

# Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



## American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

Homestead, PA 15120

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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. 21

**Sunday, May 28, 2017**

## 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 20:16-18a; 28-38      Resurrection Tone: 6      Gospel: John 17:1-13

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 96-98; 211-212 / Red Book: 111-114; 235-236

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**George Pacolt**, +**Helen Maurer**, +**Olga Simmers & Maria Zini**, offered by Andrew & Lucy Tomko.

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

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**MONDAY, (MAY 29)...** 9:30 A.M. Memorial Day services at St. Nicholas Church

Cemetery in West Mifflin, Pa. General Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**all of the deceased Clergy, Laity and Veterans of the Parish.**

Abbreviated services of repose for departed faithful & the blessing of individual graves upon request.

**THURSDAY, (June 1)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Jenny & +John Pingor**, offered by the Family, and for the deceased, +**Mary Rudosky**, offered by Rose Mary Roscoe (Daughter).

**FRIDAY, (JUNE 2)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**John & +Mary Rusnak**, offered by Margaret Rusnak.

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**Sunday, June 4, 2017**

## PENTECOST SUNDAY: THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

**Kneeling Prayers following the Divine Liturgy.**

**Begin Fast-Free Week through June 11.**

Apostolic Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 213-216 / Red Book: 237-239

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: **A.C.R.Y.** on Pentecost Sunday

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **A.C.R.Y.** on Pentecost Sunday

**John 17:1-13** – Christ's prayer is often called the High Priestly Prayer, as it contains the basic elements of prayer a priest offers to God when a sacrifice is about to be made: glorification (vv. 3-5), remembrance of God's works (vv. 2, 6-8), intercession on behalf of others (vv. 9, 11), and a declaration of the offering itself (vv. 1, 5).

The passage that includes vv. 1-13 is read on the seventh Sunday of Pascha, a day remembering the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council (Nicea 1) in AD 325. At this council the heresy of Arianism was condemned. This heresy taught that the Son of God was created by

the Father and that there was a time when the Son of God did not exist. We find our Lord's words here bearing witness to His divinity and to His filial relationship with the Father. This testimony is sufficient in itself to dismiss Arianism.

**The hour has come** signifies Christ is Lord over time. "He voluntarily willed to ascend the Cross in the flesh" (hymn of Orthodoxy Sunday). **Glorify** refers to the redemption of all creation that will be accomplished through the Cross and Resurrection – the purpose for which Christ was sent into the world. In this redemption, the Father and the Son are glorified. This is why the Cross, which is a sign of death, is glorified in the Church as "life-giving" and the "weapon of peace."

**17:3** – The knowledge of **the only true God** is far more than intellectual understanding. It is participation in His divine life and in communion with Him. Thus, **eternal life** is an ongoing, loving knowledge of God in Christ and the Holy Spirit.

**17:4** – Christ's **work** can never be separated from who He is. This verse is a statement each believer can make at the end of life, no matter how long or short that life may be.

**17:6** – **The men whom You have given Me** are the apostles. They are the ones through whom God's **word** comes to us. This handing down of God's word to successive generations is called apostolic tradition.

Isaiah prophesied that in the days of the Messiah, the knowledge of the Name of God would be revealed (Is. 52:6). **Your name:** In the Old Testament times, the phrase "the Name" was reverently used as a substitute for God's actual Name "Yahweh," which was too sacred to pronounce. The fuller revelation of the Name was given to those who believe in Christ, for Christ **manifested** the Name not only by declaring the Father, but by being the very presence of God and sharing the Name with Him.

**17:9** – Christ first prayed for Himself (vv. 1-5) and secondly **for them**, the apostles (vv. 6-13). Only then does He pray **for those whom You have given Me** – all who will come to believe in Him. Here **the world** is the portion of humanity in rebellion against God, those who prefer darkness to His light.

**17:11** – **Holy Father** is echoed in the Eucharistic prayer of Didache 10:2: "We give you thanks, Holy Father, for **Your holy name** which You have made to dwell in our hearts.

**17:12** – **The son of perdition** ("destruction") is Judas Iscariot (6:70-71). Old Testament prophecy alludes to Judas (Psalm 40:10; 108:2-13; Zec. 11:12, 13), and Judas becomes a type for all who will fall away in the last days.

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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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### THE ASCENSION

It is rare, if one has lived through the joy of Paschal time sincerely, that one does not experience a certain squeezing of the heart, causing it to become smaller, when the day of the Ascension comes. We know perfectly well that it is one of the very great Christian feasts, and yet, despite ourselves, it seems like a parting, a separation, and that after it, our Lord is not with us in quite the same way any longer. The disciples did not react like this. They could have been overwhelmed with grief but, on the contrary, they 'returned to Jerusalem with great joy.' We, too, can try and enter into this joy of the Ascension. Why does the Ascension bring joy to Christians?

First of all, the glory of our Lord must be very precious to us, and the Ascension is the crown of His earthly mission. He has accomplished on earth the whole mission which He had received from the Father. It is to the Father that His whole being reaches out. Now He will receive from the Father the welcome that His victory over sin and death – a victory gained so grievously – has merited for Him.

Now He will be glorified in heaven. The glory and the desire of our Lord are surely more important to us than the sort of 'grasping mentally the comforts' that we might receive from His presence. Let us know how to love our Lord enough to rejoice in His own joy.

Then the Ascension marks God's acceptance of the Son's whole work of the making of amends. The Resurrection was the first dazzling sign of this acceptance, and Pentecost will be the last sign. The cloud today envelopes Jesus and ascends with Him to heaven represents the smoke of the sacrifice rising from the altar to God. The sacrifice is accepted, and the Victim is admitted to God's presence where He will continue to be offered in an eternal and heavenly manner. The work of our salvation has been accomplished and is blessed.

Jesus does not return to His Father in isolation. It was the incorporeal Logos which came down among men. But today it is the Word made flesh, both true God and true man, who enters the kingdom of heaven. Jesus brings into it the human nature which He had assumed. He opens the door of the kingdom to humanity. As if by proxy, we take possession of the benefits which are offered and made possible to us. '(God) has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.' There are places destined for us in the kingdom, if we are faithful. Our presence is desired and awaited.

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**ATTENTION: MOTHERS & DAUGHTERS GUILD MEMBERS!** Our regular monthly session takes place today as we gather following the Divine Liturgy in the parish auditorium. We shall be discussing and planning the furnishing of lunch bags for the homeless, which takes place at FOCUS Pittsburgh in the month of July. Also on the agenda is the preparation and serving of the Father's Day Lunch on Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. Please try to attend this morning's meeting if you are able. As always, we need as much input from our distinguished women as possible. Thank You!

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**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 11<sup>th</sup> Drawing. See Cathy Pawlik.

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**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

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**WIN A FREE HOTEL ROOM FOR THIS YEAR'S ACRY CONVENTION!** The Senior ACRY is raffling off the prize of a 3-night stay at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott, site of this year's convention during the Labor Day weekend. Please see John Fedornock for ducats and buy plenty of chances to increase your odds.

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**ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY – MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES, STARTING AT 9:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>!** Fr. Michael will celebrate the Panachida service for all the departed clergy, laity, and veterans of St. Nicholas parish at the Grotto, beginning at 9:30 A.M. on Memorial Day (May 29<sup>th</sup>). Then, your priest will conduct abbreviated services of repose and bless individual graves upon request.

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**CARPATHO RUSYN FLAG SALE!** St. John's Church of North Side Pittsburgh is getting a discount on purchasing Carpatho-Rusyn Flags. The cost is only \$25 per flag. If you would be interested in securing one, please email or Fr. Dave Urban by Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> ([fr.sleepless@gmail.com](mailto:fr.sleepless@gmail.com) / 412-766-4691).

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**ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH CALENDAR PARTY IN RANKIN ON SUNDAY, JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>!** 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.

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**ATTENTION: CLASS OF 2017!** To our High School and College graduates and Parents: Please supply Fr. Michael with the following information by Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. High School Students: your High School, any academic and/or athletic awards, where you will attend college in the fall and your attended major in college (or undecided at this time). College Students: Graduate and Post-Graduate: your college/university, your field of study and degree you have earned. St. Nicholas Church will recognize our graduates on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Attend the Divine Liturgy on that Lord's Day so that a group photo may be taken.

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**CALLING ALL MEDICAL PERSONNEL!** Do you work in the medical field? Have you ever wondered if you can offer your medical skills in a region of the world where access to primary care is limited? Have you heard God speak in your heart about serving Him but you really weren't sure whether that was practical? If so, OCMC Health Care Teams need you! By participating on an OCMC health care outreach, you will treat illnesses, care for the poor and needy, offer public health training and be a witness of our Orthodox Faith. Health care providers are needed! Participate in an outreach of the local Church in Guatemala or

Indonesia, and serve as a living witness of Christ, our Lord and Savior. If God is calling you, then call the OCMC today (904.829.5132 ext. 141) to see how you can be part of a Health Care Outreach Team.

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)