

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



Vol. 5, No. 13

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

Sunday, April 2, 2017

5th SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: SAINT MARY OF EGYPT

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

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

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Tone: 8

Gospel: Mark 10:32b-45

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 102-104; 185-186 / Red Book: 117-119; 207-208

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Ann Opsitos** and +**Martha Opsitos**, offered by the Kline Family and the Opsitos Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Anna Janicko**, offered by daughters: Helen Revak and Mary Janicko.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Michael Dzvonik, Sr.**, offered by the Family.

3:00 P.M. Pittsburgh Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers at St. John the Baptist Church in North Side Pittsburgh, PA. Very Rev. Robert Prepelka, Dean of the Pittsburgh District, will deliver the homily and a Lenten meal shall be served to all worshipers in the parish hall, afterwards.

4:00 P.M. Prayer Service led by our beloved Orthodox Hierarchs at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 419 South Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh (Oakland) Pa 15213.

5:00 P.M. Syrian Relief Dinner. Tickets: \$50 (Adults); Students (age 7-18) \$20; Children 6 yrs. and younger: free. Net proceeds will benefit IOCC's Syrian Relief Fund.

Contributions are tax deductible. Children's room available.

Wednesday, (April 5)... 7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (3-hr. fast of food or drink before partaking of Holy Communion).

Thursday, (April 6)... 7:00 P.M. Vespers on the Feast of the Annunciation to the Most-Holy Mother of God, with the Blessing of bread, wheat, wine & oil.

Friday, (April 7)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Annunciation to the Most-Holy Mother of God.

7:00 P.M. Akathist Hymn to the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Saturday, (April 8)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday. Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Ann Kerilla**, offered by herself.

12:00 Noon-1 P.M. Hearing of Confessions.

Sunday, April 9, 2017

PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY: TRIUMPHAL ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Service of the 3rd Hour: 8:20 A.M. with the Blessing of Palms & Pussy willows

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 188-192 / Red Book: 210-214

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Nick Thorn's** 21st Birthday, offered by God-parents: Kira Fischer & Luca Paganico.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Ann Timko**, offered by Grandchildren.

Mark 10:32b-45 –

10:32-34 – Christ's repeated predictions of His Passion were intended to encourage and strengthen the disciples for the terrifying events they would face. They also confirm that Christ was going to His death of His own will and choosing.

10:35-40 – This quest for temporal power and glory is unfitting for a disciple and shows an earthly misunderstanding of the Kingdom of God. St. Matthew reports that **the mother of Zebedee's sons** requested this honor, but John's and James' own involvement is revealed by the plural **you** in verse 22, and in Mark 10:35.

Christ calls His Crucifixion a **cup** and His death a **baptism**. The Cross is a cup because He drank it willingly (Heb. 12:2). His death is baptism, for He was completely immersed in it, yet it cleansed the world (Rom. 6:3-6). Christ's prophecy of John and James participating in the same cup and baptism shows the life of persecution and martyrdom they would lead after Pentecost.

Christ declaring that the places of honor in the Kingdom are not His **to give** does not mean that He lacks authority. Rather, it means that they are not His to give arbitrarily. Instead, He will give them to those for whom God has prepared them. Note also that with regard to sitting as equals on the right and left hand of Christ in His Kingdom, St. John Chrysostom teaches that no one could possibly occupy such a position. With regard to the highest places of honor that can be given to man, the icons of the Church universally depict the Virgin Mary (the most blessed among women – Luke 1:28) and John the Baptist (the greatest born of women – 11:11) holding these places.

10:45 – The phrase **for many** is an Aramaic expression meaning "for all."

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>

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 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.

COME, HELP US MAKE PIROHI ON TUESDAY, APRIL 4TH 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.

PURCHASE A CAMP NAZARETH "FAMILY DAY" RAFFLE TICKET OR TWO TODAY AND ENABLE THE DIOCESAN APOSTOLATE TO PLAN A TERRIFIC SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAM FOR OUR CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS THIS SUMMER! The cost of the ducat is still, only \$20 and the Grand Prize of \$10,000 will be awarded the fortunate ticket-holder at the June 11th Drawing. See Cathy Pawlik.

PREPARING FOR COMMUNION

The Orthodox Church requires anyone who desires to receive Holy Communion to have prepared themselves with confession, the Pre-Communion prayers and having abstained from food or drink from midnight on. Most of the world's local Orthodox Churches hold to this standard, recognizing that the clergy, as the guardians of the Mysteries, must make sure anyone who approaches the chalice is Orthodox, and properly prepared. The requirement that one be a member of the Orthodox Church before approaching the chalice relates to the fact that communion is the outward expression of having all things in common, in faith and worship. Holy Communion is not the route to unity, but is the fruit of unity.

The Holy Scriptures tell us that to receive unworthily is spiritually dangerous. We are receiving the very Body and Blood of the Savior for the healing of both body and soul. This eating and drinking is not about a simple remembrance of a past event, but an entrance into the Heavenly Realm, where is neither time nor space.

When communing we are participating mystically in the very Banquet that is ongoing in heaven. In the Eucharist we have a foretaste of heavenly things. Thus, proper preparation for the reception of Christ's Body and Blood is imperative for our very salvation. To eat or drink unworthily is to put our immortal soul at risk.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE DRIVE! The Church Board is seeking new members to participate on the By-Laws Committee. As presented at the Annual Church Meeting in February, we intend to evaluate and update our parish by-laws to ensure that they are in line with the new Diocesan By-Laws, passed at the SOBOR last fall (2016). If you are interested in being a member of the By-Laws committee, please communicate your interest to a church board member as soon as possible. Thank you! Tom Pingor.

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! A variety of meaningful volunteer opportunities are available with Jefferson Hospital. Whether you would enjoy working directly with patients in the surgery center, volunteering in the Gift Shop or behind the scenes in an office, volunteering at Jefferson is a wonderful way to bring happiness into the lives of others. To learn more, contact Janet O'Brien at 412-469-5885.

NEWS FROM THE ST. NICHOLAS BOOKSTORE! Lenten and Paschal devotionals, icons and gifts are available for all ages. New books for children have arrived. At the sales' table, special items are greatly reduced and are priced as marked. Volunteers are always welcomed at the bookstore. See Cheryl or Stephanie for details. Stop by today! Thank you to all who supplied the play area with furniture and toys – especially to Anna and Kataryna for their donations. Remember, the play area is closed during the Divine Liturgy and other services, but open during socials. Thank You, Stephanie Kennedy.

HURRY AND BUY THE DESIGNER PURSE BASH TICKETS AND AID OUR A.C.R.Y. CHAPTER IN HOSTING THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL CONVENTION! This exciting fund-raising activity shall take place on Saturday, May 6th in the spacious auditorium of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Homestead, PA. Doors open at 3:00 P.M. and an appetizing buffet-style meal will begin at 4:00 P.M. Starting at 4:40 P.M., exquisite and expensive satchels, shoulder bags, and totes will be won by lucky ticket-holders at every 20-minute interlude, climaxing in the 7:30 P.M. awarding of the Grand Prize: Coach Hobo Bag (\$575 value) + \$150 Cash. Tickets are \$35.00 each and only 250 ducats are available. Your ticket offers you 4 chances to win the designer purses, plus, food and beverages. Ticket must be presented at the door to receive entry into the auditorium. **Winner need not be present!** Tickets are voided after 30 days of the event and unclaimed prizes become property of ACRY Chapter #11. See Jessica Krchmar or Alisha Zak for tickets.

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