

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

Homestead, PA 15120

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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. 6; No. 4

Sunday, January 28, 2018

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE – TRIODION BEGINS

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Resurrection Tone: 1

Gospel: Luke: 18:10-14

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81, 175 / Red Book: 95-96, 197

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Deacon Marc Wisnosky's** Birthday, offered by Allison & Anastasia.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Armeda Holubz** on her birthday, offered by Fr. Michael & Pani Deborah Zak.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Helen Bires**, offered by Cheryl & Michele Tomko.

TUESDAY, JAN. 30... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+John Lasobik**, offered by Dorothy Kapolka and Eleanor & Elmer Konar.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Michael & +Margaret Baka**, offered by Margaret Ann Dietrich and Michael Baka (Daughter & Son).

Sunday, February 4, 2018

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Resurrection Tone: 2

Gospel: Luke: 15:11-32

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 84, 175-176 / Red Book: 99, 197-198

Luke 18:10-14 –

18:10 – The **Pharisee** is highly respected and a careful observer of the details of the Law, whereas the **tax collector** is despised as a sinner who collaborates with the occupying Roman forces, betraying and cheating his own people.

18:11, 12 – The practices of this **Pharisee** are worthy examples to follow. His good deeds (fasting and giving tithes) are the primary weapons against the passions of lust and greed (adultery and extortion). However, without a humble and repentant heart, these outward practices are worthless and lead only to pride and judgment of others. Not that he prays **with himself**, for God is absent where there is boasting.

18:13 – The **tax collector** shows by his posture an awareness of the state of his soul, standing far from the altar of sacrifice with eyes cast downward. His prayer, **God, be merciful to me a sinner**, is the foundation of the Jesus Prayer, as is the refrain "Lord have mercy" that permeates Orthodox worship and personal prayer.

18:14 – **Justified** means forgiven and set right with God, for inward humility is blessed while pride in outward deeds is condemned.

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

CHRISTIAN PHARISEES

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

If your spiritual life is concentrated only on external practices and traditions and does nothing to bring about real change, you have gained nothing. Too many people think as long as they keep the fasting rules, say their prayers, and attend the services, they are good Orthodox Christians. Yet if there is no love, no charity, and no forgiveness of others, and your life is filled with gossip and judgment, your Orthodox Christian faith is worth nothing.

Christ condemned the Pharisees not because they kept the law and attended to the traditions of the Jewish faith, but because they did so while filled with pride and arrogance. Without sincere repentance and holiness of life, their encounter with God led to an emptiness of heart.

Because our Orthodox Christian faith is one of tradition and liturgical structure, it is easy to fall into the trap of being nothing more than a Pharisee. Being strict in one's observance of Orthodox practices can easily lead to pride and arrogance. If you find yourself feeling better than others and proud of your piety, you have gained absolutely nothing. The external practice of the Orthodox Christian faith without heartfelt humility and repentance leads down the road of spiritual ruin.

The Church is the hospital of the soul, but healing can come only if we put effort into it. If your doctor prescribes a medication for your condition but you fail to follow your doctor's orders, you will not get well. The Church has all you need for spiritual transformation, but healing comes only if you cooperate with the healing process. The goal is holiness (wholeness), which is the direct result of our have submitted in all humility to a life of repentance. When you do this, Christ changes you. If you simply go through the motions of your Orthodox faith, you are no better off than the Pharisees whom Christ condemned.

COME DOWNSTAIRS FOR THE COFFEE SOCIAL AFTER THE LITURGY AND VISIT THE CHURCH

OFFICE! Parishioners can pick up their I.R.S. statements this morning from the church's financial officers!

HELP OUR PARISH YOUTH SCORE A SOUPER BOWL VICTORY NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4,

2018! Let us team up with International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and champion this social ministry by feeding the poor within the local community and caring for those in need around the world. We want our youth to become Souper Bowl MVPs, as they collect nonperishable food items and canned goods for the Rainbow Kitchen in Homestead, and receive monetary gifts from our faithful members participating in the Divine Liturgy on the first Sunday in February. All parishioners are kindly asked to bring a non-perishable food item or two (canned goods) to Church on the next Lord's Day and two Sundays after the Super Bowl as we prepare for the Great Fast. And contribute a small monetary donation for IOCC. Let's carry the excitement of Super Bowl Sunday into the homes and lives of people in need throughout the world.

PURCHASE SARRIS CANDY FOR PASCHA! The Choir is sponsoring its annual Pascha fundraiser: Sarris Candy. Orders may be given to any choir member by February 18. Delivery date is expected for March 25. Your support is appreciated. Choir members: Please submit your Sarris Master Order Sheet to Andrea Babbie by the February 21 rehearsal.

ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY – ANNUAL MEETING – 3rd NOTICE - The St. Nicholas Cemetery Association will hold its 2018 Annual Cemetery Association Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 11:45 A.M. All Cemetery Association members and any parishioners are encouraged to attend.

TWO DIOCESAN CLERGY BOOKS ARE OFFERED AT HALF-PRICE FROM THE SEMINARY

BOOKSTORE! Lives of the Seventy Apostles (Fr. Leonty Durkit) (former Diocesan priest). 1997 – sale price: \$3.00 (plus shipping). Sermons from Sundays (late Fr. Stephen Sedor) 1963 – sale price: \$2.00 (plus shipping). Order from Pani Baranik or Father Rustick; sale prices available through January.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – ANNUAL MEETING – 1ST NOTICE! St. Nicholas Orthodox Church will hold its 2018 Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 11:45 A.M. All parishioners are encouraged to attend this very important meeting. Any parishioner(s) wishing to submit a proposal to the church board should do so in writing on or before February 4, 2018. Any parishioner who would like to be considered a curator in 2018, please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the church hall for consideration by the church board on or before February 4, 2018.

PREPARATION FOR THE BLESSING OF HOMES, BEGINNING JANUARY 19!

Before the Priest arrives at your home, here are a few reminders on how to prepare:

- + In the main room of the home, usually the kitchen or dining room, have placed on the table a white cloth, a candle and/an Icon or cross. You may place a small container of Holy Water on the table as well. (Note: Father will bring water with him.)
- + Turn off TVs, radios, computers, etc. so as to keep focused on the blessing service.
- + Please make sure that pets are heeled or restrained so as not to get underfoot while Father goes through the home.
- + If you have any items to blessed (Icon, Cross, etc.), put them on the table where the blessing takes place.
- + When the Priest arrives, have everyone in the home gather around the table where the blessing takes place. Participation is important!
- + Invite friends or neighbors to participate and witness the beauty of this holy tradition.
- + If you need to discuss a personal matter with Father, this is the time to do so.

The sanctification of residences will be conducted from Monday to Saturday each week during the afternoon hours 1-5 and the evening hours 7-9. If you have a preference for an afternoon or evening visit, please notify Fr. Michael. Your priest shall begin blessing the homes of parishioners living in the Homestead, Munhall, and West Mifflin areas, proceeding with the city of Pittsburgh and concluding in outlying areas (north, south, east and west). Remember, the invitation to the priest to come and bless your home is an invitation to ask for the mercy of God upon the household. The sprinkling of Holy Water is a sign of God's presence in the home as an extension of His Holy House, the Church. It is a time to renew our commitment to God as we begin another year in His mercy and love for mankind.

ALL ORTHODOX YOUTH GROUPS ARE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EMERGENCY HEALTH KIT DRIVE AND ASSEMBLY PROJECT ON FEB. 3, 2018 FROM 11:30-12:30 AT HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN PITTSBURGH (MT. LEBANON)!

+ Help provide essential aid to people in the aftermath of disasters; + Introduce our youth to performing philanthropic works via the Ministry of IOCC; + Teach our youth to work together in His name; and + Build a bridge between the youth of all Orthodox jurisdictions so that we may serve together as a larger community, to His glory.

TO ALL FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF ST. NICHOLAS MOTHERS & DAUGHTERS GUILD: We will be having our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at the Eat 'N Park at the Waterfront banquet room. The meeting time is from 12:30 P.M. until 2:30 P.M. We will be electing officers for this year, along with collecting the annual dues of \$10.00 per person. Please try to attend if possible, as we need us all to work together to make our association a success in this upcoming year. Hope to see you there!

CELEBRATE WITH THE CHOIR AT THEIR ANNUAL BANQUET ON FRIDAY, FEB. 2ND! All parishioners of St. Nicholas are invited to this joyful gathering. Please contact Andrea Babbie (412-461-4282) for reservations and payment by today's deadline. Date: Friday, February 2, 2018; Location: Shelly Pie, 912 Penn Avenue, Turtle Creek, PA 15145; Time: 6-10 P.M.; Menu: Pizza Buffet/Tossed Salad/Sandwich Rings/Soft Drinks/Coffee/Tea; Price: \$18 Adults, \$15 Children ages 6-10; Payment Due: Today (Jan. 28).

INTERNATIONAL SOUP SAMPLING – TO BENEFIT IOCC – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018 FROM 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.! Experience tastes from around the world! Sample five homemade soups for \$10, and take your favorite quart home for a \$10 donation. Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 123 Gilkeson Rd. (Mt. Lebanon), Pittsburgh, PA 15228. Register online: iocc.org/pittsburgh. For questions or to pre-order soup, contact Marianne at (412) 668-0420 or marianne.carmack@gmail.com

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