

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, 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

Bulletin Sponsor: **Bob Bartko's** Birthday, offered by the Family.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **+Michael Tomko's** 48th Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

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).

MONDAY, DEC. 4... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6... 7:00 P.M. Prayer (Moleben) Service of Thanksgiving and Stewardship.

SATURDAY, DEC. 9... 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon – Hearing of Confession during the Nativity Fast.

Sunday, December 10, 2017

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (10th LUKAN SUNDAY)

Singing of the Nativity Canon: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17

Resurrection Tone: 2

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 84-86 / Red Book: 99-102

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **+Mildred Sukal's** 10th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

Birthday Prayers extended to: **Noah Thorn** on his 19th Birthday, offered by God-Mother, Deborah Harris.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant **+John Koreny** on the 20th Anniversary (12/11/'97) of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Mildred Koreny & Family.

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

Luke 12:16-21 –

12:20 – Whose will those things be which you have provided? is the key to understanding the saving up of material goods. St. John Chrysostom writes that the only barns we need we already have: "the stomachs of the poor." St. Basil the Great taught that the bread in our cupboard

belongs to the hungry man; the coat hanging unused belongs to the one who needs it; the shoes rotting in our closet belong to the one who has no shoes; and the money we hoard belongs to the poor. St. Ambrose teaches, “The things which we cannot take with us are not ours. Only virtue will be our companion when we die.” Even when Joseph stored up grain in Egypt (Gen. 41), it was for the benefit of the whole nation. These teachings apply to parishes as well as to each person.

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>

PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN

The rich man in Jesus’ story makes several mistakes. First, he worries. He worries not that he will lose his “stuff.” He worries because he’s got too much! He has had an abundant harvest. He worries about how he will enjoy it. And he worries about how he will protect it. Second mistake: he takes the credit for God’s blessing. Listen to what he says. He talks about “my fruits” and “my goods.” He does not take into account that God is the provider of all. Third mistake: he makes plans for a long life. Now, to be sure, this man has no assurance of a long life. He simply says to himself, “Eat, drink, and be merry.” He ignores the reality that too much food and too much drink usually leads us to indulge other passions as well. Thus such indulgence makes our offenses even greater than before.

Let it be said plainly. We are all rich in material goods. We dwell in a land that is the symbol of prosperity. America is the symbol of wealth and consumption. Despite the facts of recent economic woes – we are still in abundance. We see that most when we compare our styles of life to billions in the world. The rich man in the parable looked at his fields, and his harvest. He decided he needed bigger barns to store his wealth. How often do we check on the value of our property and investments? The rich man decided he could do better. He was sure he could get more. The more he could get, the more he thought he could live a life of comfort and ease.

Let us ask ourselves today. What is it I am working for? How many hours do I spend going about the business of making money? For what purpose? To what end?

Again, let it be plainly said. Money is not evil. Food and drink and clothing and shelter are all necessary. But when was the last time you stopped to give thanks to God for blessing you and protecting you? Think of the skills each of us uses to obtain our daily bread, and the other things we need to live. Did not God give us these abilities? And did not God give us the opportunities? What do we do with the material things we possess? Do we remember those in need? Do we give alms to help them? Our Father among the Saints, John Chrysostom is very clear. “God has invested capital with you. It is not your property. It is a loan by Him. This loan is made to give you opportunity to exercise mercy to those who are in need.”

Where should the rich man in today’s parable have stored his abundance? The Fathers say of this rich man, that he had no need to build bigger barns. He could have stored his surplus grain, the Fathers say, in the bellies of the poor. Not only would it have been safer there, but then he would not have had the need to build. Neither would he have to worry about fire, or theft, or decay affecting his riches. Again, when it came time for him to give account of his life, he need not worry that he had neglected others. He would have been merciful to them, as God had been merciful to him. Then the angels would not have had to come to him to take his life from him. He was, after all,

reluctant to give up his life. After all, he loved this world and its pleasures so much. Instead, he would have already given his life into the hands of God. And he would have departed this life willingly, in order to be with God. This is the same God who so richly had blessed him to begin with.

We are rich in material possessions. Let us not be like this rich man. Let us instead give thanks to God for all that He has given us. Let us seek to use what He has given to glorify Him. Let us use what He has given us to care for His people. Let us give from the abundance we have received to support the work of the Church. Let us give from the abundance to help those in need. Let us use wisely the time and resources, which God has entrusted unto us, to the glory of God, and the salvation of our souls.

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. 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.

WITNESS THE ANNUAL NATIVITY CHORAL CONCERT NEXT SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M. IN HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN MT. LEBANON! Rev. Fr. Paul Abernathy, Director of FOCUS+Pittsburgh, CEO of FOCUS Pittsburgh Free Health Center, has cordially invited Fr. Michael and the Congregation of St. Nicholas Church to this wonderful, holiday musical performance. The concert benefits the work of FOCUS+Pittsburgh. It will take place at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, located at 123 Gilkeson Road, Mt. Lebanon (across from the Galleria). There is a reception with light refreshments following the performance, hosted by Holy Cross Ladies' Philoptochos.

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, DEC. 5 AND TUESDAY, DEC. 12 AT 6 P.M. 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.

DAILY VITAMINS (Good for a humble heart. Take one-a-day!) VALUE THE TIME, IT IS IRRETRIEVABLE; TAKE MORE HEED TO YOURSELF, FOR YOUR STRUGGLE CONSISTS OF THIS.

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!

ST. NICHOLAS MEDOVNIKI COOKIE SALE – SENIOR ACRY CHAPTER #11 \$2.00 each; \$10.00/half dozen; Cookies will be individually wrapped with a special treat from St. Nicholas, himself! Please contact Aaron Zak with orders: aaronzak@gmail.com or 724-910-9719. Orders should be placed by Monday, Dec.

11th. Cookies will be available for pickup on Saturday, Dec. 16th after 5 P.M. and after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Dec. 17th.

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