

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. 6; No. 5

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

Birthday prayers are extended to **Nick Novotni** (Feb. 6) and **Geri Novotni** (Feb. 19).

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Michael & +Margaret Baka**, offered by Margaret Ann Dietrich and Michael Baka (Daughter & Son).

TUESDAY, FEB. 6... 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, FEB. 7... 10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Rose Yenchek**, offered by Michael & Denise Yenchek & Family

7:00 P.M. Moleben (Prayer) Service of Thanksgiving & Stewardship.

SATURDAY, FEB. 10... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the 1st All-Souls' Day of the year, with a Panachida service conducted and the Reading of the Parish Diptychs (names of the departed)

Sunday, February 11, 2018

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT: MEATFARE SUNDAY

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Resurrection Tone: 3

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87, 177-178 / Red Book: 102, 199-200

Bulletin Sponsor: **Samantha Ditmore's** 9th Birthday, offered by the Family.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of **+Mary Labik**, **+Michael Labik**, and **+George Beres**, offered by Andrea Labik.

Luke 15:11-32 –

15:12-14 – The son's request for his **portion of goods** indicates man receiving his free will and his rational mind from God. As Adam did in Eden, the **younger** son uses these **possessions** to rebel against his **father**. The **far country** represents life in exile from God.

15:15 – Feeding **swine** could rightly be called "Jewish Skid Row." He could not sink much lower.

15:17 – **Came to himself**: A person immersed in sin is living outside his true self (Rom. 7:17-20).

The prodigal realizes his hopeless condition. The **bread** symbolizes Christ, who is known through the Scriptures and the Eucharist.

15:20 – Though it was considered unseemly in Jewish culture for an old man to run, the **father** did not passively stand by waiting for his son to return. He **ran** to him. This self-humiliation for the sake of the lost indicates the way in which our Father, through Christ's sacrifice, actively seeks those who stray.

15:22 – The significance of the **robe** is righteousness granted by baptism (Is. 61:10), the signet **ring** is family identity (Hag. 2:23), and the **sandals** refer to walking according to the gospel (Eph. 6:15).

15:23 – **Fatted calf** is more closely translated “wheat-fed bull calf,” or even more literally “a bull calf formed from wheat.” This animal is a male calf raised on wheat in preparation for use as a religious offering. As the reconciliation of the prodigal son was not complete without the sacrifice of the calf, so man’s reconciliation to God is not by his repentance alone, but by Christ offering Himself on the Cross. The festive dining on an animal offering “formed from wheat” is clear reference to our partaking of the eucharistic bread.

15:25-28 – The resentful **older son** illustrates the hardheartedness of the Pharisees to whom Christ was telling this parable (vv. 2, 3). God requires His followers to rejoice when even the most blamable man is called to repentance. (St. Cyril of Alexandria)

15:29 – **I never transgressed your commandment at any time.** The failure of the older son to recognize his own sins leads to his self-righteous and merciless attitude. Contrast this with the contrition of the younger son (vv. 18, 19). “The one who seems to himself to be righteous, who does not see the beam in his own eye, becomes angry when forgiveness is granted to one who confesses his sin and begs for mercy” (St. Ambrose of Milan). The older son’s ingratitude is also apparent in his charge **you never gave me a young goat** to his father, who has given him all he has (v. 31).

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>

LOOKING AT THE SINS OF OTHERS

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

When we take our eyes off our own failings, shortcomings, and sins, we notice the failings of others. As the sins of others get our attention, our focus turns away from our own struggles with the passions, and we begin to fall further into sin, our eyes having turned away from the Lord. When our focus is no longer turned toward the conquering of our passions, our hearts become vulnerable, and we begin to expend our energy on picking apart our neighbor. Their sins become the hot topic with our gossiping friends, and we fall further into the rottenness of our sins. Regarding this, Abba Sisoës asked, “How can we guard the heart if the tongue leaves the door of the fortress open?”

If we are to take ourselves out of the mire of sin and, with Christ’s help, be transformed and made whole, our eyes must never look at the sins of others. St. John Cassian said, “A person cannot be disquieted or concerned about other people’s affairs if he is satisfied with concentrating on the work of his own hands.”

As we approach Great and Holy Lent, let us refocus ourselves and prepare for the struggle ahead. Let us make this Great Fast the most profitable of all, with the goal of acquiring a humble and contrite heart. If we focus on our own failings only, we will find this Lenten season to be the most profitable of all, and we will be lifted up by God. Our celebration of Holy Pascha will then be the most glorious of them all.

Remember, the Great and Holy Fast was created for us as a time for repentance, renewal, and the restoration of heart, mind, and body. Let us keep our spiritual eyes on

Christ and be open to the healing of our soul that comes for us through this very Christ Jesus, whom we worship and adore.

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!

BUY ALL THE FOOD YOU'LL NEED TO WATCH THE BIG FOOTBALL GAME TODAY DURING THE FELLOWSHIP HOUR THIS MORNING! You don't have to stop at the supermarket on this Lord's Day to purchase food supplies for supper this evening. The Mothers' and Daughters' Guild has furnished a delicious "Super Bowl" menu of: juicy Hot Dogs with Sauerkraut, meaty Baked Beans and crispy Potato chips to "Take Out" from the auditorium for only \$6.00. Decide on what beverage you'll be sipping during the "pigskin contest" and root for that other Pennsylvania team to win their first Lombardi Trophy.

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.

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.. Sermons from Sundays (late Fr. Stephen Sedor) 1963 – sale price: \$2.00. These two excellent clergy publications can be purchased at the Gift Shop in the lower level of the church, today.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – ANNUAL MEETING – 2nd 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 SOULS' SATURDAYS! The 5 All Souls' days for this year are as follow: February 10; March 3, 10 and 17; May 29. If you have any updates to your family listings, please notify Fr. Michael as soon as possible so that he can add the names to the parish diptychs. And, everyone should try to attend at least one of these memorials each year, coming to pray for the departed of our family and your church family.

IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR CONCERN! Janice Kerr is grateful to all of our kind and considerate parishioners of St. Nicholas who remembered her during her recent illness, hospitalization and rehab by submitting inspiring get-well cards, phone calls of support and private & church prayers for the restoration of body and soul. She acknowledges the healing powers of Jesus Christ, the True Healer and the effect of the parish community praying in unity for her complete recovery!

If discussing or planning the future, say: "As God wills" or "God willing."

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