

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

Assistant Cantors – Donald Bodnar Jr. & Michele Tomko

Parish Council President: Tom Pingor

Vol. 5; No. 36

Sunday, September 10, 2017

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

Resurrection Tone: 5

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 93-95 / Red Book: 108-110

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants: **+John & +Mary Yarina**, offered by Mary Ann Kelch (Daughter).

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

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

7:00 P.M. Vespers on the Holy Day of the

Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

MONDAY, (Sept. 11)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Holy Day of the Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. Strict Fast Day (No meat or dairy products eaten).

WEDNESDAY, (Sept. 13)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Michael Hreha**, offered by Susan Hreha (Wife).

7:00 P.M. Moleben (Prayer) Service of Saint Nectarios, with the Anointing of the sick, in body & soul.

THURSDAY, (Sept. 14)... Ecclesiastical New Year – The Indiction.

9:00 A.M. Panachida Service for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Barbara Coe** on the 40th day of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Fr. Michael & Pani Deborah Zak.

SATURDAY, (September 16)... 10:00 A.M. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Saints Cyril & Methodius Church, Mercer, PA., on the 40th Anniversary of Camp Nazareth.

Sunday, September 17, 2017

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Resurrection Tone: 6

Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 96-98 / Red Book: 111-114

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of wife, **+Mary Frances Skero**, offered by Andrew Skero.

Matthew 22:1-14 – Like the preceding parables, this one also proclaims the transfer of the Kingdom from the faithless Jews to the Gentiles. It is set as a joyful wedding banquet (v. 2), for Christ is often called the "Bridegroom" (9:15; John 3:29), and St. Paul uses a marriage analogy for the Kingdom (Eph. 5:21-33).

The repeated sending out of **servants** shows the Father's great desire to have His people with Him in the Kingdom. The first group (v. 3) is interpreted to be Moses and those with him, while the second group (v. 4) is composed of the prophets. These groups call those initially invited – the Jews. The third group (v. 9) represents the apostles sent to the Gentiles, those not initially invited, but now called.

22:4 – The **oxen** represent the sacrifices of the Old Covenant, while the **fatted cattle** represent the Eucharistic bread of the New Covenant. (Fatted is better translated “wheat-fed,” or even more literally “formed from wheat”. Thus, both the Old and New Covenants are fulfilled at the wedding of Christ and His Church.

22:7 – **Burned up their city:** St. John Chrysostom teaches that Christ is prophesying the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70, and thus attributes this destruction to an act of God rather than simply to that of men. Nevertheless, God showed His patience by waiting some 40 years from the time of Christ, giving the entire generation a chance to repent.

22:11-13 – The **wedding garment** would have been provided by the king, and therefore the man had no excuse for not wearing one; thus he is **speechless**. His refusal to wear the garment that was provided is an illustration of those who refuse God's hospitality or who want His Kingdom on their own terms. Specifically, the garment refers to the baptismal garment, and by extension, a life of faith, repentance, virtue and charity. Without these, a person will ultimately be **cast into outer darkness**.

22:14 – **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/acroddiocese> Twitter:

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

LOSING RELIGION AND REPLACING IT WITH NOTHING

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

According to Professor Mark Silk of Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, “The real dirty little secret of religiosity in America is that there are so many people for whom spiritual interest, thinking about ultimate questions, is minimal.”

Increasing numbers of people are concerned only with new cars, mortgages, entertainment, or their favorite rock band or football team. Even people who regularly participated in the life of the Church have shrugged off their obligations to God, preferring to sleep in on Sundays. They even begin to question their faith, having withdrawn from the abounding grace that had previously sustained them. They begin to question whether the Church is relevant to them, or even if God exists.

Having become minimalists in the area of religion, they slowly sink in the quagmire of secularism and ultimately the atheism that follows. Surrendered to the hazardous behavior of absenting themselves from the grace-filled Mysteries of Christ's Church, they sink into the mud of life devoid of meaning, surrendering themselves to material pursuits. Ultimately they find that life hasn't been very fulfilling, and they wonder why.

A few years ago, after a hip replacement, I decided I needed to strengthen my body to give support to the other hip and to fight off the arthritis that was starting to weaken my knee joints. I was surprised at how quickly my muscle tone returned, and I remembered the truism that muscles have memory.

The soul is like that. Just as muscles rebuild themselves when we make the effort to exercise, so too the soul is quickly restored to health when we avail ourselves of the healing grace that abounds within the Church.

As you continue in the liturgical new year, why not make a resolution to commit yourself to a reformation of your life? Commit yourself to regular church attendance and keeping the fast periods, to spiritual reading, and to prayer. Usher in a new year of enlightenment, when the Son of Righteousness reigns in your life anew!

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH IN RANKIN INVITES YOU TO THEIR "CALENDAR PARTY", TODAY, AND FALL BAZAAR ON SUNDAY, OCT. 8TH! Doors open at 12:30 and luncheon is at 1:00 P.M. \$18 donation and tickets can be secured from Cheryl Tomko. Fun games and as always, everyone takes home something. Anyone is welcome to call Carole for reservations at (412) 351-1521. The Pittsburgh Deanery parish will hold its annual fall bazaar on Sunday, October 8 following Liturgy from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. Food, crafts, raffles, bingo and fellowship. Please join them for a wonderful activity!

BISHOP GREGORY'S 5TH EPISCOPAL ANNIVERSARY – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH IN JOHNSTOWN, PA! We are happy to hear that the Diocese will honor His Grace, Bishop Gregory on the 5th anniversary of his ordination to the Episcopate. The evening event will take place on Monday, November 27th in Johnstown, PA. Please mark this date on your calendar. Complete information will be provided at a later time.

SAVE THE DATES: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 FOR THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT CAMP NAZARETH: The 10 A.M. Divine Liturgy will be followed by Lunch in the Camp Lodge. Come celebrate with your CN Family and Friends! The schedule also includes: a dancing performance, talks and more! The event is free of charge. Donations will be accepted "at the door". Call ahead or email the Camp by Tuesday, 9/12 to attend the Lunch. Call or email the Camp at (724) 662-4840 or campnazareth@acrod.org. ; **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017 FOR THE ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH PICNIC** – Susan Miller will be handling the Chinese Auction again this year for the picnic. She will be accepting any donations, starting today following the Divine Liturgy. Volunteer your talents to serve on the picnic committee and assist Jessica Krchmar, Chairperson for this event. Sign your name to the list downstairs of Picnic participants and to the papers listing the side dishes, desserts, and refreshments you'll be bringing; **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 FOR THE FOOD FESTIVAL!** We desire all parishioners to sign their names to the papers in the auditorium highlighting the designated areas of the Festival, where they can be good stewards of giving their time, talents, and treasures toward this annual fund-raising activity of the parish.

PLEASE RETURN THE GLASS CANDLES FOR RECYCLING PURPOSES! Our parish of St. Nicholas has gone to using the glass 6-7 day candles for liturgical use in the church and at home. If you buy one to light in your home-church residence, please bring back the empty glass container after the wax has all melted. Eastern Oil Company recycles the glass bottles, and our church gets credit on its next order to the Bridgeville, PA-based company.

ST. MICHAEL'S ORTHODOX CHURCH 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN WOOD, PA ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 23, 2017! As part of their celebration, they will have a 100 Year Anniversary Banquet the RW&BT Vol. Fire Co. Hall in Robertsedale following The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy being celebrated at St. Michael's in Wood, beginning at 10:00 A.M.

PITTSBURGH ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULTS WILL BE MEET ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 10 AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE SHARP EDGE BEER EMPORIUM IN SHADYSIDE! Bishop Thomas of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese is scheduled to be the guest speaker on Sunday, September 10. Young adults (ages 21-39) are invited to attend these "Orthodoxy on Tap" encounters.

COME, HELP US MAKE PIROHI ON TUESDAYS, SEPT. 12TH & SEPT 19TH, AT 6 'O CLOCK! It is time to get ready for our fall food festival. Lend us your culinary talents for an evening of fun and work. Let's make October's festival one of the best we have ever had! With your help, we can do it! Let Jean Colantoni know if you are willing to give us a helping hand. Phone her at (412) 491-7090.

CALLING ALL CHURCH OFFICERS, CLERGY AND STEWARDSHIP COORDINATORS TO THE PROGRAM ENTITLED "IGNITING THE FLAME OF TRUE STEWARDSHIP" AT CAMP NAZARETH ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 23RD FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.! Breakfast & Lunch will be provided at no cost. Interested individuals should email Commission member Dan Hromyak no later than Sept. 11th at dhboone7@verizon.net.