

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



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

Assistant Cantors – Donald Bodnar Jr. & Michele Tomko

Parish Council President: Tom Pingor

Vol. 5; No. 37

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.

Birthday prayers extended to: **Gaylene Merritt** (Sept. 15), offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, Dad, +**Albert**

Nicholas Popovich, on the 6th year Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord (Sept. 19)

offered by Son, Albert.

1:00-4:00 P.M. St. Nicholas Church Picnic at West Mifflin Park, off of Bettis

Rd. in West Mifflin, PA (Adults: \$8; Children 6-12 yrs.: \$5; 5 yrs. old and younger: Free.

WEDNESDAY, (Sept. 20)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Joseph & +Mary Genci**, offered by Joseph Genci (Ganzy).

7:00 P.M. Great Vespers on the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God, with the Blessing of bread, wheat, wine and oil.

THURSDAY, (Sept. 21)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God.

Sunday, September 24, 2017

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 (Sunday Before); Resurrection Tone: 7; Gospel: John 3:13-17 (Sunday Before).

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 99-101, 108 / Red Book: 114-117, 124

11:30 A.M. Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation & Holy

Communion administered to **Lexx Anthony Butler**, son of Elizabeth Ann Butler of our parish.

Matthew 22:35-46 –

22:35-40 – The Pharisees had found 613 commandments in the Scriptures and debated about which one was central. Jesus sets forth the **first** and the **second**, which constitute the grand summary of the Law. Though the **lawyer** has come with malice to test the Lord, we know from St. Mark's account that this man is converted by Christ's answer (Mark 12:28-34).

22:39 – This **second** commandment must be understood as written: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself**, or more clearly, "as being yourself." It is often misinterpreted, "You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself," which destroys the force of the statement. How much we love ourselves is not the standard by which Christ is calling us to love others. Rather, we are

called to love our neighbor as being of the same nature as we ourselves are, as being created in God's image and likeness just as we are. As the Fathers teach, we find our true self in loving our neighbor.

22:41-46 – Christ asks this question to lead the Pharisees to the only logical conclusion: that He is God incarnate. They supposed the Messiah to be a mere man, and therefore reply that the Messiah would be a **Son of David**. David, as king of Israel, could not and would not address anyone as “Lord” except God. Yet in Psalm 109:1, David refers to the Messiah as “Lord.” Therefore, the Messiah must be God. The only possible conclusion is that the Messiah is a descendant of David only according to the flesh, yet is also truly divine, sharing His Lordship with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. The Pharisees do not **answer** because they realize the implications and are afraid to confess Jesus to be the Son of God.

Luke 20:41-44 – The first reference to **the Lord** applies to God the Father, which the term **my Lord** refers to Christ. This question is answered in that Christ is the Son of David in His humanity and David's **Lord** in His divinity.

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 SIMPLE MESSAGE OF THE WAY OF CHRIST

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

I received an email from a man from India, asking why there is evil in the world and how he could come to know the true God, overcome sin, and live a life in transformation. This is my response to him:

We live in a fallen world, one that was created in perfection, beauty, and goodness. Evil entered into this world when humans turned from God, made themselves gods, and fell into pride and arrogance. The result is our alienation from God as well as the finality of death.

As followers of the Way of Christ, we believe God humbled Himself and pitched His tent in our world as one of us. This God, who is worshiped in Holy Trinity, came down as the second member of this Trinity and became man. Jesus Christ, we believe, is the Logos, the very Word by which everything that came into being was created.

As the Word made flesh, Jesus dwelt among us and taught us how to live the commandments of God and how to love God above everything else. He taught us that we must, if we are to be saved, keep the two Great Commandments: that we love God with our whole heart, mind, and soul, and love our neighbor as being our self.

Jesus, the Name above every other name, suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried, and on the third day conquered the power of death by His Holy Resurrection. When we accept the invitation to commune with this God, who has offered forgiveness for our sins and offers us the possibility to commune with Him, His Resurrection becomes our resurrection. We, although sinners, are forgiven, and we become the sons and daughters of the Most High.

This message is a simple one. All who open their hearts, repent of their sins, and ask God to come into their hearts will be made whole.

It isn't merely enough to love one another; we must love the other more than ourselves. A mother loves her children more than she loves herself. She will stay hungry to feed her children, yet she feels greater pleasure than they do. The children are fed materially, but she is fed spiritually. They experience the taste of food, while she experiences spiritual rejoicing.

St. Paisios the Athonite

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH IN RANKIN INVITES YOU TO THEIR FALL BAZAAR ON SUNDAY, OCT. 8TH!

The Pittsburgh Deanery parish, located at 146 Third Avenue in Rankin, PA, will hold its annual fall bazaar on Sunday, October 8 following Liturgy from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. There will be a variety of foods, including Slavic Specialties for eat-in or take-out, Bake Sale, Children's Games, Beverages, Raffles, Crafts and Bingo. Plenty of parking is available. For additional information, please call Fr. Nik at 412-271-2725.

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: 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 Robertsdale following The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy being celebrated at St. Michael's in Wood, beginning at 10:00 A.M.

COME, HELP US MAKE PIROHI ON TUESDAY, 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.

FROM MYSTICISM TO JUBILATION: A VOYAGE THROUGH ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SACRED CHANT! Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 4 P.M. in St. Bernard Roman Catholic Church, located at 311 Washington Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15216. A spiritual meander through an enchanting early fall field of Orthodox Christian musical and hymnologic treasures that span 1500 years. From the musical prayers of the early Christian communities, through the impressive evolution of Byzantine chant and its influence on the ecclesiastic musical worship of the Balkans, Eastern Europe, the Ukraine and Russia, to very recent translated hymnology in modern English. The region's two key Orthodox ecclesiastic choirs, the Pan-Orthodox Choir of Pittsburgh, and the Byzantine Choir of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh, have joined together to express and present these traditions faithfully to their origins in this unique and inspiring musical journey. *** Admission free; free-will offerings most gratefully accepted. All donations will support local ministries. For more information: asbmh@pitt.edu

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL 7K WALK FOR MISSIONS AT SOUTH PARK, SPONSORED BY THE ORTHODOX CLERGY BROTHERHOOD! Proceeds earmarked for the Guatemalan Mission work of Father John and Presbyteria Sandy Chakos. Walker with highest collected funds – Will receive a Fleet Feet Shoes Certificate. Here's What To Do: Raise pledges. Make checks payable to: **ORTHODOX CLERGY BROTHERHOOD**. Register at WALK: 1:00 October 8 at South Park Children's Playground Pavilion, (Corrigan & Brownsville Rd., 15129). Bring you pledge forms and collected money. WALK BEGINS AT 2:00. Complimentary Refreshments before the Walk and a Light Lunch after the Walk. FREE T-shirt for children 8 years and under who raise \$25 or others who raise \$50 or more. Mail balances by Oct. 30 to: Walk For Missions, c/o Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228. Walker Pledge Forms can be picked up in the vestibule of the church.

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](http://www.saintnicholasorthodoxchurch.org)