

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



Vol. 5, No. 38

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

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

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**George Sotak**, on the 75th Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Sotak & Lipscak Families.

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

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

TUESDAY, (Sept. 26)... 7:00 P.M. Great Vespers on the Feast of the Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of the Lord, with the Blessing of bread, wheat, wine & oil.

WEDNESDAY, (Sept. 27)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of the Lord. – Strict Fast Day, when no meat or dairy products are to be eaten.

THURSDAY, (Sept. 28)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Joseph Ganzy**, offered by Martha Ganzy (Wife).

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Michael Beres** on the 40th day of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Beres' Family.

SATURDAY, (Sept. 30)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**His Grace, Bishop John R. Martin**, offered by the Family.

Sunday, October 1, 2017

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 (Sunday After); Resurrection Tone: 8; Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1 (Sunday After).

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 102-104, 113-114 / Red Book: 117-119, 129

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Anthony Panichelli**, Father, on the 14th Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Susan Miller (Daughter) & Family.

John 3:13-17 –

3:14 Moses lifted up an image of a **serpent** to cure the Israelites from deadly bites of poisonous snakes (Numbers 21:4-9). This miracle-working image prefigured Christ being lifted up on the Cross. As believers behold the crucified Christ in faith, the power of sin and death is overthrown in them. Just as the image of a serpent was the weapon that destroyed the power of the serpents, so the instrument of Christ's death becomes the weapon that overthrows death itself.

3:16 – To show the reason the Son must be crucified (“lifted up” – v. 14), Jesus declares God's great love not only for Israel, but for **the world**. This single verse expresses the whole of the message of John's Gospel, and indeed, of salvation history.

3:17 – While Christ came to save and not **to condemn**, man has free will. Thus, he can reject this gift, and he becomes **condemned** by his own rejection.

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>

WE ARE CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

Central to living in all holiness of life is the acquisition of a humble and contrite heart. Humility does not come without contrition, and both are obtained with much suffering and trial. Spiritual reading, together with prayer, are necessary components of this journey to God, but they must be accompanied by spiritual direction, confession, and the acceptance of correction.

If we are so proud and puffed up that we swiftly take on the role of defense attorney when confronted with correction or the critique of another, we will simply fall further under the control of the ego, and humility will not be a part of our makeup. Often the critical observations of others, which we'd like to fend off, can become a tool for regeneration; for such corrections, even if offered by someone with ill intent, can be occasions for tremendous spiritual progress.

I am reminded of my late spiritual father, Archimandrite Dimitry of Santa Rosa. He was slandered by a local priest in a very public setting. When told of this, Elder Dimitry stood up from his desk, walked across the room, and began winding a wall clock. Asked why he seemingly cared little that he'd been so falsely and viciously slandered, his only response was to say, “Many sins have been forgiven because of this.”

Making spiritual progress is never easy; it requires much effort on our part. It can come only through humility, which means we can expect to be humiliated. If we do not flee from suffering and humiliation, but learn to accept it for our salvation, holiness can be ours, and our lives will truly reflect this scripture: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20)

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

As the feast of the Cross draws near, it is not useless to remember that the cross which it concerns is the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified for our salvation. The decision to “bear our cross” –

which is so deeply evangelical, and without which this feast of the Cross would somehow remain an abstract idea – is an essential aspect, though a secondary one, of the mystery of the cross. The principal aspect, is that we are saved by the Passion of Jesus. The attention of eastern Christians, which is given so easily and enthusiastically to the incarnation of Christ, must not overlook the mystery of atonement. Christ is God made man; He is the conqueror, and He who rose from the dead. But He is also the crucified Redeemer. The feasts of the Cross give us an opportunity to meditate on what the Blood of Christ means in our spiritual life, on the death of the Saviour as a making of amends for our sins, and on the relationship between the cross and love. They are precious as an opportunity for us to deepen our understanding of that article in the Nicene creed when we confess that Jesus died “for us men and for our salvation”.

LAST SUNDAY’S CHURCH PICNIC WAS CERTAINLY AN ENJOYABLE AFFAIR! Our thanks and praise are gratefully proclaimed to Jessica Krchmar and her wonderful crew of picnic coordinators who staged a terrific late summer gathering of church folks in a pleasing atmosphere of good food, genuine fellowship and a sincere social exchange at the St. Nicholas Church Picnic last week at West Mifflin Park. It was an assignment well-done on their part, and we pray that our merciful Lord will bestow upon all of the participants many years of good health, peace and happiness!

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. In regards to the Food Festival Basket Raffle, Pani Debbie is receiving Basket Donations for the 2-day affair. You can donate a whole Basket or items to use in making up a Basket or cash towards purchasing items.

HAVE YOUR NAME APPEAR IN THE ACRY ANNUAL, OUR DIOCESAN YEAR BOOK, AS A PATRON (\$6), BOOSTER (\$3), OR MEMORIAL LISTING (\$6)! This informative journal represents the activities of the past year and important calendar and contact information for you in the coming year. By supporting this publication, you enable the National ACRY to reach out to those in need. Please submit your monetary gifts toward this Yearly issue that should occupy a space in your home library. See Cathy Pawlik to record your donation.

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