

# 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](http://www.stnichomestead.org)

E-mail Address: [stnic@stnichomestead.org](mailto:stnic@stnichomestead.org)

E-mail Address: [frmzak@gmail.com](mailto: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

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**Sunday, November 19, 2017**

## 24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (7<sup>TH</sup> LUKAN SUNDAY)

Service of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

Resurrection Tone: 7

Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

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

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Diane Lacock's** 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday, offered by the Family.

Birthday prayers intoned for: **Diane Lacock's** 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday, offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Charles & +Olga Romanchuk**, offered by Mary Ann Vasil.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Robert Lenart** on the 1<sup>st</sup> Year Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Mary Lou Lenart, (wife).

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Michelle Dzvonik & +Sophie Virostek**, offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+George Rohaly**, offered by Wife & Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servants, **+Martha Opsitos** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> year anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord (Nov. 20) and for **+Ann Opsitos** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> year anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Ann Kline & Opsitos Families.

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**MONDAY, NOV. 20...** 7:00 P.M. Vespers on the Feast of the Holy Archangel Michael and the Holy Bodiless Powers of Heaven.

**TUESDAY, NOV. 21...** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Holy Archangel Michael and the Holy Bodiless Powers of Heaven.

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22...** 7:00 P.M. Moleben (Prayer) Service of Thanksgiving on the National Holiday of Thanksgiving Day.

**FRIDAY, NOV. 24...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+John & +Helen Pido**, offered by the Family.

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**Sunday, November 26, 2017**

## 25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (8<sup>TH</sup> LUKAN SUNDAY)

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-7

Resurrection Tone: 8

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 102-104 / Red Book: 117-119

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant & father, **+Andrew Janicko**, offered by daughters, Helen Revak and Mary Janicko.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Mary Lazzo** on the 20<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary (Nov. 28) of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Mary Lou Lenart (daughter).

**Luke 8:41-56 –**

**Math. 9:18-26 –** Authority over life and death is in the hand of God alone (Dt. 32:39; 1 Kings 2:6). Being of one essence with the Father, Jesus has this authority (John 5:21). The healing of this woman demonstrates Christ's power to cleanse and heal. The biblical law concerning **leprosy** is found in Lv. 13; 14. Dt. 24:8 describes the purification of lepers and leprous houses, which was a duty entrusted to the priests. Leprosy was considered a direct punishment for sins, and as lepers were unclean, they were not permitted to live in the community or to worship in the synagogues or the temple. Touching the unclean was forbidden (Lv. 7:21), yet Jesus **touched** the **leper**, showing His compassion, and showing that He is not subject to the Law but over it. To the clean, nothing is unclean.

**Luke 5:14 – Show yourself to the priest:** Christ gives this command in order to convince the priests by a tangible miracle that He is superior to **Moses** (St. Cyril of Alexandria). The priests hold Moses to be greater than Christ, yet Christ heals a leper immediately and with His own divine authority. However, when Miriam was struck with leprosy, Moses had to seek mercy from above, and still she was only healed after seven days (Num. 12:10-15).

**Luke 8:43, 44 –** For the Jews, contact with **blood** caused defilement and led to religious and social isolation (Lv. 25). The **woman** displays bold faith by approaching both Christ and a ruler of the synagogue (v. 41) in a crowd, potentially defiling all of them and subjecting herself to ridicule.

**8:45 – “Who touched Me?”** does not simply mean a physical touch, but rather, “Who touched me in faith?” Just as “the temple sanctifies the gold” (Math. 23:17), so also matter is sanctified by Christ's Incarnation, and the power of Christ works through even His garment. To touch Christ's garment in faith is to touch Him. In the Church, we touch Christ through icons, oil, water, bread, wine, etc. When this is done in faith, the power of Christ is received.

**8:47 –** Jesus calls **the woman** forward both to take away her fear and **trembling** and to strengthen Jairus, for the forthcoming news of his daughter's death (v. 49).

**8:54 –** This is one of three resurrections performed by our Lord as recorded in the Gospels. They confirm the promise given to the prophet Ezekiel that God will one day open the graves and raise all the dead (Ezk. 37:1-14). Many people have exercised authority over the living; only the Son of God “has power over both the living and the dead” (funeral service). While Christ has power through His word alone (John 11:43), here He also **touched** the coffin to show that His very body is life-giving. The event also prefigures Christ's own Resurrection, here a widow's **only son** is raised from the dead, putting an end to her weeping (St. Ambrose).

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

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## GOD IS NOT A PROSECUTOR, BUT A PHYSICIAN

Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

The Scriptures, the works of the early Church Fathers, and the liturgical texts of the Church all attest to the fact that the ancient Church did not teach that Christ's Incarnation was intended to be an appeasement of divine justice. Rather, Christ came as a physician intent on bringing healing to fallen humankind. Christ's Incarnation brought the whole of human nature together with His divine nature for a cure. His

spiritual medicine brings healing, removes the stain of sin that had introduced death to the cosmos, and makes everything whole.

This condescension of God, who took on our human flesh and joined His divinity to us, cannot be seen in legalistic terms, but must be seen from a medical perspective. We are ill. Our sin is not about law but about illness. In our fallen state, we've departed from communion with God, and Christ's death upon the Cross was accomplished, not because the Father demanded blood, but because He desired to heal us and to restore life to His creatures, who've inherited death from our fallen forefather, Adam. That Christ assumed our human nature made possible the cure.

The Lord Jesus Christ established His Church as a hospital of the soul, and within her walls we are given the medicine to bring about the healing we so need. God does not desire suffering or our blood, but only that we be restored to the image He intended for us. This loving Father is not our prosecutor, but our physician.

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**WIN A BIRD FOR YOUR THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER AT THE TURKEY BINGO TODAY AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN NORTH SIDE PITTSBURGH!** St. John the Baptist (2688 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212) Church will be having their annual Turkey Bingo today on this Sunday before Thanksgiving. The doors will open at 2 P.M., with the bingo games beginning at 3:00 P.M. Donation is \$10 for admission and 3 cards. Each bingo winner will receive a turkey to take home with them. Join us for fellowship, ethnic foods, raffles, and more!

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**ACRY TIDBIT:** Lots O' Luck Calendars are here; they are \$25.00. Please see Carol Dunn to buy the item which makes a perfect gift for the Nativity feast.

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**EXHIBIT THE GENEROSITY OF ST. NICHOLAS BY ATTENDING THE CHARITY DINNER ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, BENEFITING CHRIST THE SAVIOUR SEMINARY!** Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Deanery, the holiday feast will take place at the Edgewood Country Club, located at 100 Churchill Drive in Pittsburgh, PA. Doors open at 2:30 P.M.; Dinner is at 3:00 P.M. and ticket prices are \$30.00 for Adults; \$10.00 for Children under 12 years of age. See Jean Colantoni to secure your ducats. A gala St. Nicholas Day raffle drawing shall be held after the repast. Please consider donating a holiday gift for this Prize selection. And, inform Father Michael of the Nativity present that you will offer.

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**SEARCH FOR CUSTODIAN(S) FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL!** The St. Nicholas Church Board is seeking one or more parishioners to help keep the Sunday School building clean for our children. If you are willing and able to help clean one day per month, please contact a board member as soon as possible. This duty is a good way to demonstrate your stewardship and to give back to our church and only requires minimal time and effort if we can get a few people to volunteer their time and energy to assist.

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**PITTSBURGH STEELERS VS. GREEN BAY PACKERS THANKSGIVING WEEKEND 2017 BLOCK POOL!** Our church is conducting a Thanksgiving Weekend Block Pool for the football game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Green Bay Packers on Sunday, November 26, 2017. Each block will be offered at a price of \$10/block. Prizes will be awarded for the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter at \$50. Half-Time price is \$100, and the Final Score prize is \$300. Please stop by the church hall after Sunday services or contact Tom Pingor to purchase a block or two to support this fundraiser for our church. Thank you for your support!

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**COME AS GOOD STEWARDS TO MAKE PIROHI ON TUESDAY, NOV. 28 AT 6 P.M.** Begin the Nativity Fast by abstaining from the eating of meat products on the first day of Advent and exert your time, talents and treasures in the auditorium preparing the Slavic delicacy that is a main staple of our diet during the fasting season. Turn out for this labor of love for the Church and enjoy the wonderful fellowship that exists amongst the parishioners of St. Nicholas.

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**LEARN TO DANCE GREEK ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> AT THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST'S OLYMPIA HALL – EAST PITTSBURGH!** Bring your friends and family to engage in this social activity, taught by the world famous, "Grecian Odyssey Dancers." The Dance Lesson is from 7:00-8:00 P.M. Open Dance is from 8:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. Learn the Kalamatiano (Traditional Greek Wedding Dance) and the Ikarian. OPAY! All Ages and Skill Levels: Welcome. Doors Open at 6:30 P.M. Pizza and Drinks Served! RSVP at [dancegreek101@gmail.com](mailto:dancegreek101@gmail.com) or telephone: (412) 824-9188.

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**DAILY VITAMINS (Good for a humble heart. Take one-a-day!)** WALK BEFORE GOD IN SIMPLICITY, AND NOT IN SUBTLITIES OF THE MIND. SIMPLICITY BRINGS FAITH; BUT WITH SUBTLE AND INTRICATE SPECULATIONS BRING CONCEIT; AND CONCEIT BRINGS WITHDRAWAL FROM GOD.

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