

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

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Sunday, November 26, 2017

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (8TH 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

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Cathy & Samatha Trumpower** Birthdays, offered by the Family.

Birthday prayers intoned for: **Cathy & Samantha Trumpower**, offered by the Family.

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 20th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord (Nov. 28), offered by Mary Lou Lenart, (daughter).

TUESDAY, NOV. 28... Nativity Fast (Philip's Fast) Begins through January 6. No meat products are to be eaten on this first day of the Fast.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Mary Lukacs**, offered by the Children.

SATURDAY, DEC. 2... 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon – Hearing of Confession during the Nativity Fast.

Sunday, December 3, 2017

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (9th LUKAN SUNDAY)

Service of the 3rd Hour: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19

Resurrection Tone: 1

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81-83 / Red Book: 95-99

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant +**Anna Oross**, offered by Michael Oross (Husband).

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Michael Oross**, offered by Mary, Helen, John (Children).

3:00 P.M. St. Nicholas Charity Dinner at the Edgewood Country Club (100 Churchill Rd., Pitt.

Luke 10:25-37 –

10:30 - Jerusalem is the place of peace, symbolic of communion with God. **Jericho**, on the other hand, was renowned as a place of sin. **Jericho** was notorious as a place of iniquity and is commonly associated with sinful living. Falling **among thieves** speaks to the natural consequence of journeying away from God toward a life of sin. The ultimate **thief** is Satan, who spreads lies and heresies among the people of God, luring away both leaders and people. **Life** means living in God's grace here on earth, while the more abundant life indicates the Kingdom to come.

10:31, 32 – Titles and positions are meaningless in God’s sight when good deeds do not accompany them: “The dignity of the priesthood means nothing unless he also excels in deeds” (St. Cyril of Alexandria). That the **priest** and the **Levite** do not help the man also indicates the failure of the Old Testament Law to heal the consequences of sin.

10:33 – The **Samaritan**, while a despised foreigner, is an image of Christ (John 8:48), for He “came down from heaven” (Creed) to save even those in rebellion against Him.

10:34, 35 – The bandages, **oil**, and **wine** are sacramental images for (1) the garment of baptism, which delivers us from the wounds of sin; (2) the oil of chrismation, which gives us new life in the Holy Spirit; and (3) the communion of the divine Blood, which leads to eternal life. **His own animal** indicates Christ bearing our sins in His own body, and the **inn** reveals the Church in which Christ’s **care** is received. He pays the price for that care (1 Co. 6:20; 7:23).

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>

BECOMING THE IMAGE OF CHRIST TO OTHERS

Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

To be true to our calling as the children of God, we must live in imitation of Christ. We must imitate His meekness and humility. We must love others just as He did. We must be willing to be transformed and made whole, that others might see in us the light of Christ.

We must closely scrutinize every hour, so that we make sure the image of the Savior shines forth as we interact with others. If we find ourselves growing angry toward a family member or a coworker, we must sincerely repent at that very moment.

Tomorrow is never early enough, for the day of our repentance must be today! If we see an old woman who needs help paying for her groceries, now is the time to reach into our own pocketbooks. If we see a woman being abused by her boyfriend, now is the time to speak out on her behalf or to call the police. If the clerk is rude to us, a smile must be our only response.

Church services, personal prayer, and fasting are all required components of the Christian life, but they are never enough if we wish to be saved. We must see ourselves as “our brother’s keeper,” for if we do not love our neighbor, we will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Only the Holy Spirit can ignite our souls with love for God and love for neighbor, but we must cooperate by working to make our hearts open to Christ.

Christianity is not meant to be an easy path, for how can anyone hear the words of our Savior that require us to love even our enemies, and not know how hard this journey is? Yet if we take up our cross hourly, we will have victory over our fallen nature, and we will be given the power to love everyone, even as we love ourselves. And the love of God will grow stronger in our own hearts as we remember these words of Scripture: “Without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

PAINTING & ICONOGRAPHY UPDATE! To all parishioners of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, as discussed in our Special Parish Meeting on October 15, we will commence with the painting of the nave of our church the week of December 4, 2017. In preparation, the scaffolding company, Arsenal Scaffold, will

be setting-up the scaffolding the week of November 27. Painting will take three to four weeks. We are hopeful that the iconography will be ready towards the end of the painting. We hope to have everything completed by the end of December and the scaffolding removed the first week in January, 2018. The church board respectfully requests your understanding and patience during this time.

COME TO CONFESSION DURING THE NATIVITY FAST! We hear so much talk about keeping Christ into Christmas. Let's prepare our hearts as a manger for the Christ-Child and kneel in adoration at the coming of the Prince of Peace and Saviour of our souls. Confessions shall be heard on every Saturday during Advent from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Come and receive the grace of Almighty God who welcomes you home, as did the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son.

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.

EXHIBIT THE GENEROSITY OF ST. NICHOLAS BY ATTENDING THE CHARITY DINNER ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 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.

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.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS VS. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS WINTER 2017 BLOCK POOL! As you may know, we are trying to raise funds for our church with a Steelers' Block Pool. Originally we targeted the Green Bay game on November 26, however, we did not sell enough blocks in time. Therefore the Board has agreed to delay the game until the New England game on December 17. The terms and prizes will remain the same. Each block will be offered at a price of \$10/block. Prizes will be awarded for the end of the 1st and 3rd Quarter at \$50. Half-Time price is \$100, and the Final Score prize is \$300. There are still a few blocks remaining. 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!

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.

LEARN TO DANCE GREEK ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST 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 or telephone: (412) 824-9188.

DAILY VITAMINS (Good for a humble heart. Take one-a-day!) WHATEVER YOU MAY BE SEEKING, SEEK IT WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, BUT DO NOT EXPECT YOUR OWN SEARCH AND EFFORTS TO BEAR FRUIT OF THEMSELVES. PUT YOUR TRUST IN THE LORD, ASCRIBING NOTHING TO YOURSELF, AND HE WILL GIVE YOU YOUR HEART'S DESIRE.

Theophan the Recluse

A WOMAN OF FAITH, APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT! Cynthia Dzvonic is finally at home from her lengthy stays in the hospital and rehab. She is thankful to all the parishioners of St. Nicholas for their sincere prayers for the sick, the get-well cards, phone calls, personal visitations and most importantly, the care and love that you have graciously offered her. Cindy is grateful to all the faithful members of our parish in Homestead and shall never forget your compassion.

FROM THE BOOKSTORE: With Great Feasts and holidays approaching, it is time to choose special gifts for special people. Stop at the bookstore to select from an expanded inventory. Catalogs are also available for custom orders. Deadlines for ordering are December 10th and 24th. "Come and See" today!

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