:13** – The **tax collector** shows by his posture an awareness of the state of his soul, standing far from the altar of sacrifice with eyes cast downward. His prayer, **God, be merciful to me a sinner**, is the foundation of the Jesus Prayer, as is the refrain “Lord have mercy” that permeates Orthodox worship and personal prayer.

**18:14** – **Justified** means forgiven and set right with God, for inward humility is blessed while pride in outward deeds is condemned.

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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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## KEEPING THE GREAT FAST FOR THE RIGHT REASONS

### The Morning Offering by Abbot Tryphon

The Lord condemned the Pharisee, not because he fasted, but because his motivation was based on pride. The Pharisee wished to be seen by men, and he had no fear of God. He dared to stand before the Lord in pride and arrogance, while the publican stood afar off, beating his breast, begging for the Lord’s mercy. Whereas the publican saw his sins and repented, the Pharisee stood before the Lord in arrogance, thinking he was better than other people. He did not desire to commune with God, but to be honored by others.

As we prepare to enter into the Great Fast, let us imitate the publican, who saw himself as the worst of sinners and begged God’s forgiveness. Let us keep the fast, not to be seen by others, but to make way for the Lord. Let us shun meat, dairy, and fish because we love God and desire to be drawn closer to Him, emptying ourselves of earthly pleasures.

Let us embrace the fast as an opportunity for self-limitation, abstinence, and self-emptying. Let us bear the cross in self-crucifixion, dying to self as we put on Christ. We dare not think we are Christians if we refuse to fast, for bearing our cross is the only way we can be true followers of Christ.

Let us embrace the fast, knowing that “fasting appears gloomy until one steps into its arena. But begin, and you will see what light it brings after darkness, what freedom from bonds, what release after a burdensome life.” (St. Theophan the Recluse)

Finally, let us be mindful that, as St. John Cassian wrote: Fasts and vigils, the study of Scripture, renouncing possessions and everything worldly are not in themselves perfection...; they are its tools. For perfection is not to be found in them; it is acquired through them. It is useless, therefore, to boast of our fasting, vigils, poverty, and reading of Scripture when we have not achieved the love of God and our fellow men. Whoever has achieved love has God within himself, and his intellect is always with God.

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### **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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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, 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"!

**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. 26<sup>TH</sup>!** 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.

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