

# 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

Vol. 5; No. 9

**Sunday, March 5, 2017**

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-40; 12:1-2a      Tone: 4      Gospel: John 1:43-51

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90-92; 179-180 / Red Book: 105-107; 201-203

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of +**Mildred Sukal**, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Darrell Grossett**, offered by Mother, Mary Ann Grossett.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Mildred Sukal**, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

**4:30 P.M. Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at All Saints'**

**Greek Orthodox Church, 601 West McMurray Road, in Canonsburg, PA – Homilist: Rev.**

**Paul Abernathy, Director of FOCUS Pittsburgh and CEO of FOCUS Pittsburgh Free**

**Health Center. Also featuring the Pan Orthodox Choir under the direction of Fr. Tom**

**Soroka. Vespers will be followed by fellowship and light refreshments.**

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**Wednesday, (March 8)...** 7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (3-hr. fast of food or drink before partaking of Holy Communion).

**Friday, (March 10)...** 7:00 P.M. Paraklis Service to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**Saturday, (March 11)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the 2<sup>nd</sup> All-Souls' Saturday of the year, with Panachida and the Reading of the Parish Diptychs (names of all the deceased).

12 Noon – 1 P.M. Hearing of Confessions.

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**Sunday, March 12, 2017**

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: SAINT GREGORY PALAMAS

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3

Tone: 5

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 93-95; 181-182 / Red Book: 108-110; 203-204

Altar Candles' Sponsor: +**Edward Pingor** – 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

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

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Edward Pingor** on the 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

**3:00 P.M. Pittsburgh Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers at St. John the Baptist Church in East Pittsburgh, PA. Very Rev. Nicholas Ferencz will deliver the homily and a Lenten meal shall be served to all worshipers in the parish hall, afterwards.**

**John 1:43-51**

**1:35-45** – The Lord’s first **disciples** had been followers of **John** the Baptist. They were: **Andrew** (v. 40); **Simon**, who was also known as Peter, or **Cephas** (v. 41, 42); **Philip** (v. 43); **Nathanael** (v. 45), who was also known as Bartholomew; and an unnamed disciple (vv. 35-40), who some Fathers say was John, the author of this Gospel. It was a common literary device for a writer not to give his own name. For instance, in the Gospel of Luke, **Chapter 23, verse 13**: The **two of them** are Cleopas (v. 18) and, according to tradition, Luke himself.

**1:47** – **No deceit** means both having a pure heart and being straightforward with others.

**1:48-50** – What exactly occurred **under the fig tree** is not stated. St. John Chrysostom teaches this was the meeting place of Philip and Nathanael (vv. 45, 46), and that Jesus was praising Nathanael for being so diligent and careful in his search for the Messiah. Christ’s foreknowledge and his ability to see into Nathanael’s heart stir him to this confession of faith (v. 49).

**1:51** – The title **Son of Man** is a title of the Messiah that had a level of mystery in its meaning, indicating a man of heavenly origin who would usher in the Kingdom of God (Dan. 7:13, 14). In an Old Testament prophecy, Jacob dreamed of a ladder connecting earth to heaven, upon which **the angels of God** were **ascending and descending** (Gen. 28:12-15). Jesus is this “ladder” who unites earth to heaven, and therefore is this son of Man.

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

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**OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD ICONS AND OTHER HOLY THINGS**

**The Morning Offering by Abbot Tryphon**

One of the attributes of God is holiness. His holiness is reflected in His people and in physical objects that have been blessed by the Church for the use of His people in their journey toward Him. Therefore, reverence for these sacred objects and images is the manifestation of the relationship between us and God. “And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy” (Lev. 20:26). Icons of Christ, His Holy Mother, the saints, and biblical events are not just objects but vehicles for God’s sustaining grace.

As Orthodox Christians, we should make it a rule never to have arguments or engage in improper behavior before the images of the saints. And we should instill in our children, from the earliest age, reverence for the holy icons. Not only do we call on the saints for their heavenly intercession, but their icons as reminders that Christ has called us to repentance and deification.

A holy item, even if it has lost its original appearance, should always be treated with reverence. Under no circumstance can an icon, even one that has not been blessed, be simply thrown away. It should be taken to the church, where it can be burned in a special place for the disposal of holy things. Holy oils and any other blessed articles used in the home should always be treated with the utmost reverence, and, like the icons, never be properly disposed of.

Your patronal icon should be held in particular reverence, for following baptism or chrismation, we each have a special bond with our personal saint. Parents should make it a tradition to bless each of their children with the child’s personal icon as they set off

for a new year at school or an extended journey, or when they marry. Family members should be sure to bring at least a few icons into the hospital room or the nursing home of their loved one, so a person's departure from this life can take place in the presence of his or her icons.

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**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.

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**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!

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**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"!

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**INFORM MICHELE TOMKO AND SIGN-UP FOR A.E.D. 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.

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**COME, HELP US MAKE PIROHI ON TUESDAY, MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup> 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.

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**"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](http://pittsburgh.goarch.org) or [acrod.org](http://acrod.org) for more information and to register for the Retreat. His Grace, Bishop Gregory will be in attendance at this spiritual gathering. 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 and phone Father Stephen Loposky, Camp Administrator (724-662-4840) for available scholarships to cover the cost.

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**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](mailto: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.

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**WHEN LIGHTING A CANDLE IN CHURCH!** The Church Board would like to remind everyone to be reverent when lighting a candle in the sandbox at the back of the nave. It is customary to say a prayer when engaged in this spiritual action. At no time should children be playing with the sandbox or with the wax tapers. We recommend parents to supervise younger children at this liturgical site.

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**SYRIAN RELIEF DINNER & PRAYER SERVICE – SUNDAY APRIL 2, 2017 / SERVICE: 4:00 – LENTEN DINNER: 5:00 AT ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL IN PITTSBURGH, PA!**

The church is located at 419 South Dithridge Street in Pittsburgh (Oakland) 15213. Tickets are \$50; Students (age 7 – 18) \$20; Children 6 and under free. Net proceeds will benefit IOCC's Syrian Relief Fund. Contributions are tax deductible. Children's room available. Tables for groups of 8-10 only. Purchase tickets by March 31 from Robert Ruschak, our parish IOCC representative.

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**DEANERY LENTEN MISSION VESPERS AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN NORTH SIDE PITTSBURGH ON SUNDAY, APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> AT 3 P.M.** The Dean of our Pittsburgh district, Very Rev. Robert Prepelka, shall offer the Lenten message and a Lenten repast will be served to all worshipers in the parish hall, afterwards!

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