

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. 49

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 souls of God's departed servants, +**George Sukal**, +**Michael Tonko** and +**Mildred Sukal**, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Ruth Ann Krenicky** on the 1 year Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Susan Miller & Joan Ribovich.

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.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13... 7:00 P.M. Prayer (Moleben) Service of St. Nectarios, with the Anointing of the sick, in body and soul.

SATURDAY, DEC. 16... 11:00 A.M. Holy Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation & Holy Communion administered to the newly-enlightened servant of God, **Charlotte Marie Johns**.

12:30 P.M. to 1 P.M.: Hearing of Confessions during the Nativity Fast.

Sunday, December 17, 2017

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (11th LUKAN SUNDAY)

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Colossians 1:12-18

Resurrection Tone: 3

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87-89 / Red Book: 102-105

Offering Table Flowers' Sponsor: To welcome the newly-enlightened servant of God, **Charlotte Marie Johns**, offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant +**Ruth Krenicky**, offered by Richard & Valeri Krenicky.

Luke 13:10-17 –

Luke 6:7 – According to certain traditions that **the scribes and Pharisees** had built up around the Law, healing was considered work, and thus was not permissible **on the Sabbath**. They believed they served God by zealously keeping these peripheral traditions, but this legalism made them insensitive to God’s mercy.

13:16 – **Think of it:** The Fathers see this command as directing us to a spiritual meaning for the **eighteen years**. As the Greek expression is literally translated “ten and eight years,” both St. Ambrose and Theophylact see ten as representing the Ten Commandments and eight was representing grace, for the day of Resurrection is often called the “eighth day.” Thus humanity is lifted up by faith in Christ, who fulfills both law and grace.

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>

HOW CAN WE PREPARE FOR CHRIST’S ARRIVAL?

***By increasing our prayer.** Says Fr. Anthony Coniaris, “The two great movements of the soul have always been withdrawal and return... withdrawal into God’s presence through prayer for strength... without prayer, the quality of our service deteriorates. Without prayer we forget the world; with prayer we remember.” Advent is a time to remember that in God, we move and breathe and have our being, and we must be with Him and consciously in Him before we can have authentic love and relationship with others.

***By giving alms.** There is something almost poetic about giving money and perhaps even more important in these busy times, our time, to others who are in need at Christmas time. We can battle our self-indulgence with self-sacrifice, by giving freely, with joy and gratitude to God for His good gifts to us. St. John Chrysostom writes, “It is not enough to help the poor. We must help them with generosity and without grumbling. And it is not enough to help them without grumbling. We must help them gladly and happily. When the poor are helped, there ought to be these two conditions: generosity and joy.”

***By going to Church more often.** The Advent season provides extra opportunities to be in the atmosphere of worship. Isn’t it true that when we walk into the doors of our parishes, and those doors swing shut behind us, the flickering candles and the sights and smells of icons and incense before us, aid us in our seasonal preparations? Sometimes it is so hard to get there and so many thing crowd our calendars, but the rewards are always great. As Fr. Alexander Schmenmann writes, “There is no need to preach constantly on “sin,” to judge and condemn. It is when a man is challenged with the real contents of the Gospel, with its Divine depth and wisdom, beauty and all-embracing meaning, that he becomes “capable of repentance,” for true repentance is precisely the discovery by the man of the abyss that separates him from God and from His real offer to man. It is when the man sees the bridal chamber adorned that he realizes that he has no garment for entering it.”

***By remembering some of the unique and remarkable saints of the Advent season,** reading about their lives and celebrating their days of remembrance. Of course, we remember St. Nicholas (Dec. 19) as he is commonly honored at this time of year, but what about some of the others? St. Herman of Alaska (Dec. 26) exemplified the spirit of time of year to perfection, and he belongs to us here in America, so let’s not let the day go by without reading about him and recalling his sacrificial life with the people of Alaska. St. Stephen the protomartyr is remembered on Jan. 8, immediately following the Nativity service, and he too can be venerated for his godly example. On New Year’s Day (Jan. 14), we can speak of the brilliant St. Basil, who spoke with scholarly brilliance and intelligence to the issues of his day in a manner which transformed the Church.

***By going to confession.** If there is any act out of step with the vain and glib holiday atmosphere presented to us by the spirit of this age, it is the act of the repentant Christian confessing his or her sins. Said Dorothy Day, "Going to confession is hard, hard when you have sins to confess, hard when you haven't, and you wrack your brain for even the beginnings of sins against charity, chastity, sins of distraction, sloth or gluttony. You do not want to make too much of your constant imperfections and venial sins, but you want to drag them out to the light of day as the first step in getting rid of them... I have sinned. These are my sins. This is all you are supposed to tell, not the sins of others, or your own virtues, but only your ugly, gray, drab, monotonous sins." Blessed are those who mourn, for it is precisely in this mourning that we receive comfort. These are the tidings of comfort and joy that the Christmas carol songwriter celebrates – redemption from guilt and the weight of sin!

***By incorporating the Church's traditions** in ways that make sense for us here and now. Though we are not perfect fasters by any means, our family eats more simply in the season of Advent. We celebrate St. Nicholas' Feast Day by putting out shoes on the night of Dec. 18th so that "St. Nicholas" can fill them with gold coins while the children sleep. We read about his life, marveling at his overflowing love and goodness. We listen to Orthodox Nativity music. We enjoy a traditional Christmas Eve dinner incorporating old country traditions. We have adapted, albeit imperfectly, our own cultural traditions to incorporate the spirit of Orthodox worship and emphasis at this time of year.

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 TODAY 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 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 prize 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. 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. And, purchase the pirohi today, speaking to Jean Colantoni

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: aarondzak@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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