

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, February 18, 2018

SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS: CHEESEFARE SUNDAY

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4

Resurrection Tone: 4

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90, 178-179 / Red Book: 105, 200-201

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of **+Joseph & +Marie Maurer**, offered by Albert and Jackie Maurer.

Birthday prayers are extended to **Tracy Hvasta** (Feb. 24), offered by Mary Ann (Mother) and Ernest J. (Brother).

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Annie Timko**, offered by Evelyn & +Cynthia Dzvonic and Timothy Kane.

Forgiveness Vespers: 12:30 P.M. following the Pre-Lenten Breakfast. The priest begins in gold vestments and changes to purple at the Great Prokimen.

MONDAY, FEB. 19... CLEAN MONDAY. Beginning of the Great Fast. Day of Strict Fasting when no meat or dairy products are eaten. 7:00 P.M. Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete solemnly chanted.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21... 7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (3-hr. Fast of food or drink before partaking of Holy Communion.

FRIDAY, FEB. 23... 7:00 P.M. Akathist Hymn to the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sunday, February 25, 2018

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

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

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-40; 12:1-2 Resurrection Tone: 5 Gospel: John 1:43-51

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 93, 179-180 / Red Book: 108, 201-203

Children procession carrying the holy icons and Recitation of the Passage from the Synodikon of the Seventh Ecumenical Council.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Mary Frances** on the 7th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by husband, Andrew Skero.

4:30 P.M. Triumph of Orthodoxy Vespers and Procession with Icons at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Mt. Lebanon, PA. His Grace, Bishop Irinej of the Serbian Orthodox Church shall preside and deliver the homily. Light Lenten refreshments served in the parish hall, afterwards.

Matthew 6:14-21

6:14, 15 – Jesus insists on mutual forgiveness between people as a precondition of God's forgiveness. Those who do not **forgive** are not forgiven – period. This teaching is repeated in

the parable of the unforgiving servant (18:21-35), which concludes with the same teaching. To not forgive others is to willfully flee from the forgiveness of God for ourselves.

6:16-18 – Keeping a **sad countenance** to show off one’s fasting is mere external display. Jesus rejects such hypocrisy. For the one who fasts, the compassion of God outshines the physical discomfort. During the fasting seasons of the Church, the hymns call the faithful to **wash** and **anoint** their faces (thus, there is no “Ash Wednesday” in the Orthodox Church). Fasting is for spiritual growth and the glory of God, not to be seen by those around us.

Fasting also is not merely abstinence from food, but consists of self-denial in all areas of life in order to escape the control of the passions. On the eve of Great Lent, we sing, “Let us abstain from passions as we abstain from food.” St. John Chrysostom writes, “What good is it if we abstain from eating birds and fish, but bite and devour our brothers?”

6:19-21 – By attaching themselves to **treasures on earth**, people cut themselves off from heavenly treasures. They become slaves to earthly things rather than free in Christ. The heart of discipleship lies in (1) disentangling ourselves from the chains of earthly things, and (2) attaching ourselves to God, the true **treasure** (v. 21).

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>

RESENTMENT MAKES THE SOUL SICK

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

Some people insist on holding on to resentment, often inventing situations in their minds that never happened, justifying their bad behavior, and putting the blame on others. They see themselves as the abused party and are quick to take offense. Rarely are they able to have healthy relationships, for they are, in reality, abusers. Their world centers on themselves, and any attempt by others to appease them only contributes to their anti-social behavior. Such behavior betrays a deep spiritual and psychological illness, one that is not easily healed.

People like this feel empowered by making other people uncomfortable, and normal attempts at reapportion often end in failure, for such people are always looking for ways to continue their control over others. Their illness is difficult to heal, for their pride and deep-seated sense of superiority makes repentance difficult; they simply don’t see themselves as having a problem.

The cure for the illness of the soul is to be found in the life of the Church, where her sacred Mysteries (the Sacraments), her Scriptures, and her divine services are the source of the healing the heart so craves. Forgiveness Sunday Vespers is but one of the sources that can begin the process of healing, for during this service of the faithful, one by one, speak words like these: “Please forgive me for any hurt or offense I have caused you in any way.”

The response, “God forgives. Please forgive me for any hurt or offense I have caused you in any way,” exemplifies the Church’s teaching that we can only forgive others if we have Christ in us, for it is Christ who gives us the power to forgive. Since God forgives us, we too can forgive.

COME DOWNSTAIRS THIS MORNING TO PARTAKE OF A PRE-LENTEN BRUNCH FROM 11:00 A.M. UNTIL 12 NOON! St. Nicholas Church Men's Club is staging an appetizing repast on this Cheese-Fare Sunday prior to the Forgiveness Sunday Vespers at 12:30 P.M. The meal consists of a variety of meats, scrambled eggs, fruit, coffee and additional complementary "comfort foods." A free-will offering shall be in effect for the brunch and envelopes will be situated on the tables for patrons.

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

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.

DECLARE YOUR ENTRY INTO A MARCH MADNESS BLOCK POOL THIS YEAR! The Saint Nicholas Church Men's Club is selling tickets for their 2018 NCAA Men's Basketball March Madness Block Pool. Tickets are \$25 each, with 31 chances to win cash prizes of \$25 up to \$500. A flyer is posted on the bulletin board. For additional information or to purchase a ticket, please see Brian Smoley or Aaron Zak.

COME AND HELP US MAKE PIROHI ON TUESDAY, FEB. 27TH AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE PARISH HALL! Multitudes are asking when our St. Nicholas parish will be selling the irresistible Slavic delicacy. Thus, we need your support and assistance to make a variety of these "favorites of Lent". Come to work and socialize with our talented culinary personnel on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 6 P.M. in the auditorium. We work, communicate and have fun at the same time!

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.

AS BISHOP GREGORY PRESENTS "OUR CALLING AS DISCIPLES AND EVANGELISTS" AT THE DIOCESAN LENTEN RETREAT ON SATURDAY, MARCH 17 AT 12 NOON, WE ARE IMplored TO SIGN OUR NAMES TO THE PARTICIPANTS' LIST IN THE AUDITORIUM! All parishioners of St. Nicholas reap the spiritual benefits that come from spending time in retreat, even if only for a day. Make certain that you are a participant in this Lenten encounter for sake of your immortal soul. Prioritize that day! The Schedule is also follows: 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy on All-Souls' Saturday; 11:00 A.M. Coffee Social; 12:00 Noon: First Session of the Hierarch's Presentation; 1:30 P.M. – Lunch; 2:30 P.M. Bishop's Second Session, with a Question & Answer Segment; 4:00 P.M. Vespers. This Central Region Diocesan Lenten Retreat at our church includes a Continental Breakfast and a Light Lunch. Cost: Free-will Offering. Registration deadline is: March 10th. Speak with Cathy Pawlik in person if you have any questions regarding this "venture into the desert for spiritual renewal". Or, you may email her at cmpawlik@verizon.net or phone her at (412) 461-2110 residence; (412) 889-6702 (Cell Phone).

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE SYRIAN RELIEF DINNER & PRAYER SERVICE ON SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH AT THE 4 P.M. SERVICE AND LENTEN DINNER AT 5 P.M.! St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, located at 419 South Dithridge Street in Pittsburgh (Oakland) PA is the host site. Tickets are \$50 (Adult); \$20 for Students (age 7-18) and Free for Children 6 yrs. old and younger. You may purchase the ducats from Robert Ruschak, our parish IOCC Rep. Or, you can register online at ioc.org/pittsburgh Or register with Zelfa at 412-417-4706 or Mari at 412-915-7380 or Stephanie at 412-414-5588. Make checks payable to IOCC c/o Nick Terezis, 306 Marberry Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15215. Tickets held at the door, not mailed. Tables for groups of 8-10 only. Purchase tickets by March 2. For info. or to volunteer at the meal, call Zelfa at 412-417-4706. A supervised children playroom will be available.

CHURCH OFFICERS SHALL CONDUCT THEIR REGULAR MONTHLY SESSION ON MONDAY, FEB. 26TH AT 7 P.M. IN THE PARISH HALL! Auditors will meet at 6:30 P.M. All parishioners are welcome to attend these monthly board meetings, and although only board members can vote, anyone can participate.

This Great Lent why not try Christ's three-part recipe: forgiveness, fasting, and laying up treasures in heaven. You will find it to be the perfect recipe if you are looking not only for a resurrected Christ, but also a resurrected you this Pascha!

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