

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

E-mail Address: stnic@stnichomestead.org

E-mail Address: 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, May 14, 2017

5TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN & MOTHER'S DAY

Paschal Hours: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00

Apostolic Reading: Acts 11:19-30

Resurrection Tone: 4

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90-92; 205-206 / Red Book: 105-107; 228-229

Special Petitions intoned for the health of all Mothers & Women of the Parish and a Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +all of the Deceased Mothers of St. Nicholas Church before the end of the Liturgy.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +Ann Timko, offered by the Parishioners of St. Nicholas parish of Homestead, PA.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +Anna & +John Holinscak, offered by Ann Bunting.

No kneeling in church or at home for prayer until Pentecost.

Mother's Day Luncheon, sponsored by the Men's Club, served to all worshipers in the parish auditorium following the Divine Liturgy. Free-will offering in effect.

TUESDAY, (MAY 16)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +John & +Mary Butala, offered by their children.

WEDNESDAY, (MAY 17)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of +Andrew & +Susan Korinko, offered by Emily & Martha (Daughters)

THURSDAY, (MAY 18)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of +Mary Spontak, offered by Margaret Beczak (Daughter).

SATURDAY, (MAY 20)... 8:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +Andrew & +John Rusnak, offered by Margaret Rusnak.

Sunday, MAY 21, 2017

6TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN & FIRST CONFESSION SUNDAY

Matins of the Resurrection: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 16:16-34

Resurrection Tone: 5

Gospel: John 9:1-38

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 93-95; 206-207 / Red Book: 108-110; 229-231

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants: +George & +Mary Godish, and +Margaret Godish, offered by Mary Godish.

12:00 Noon: Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation & Holy Communion administered to: **Lexx Anthony Butler**, son of Elizabeth Ann Butler of our parish.

John 4:5-42 –

4:6, 7 – The Old Testament does not mention **Jacob's well**, though Jacob did dwell in the area (Gn. 33:19). Wells were significant because of their rarity and their value in desert life. Therefore, wells came to symbolize life itself (Ps. 35:9, 10; 45:4; Is. 55:1). This particular well is maintained as a shrine to this day, and pilgrims can drink from it. Jesus is **wearied from His journey**, showing His complete humanity. The **sixth hour** is noontime. This **woman** is identified in church tradition as St. Photini.

4:9 – The **Samaritans** were a mixed race and traditional enemies of the Jews. Although they worshiped the God of Israel and were also awaiting the Messiah, they accepted only the first five books of the Old Testament (the Pentateuch) as their Scriptures. They had built their own temple of Mt. Gerizim, which the Jews destroyed in 128 BC.

4:10-14 – **Living water** in the ordinary sense means fresh, flowing water, from a stream or spring rather than from a pond or cistern. Christ uses the term to mean the grace of the Holy Spirit that leads to eternal life (7:37-39). This gift not only remains in a person, but is so abundant it overflows to others. The woman misunderstands Christ and asks, **“Are you greater than our father Jacob?”** In the Scriptures, Jacob is a type of Christ, for he received the vision of the divine ladder (Gn. 28:12), which Christ fulfills. Furthermore, just as Jacob gave this well for earthly life, now Christ gives the well of the Holy Spirit for eternal life.

4:16-19 – Since Jesus perceived she was living with a man without being married, and as He knew of her string of husbands, the woman perceives He is a **prophet**. As the Samaritans did not accept any prophets after Moses, the only prophet they expected was the Messiah whom Moses foretold (Dt. 18:15-18). Christ's insight into people's hearts, reported many times in the Gospels, underscores His divine nature.

4:20-24 – If Jesus was indeed the expected Prophet, then He could settle the historical argument about **where** worship was to take place. Jesus refuses to answer such an earthly question and elevates the discussion to the manner in which people ought to worship. Even more importantly, He turns the attention to the One we worship: God Himself. **The Father** is worshiped **in spirit** – that is, in the Holy Spirit – and in **truth** – that is in Christ Himself (14:6) and according to Christ's revelation. **God is Spirit**: God cannot be confined to a particular location. Those who receive the Holy Spirit and believe in Jesus Christ can worship God the Father with purity of heart.

Salvation is of the Jews (v. 22): The Lord affirms that true revelation comes from Judaism. “The commonwealth of Israel was the school of knowledge of God for all the nations” (Athanasius the Great). More importantly, Jesus is testifying that the Messiah, who was prophesied among the Jews, has risen from among the Jews. While the gift of salvation in Christ is to all nations, it has come from within Judaism. The **hour** (v. 21) refers to the death and Resurrection of Christ and to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which inaugurates the worship of the new covenant.

4:26 – **I who speak to you am He** is literally translated “I AM, who speak to you.” “I AM” is the divine Name of God; its use indicates a theophany, or revelation of God Himself. The use of this Name by a mere man was considered blasphemy and punishable by death. However, as Jesus is divine, His use of this Name reveals His unity with the Father and the Holy Spirit; indeed, He is God Incarnate.

4:27 – **They marveled** not only that Jesus spoke with a Samaritan, but that He was speaking with an unaccompanied **woman**, which was potentially scandalous.

4:28-30 – The Samaritan woman becomes an early evangelist, testifying to the advent of Christ and bringing others to Him (v. 39). According to an early tradition, after the Resurrection she was baptized with the name Photini, “the enlightened one.” Along with her two sons and five daughters, she went to Carthage to spread the gospel. She was later martyred with her family under the emperor Nero by being thrown into a well. The Church remembers her on March 20 and on the fourth Sunday of Pascha.

4:31-34 – Christ fulfills His role as Messiah by doing **the will** of the Father; therefore this is His **food**. This also teaches us we are to perform the will of God in our lives without being distracted by earthly cares (6:27).

4:35 – **Behold**: According to St. John Chrysostom, this command to look was given because the townspeople were approaching, ready and eager to believe in Jesus. Christ compares these foreigners (relative to the Jews) to **fields ready for harvest**. This command is also to all believers to look to those around us and to share the gospel with anyone wanting to hear it, regardless of race or ethnicity.

4:36-38 – St. John Chrysostom teaches those who **sow** and those who **reap** are the prophets of the Old Testament and the apostles, respectively. The prophets sowed in preparation for the coming of the Messiah, but did not see His coming and thus did not reap. The apostles did not do the preparation, but would draw thousand to Christ in their own lifetimes.

4:42 – That these foreigners are among the first to recognize Jesus as the **Savior of the world** shows the gospel is for all people in every nation.

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>

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

The woman of Samaria goes off, leaving her water pot behind. She goes to her fellow countrymen: "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. Faith in Christ has not only begun to shine in her soul, but she now takes upon herself a certain ministry, an apostleship. This apostleship is fruitful, because the Samaritans leave the city and come out to meet Jesus. The woman's apostleship takes the form of personal witness. Witness is quite different from preaching. The preacher says: "Believe this" or "Do this." The witness says: "This is what happened to me." There is much greater efficacy, much greater persuasive power, in bearing witness than in preaching. We are not all called to preach, but each person can, in his or her own sphere, bear simple and humble witness to the graces that have been granted to him or her. This testimony will be all the more striking when the witness sincerely admits his or her sins: "a Man who told me all things that I ever did," said the Samaritan woman. Often it needs considerable courage to "share" our faults and our graces with others, but the best testimony is that "sharing" which takes place under the guidance of the Spirit. Am I a good witness of Jesus Christ?

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!

This is the only diocesan-wide fundraiser for Camp Nazareth and it is a significant source of income for the Camp Program. 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.

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

ITALIAN FEAST AND BASKET RAFFLE AT ST. JOHN'S IN NORTHSIDE PITTSBURGH ON SATURDAY, MAY 20TH! St. John the Baptist Church (2688 California Ave., Pgh, PA 15212) will have their Annual Dinner & Raffle on Saturday, May 20th. Doors will open at 3 P.M., with dinner at 4 P.M. and the raffle of over 25 amazing baskets to follow. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for youths (6-17), or a \$50 Family Admission. Ticket price includes: Admission, 8 Basket Raffle Tickets, 2 Drink Coupons, and a homemade Italian Pasta Dinner with Appetizer, Salad Bar, and Dessert. (Extra Raffle tickets may also be purchased at the event). Reservations by email or phone (Orthodox Pittsburgh1937@gmail.com/412-766-4691) are requested by May 17th. Go and enjoy a wonderful Italian feast, some Sinatra, and fellowship with your sister parish!

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH CALENDAR PARTY IN RANKIN ON SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH! Doors open at 12:30 P.M. and Luncheon is at 1:00 P.M. Tickets are \$18 per Adult and can be secured from Cheryl Tomko for this fun-time activity where everyone wins.

The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA) will host their next "Orthodoxy on Tap" on Sunday, May 21 at 6:30 P.M. The meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. at the Sharp Edge Beer Emporium in Shadyside. Guest Speaker will be Father Stephen Lopusky, the director of Camp Nazareth in Mercer, Pa. All young adults ages 21-39 are welcome.

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