

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, March 4, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

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

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3 Resurrection Tone: 6 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 96, 181-182 / Red Book: 111, 203-204

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of +**Edward Pingor** on the 19th Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by his Family.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of +**Mildred Sukal**, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Helen Bires** on the 40th day of her falling asleep in the Lord and +**Mildred Sukal**, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Edward Pingor** on the 19th Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by his Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Ann Timko** on her birthday (3-1-'18), offered by Trona & Family.

4:00 P.M. Syrian Relief Prayer Service and 5:00 P.M.

Dinner at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 419 South Dithridge Street in Pittsburgh (Oakland), PA.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 9... 7:00 P.M. Lenten Service to the Holy Cross.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the 3rd Soul Saturday with Panachida and the Reading of the Parish Diptychs (names of all the departed).

Sunday, March 11, 2018 (Daylight Saving Time Begins)

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: CROSS VENERATION

Matins: 8:20 A.M.

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

Epistle: Hebrews 10:32-38 Resurrection Tone: 7 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 99, 182-183 / Red Book: 114, 204-205

3:00 P.M. Pittsburgh Deanery Lenten Vespers at St.

John the Baptist Church in East Pittsburgh, PA. Christ the Saviour Seminarians shall be in attendance and one of the theological school students will deliver the Lenten message. A Lenten meal shall be served to all worshipers in the parish hall, afterwards. A free-will offering is in effect for the repast.

Mark 2:1-12 –

Matthew 9:2-8 – As shown by the healing of the **paralytic**, faith is an indispensable condition for salvation. Faith is collective as well as personal, for the faith of the paralytic’s friends helped in his healing (v. 2). Three signs of Jesus’ divinity are shown: (1) He knows the secrets of hearts; (2) He forgives sins, a power which belongs to God alone; and (3) He heals by the power of His word.

Marl 2:1-12 – Note that one purpose of Christ’s coming into the world is to **forgive sins** (v. 10), freeing humanity from its bondage. Forgiving sins is a greater power than physical healing, for, as the scribes correctly note, **God alone** can forgive sins (v. 7). Thus, the **easier** task (v. 9) is to grant physical healing. Though Christ is fully God and holds the authority to forgive, He condescends to those gathered and heals this man in order to draw people to God, whom they **glorified**.

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>

ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

Second Sunday of Lent

Rev. Luke Palumbis, St. Basil the Great Greek Orthodox Church, Houston, Texas

“O Gregory the Miracle Worker,...
preacher of grace, intercede forever

that our souls may be saved.” – Apolytikion of St. Gregory Palamas.

The pilgrimage of Great Lent is the Church’s invitation for the faithful to recognize and receive the gift of God’s grace.

Recognizing God’s grace begins with recognizing our need for it. Individuals and communities alike eventually come to the understanding that life offers both opportunities and challenges – many explored and overcome through self-efforts or the help of others; others bring us to the humbling realization that they’re beyond our capacity to navigate. In this moment of self-awareness, we have the greatest opportunity to mature in our faith, accepting that we need God. Such maturity positions us to receive His grace.

Journeying to receive God’s grace is the path embarked upon by Christians. Knowing that He can offer His grace in any way He chooses, we respond by investing where He has assured us He does – we participate in the life of His Church.

Often misunderstood as a period of tasks and legalism, Great Lent is an opportunity to remind ourselves that we need Him, and that He is present for us in His Church.

In this Sunday’s Gospel reading, the paralytic and his peers understand that they need Christ, and they present themselves to Him so that something beyond their control can take place by His grace. Each of us can offer to Christ the opportunities and challenges in our lives, and in the lives of others, by coming to Church during Great Lent. His grace is waiting for you – rejoice!

**We thank you, our King and our God,
For the gift of Your grace,
And your rich blessings.
Make us careful stewards of those gifts
That we may serve our neighbors.**

SARRIS CANDY FOR PASCHA DELIVERY DATE IS EXPECTED 3/25/18! Your support is appreciated!
**SENIOR ACRY 68TH ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST – SUNDAY, MARCH 18 AFTER THE
HIERARCHICAL LITURGY!** Tickets are \$8.00 for Adults; \$4.00 for Children ages 6-12 years; Free for
Children 5 years old and younger. Please see Carol Dunn to purchase your ducat. Also, the 70th National
ACRY Metropolitan Orestes Memorial Bowling Tournament is being held in Perth Amboy, N.J. They are
seeking Patrons (\$10); Boosters (\$5); Memorial Listing (\$5). Please see Michele Tomko if you would like to
have your name in the commemorative booklet.

COME AND HELP US MAKE PIROHI ON TUESDAY, MARCH 6TH 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, March 6 at 6 P.M. in the auditorium. We work,
communicate and have fun at the same time!

SEE AND HEAR BISHOP GREGORY’S VIDEO MESSAGE FOR LENT! His Grace is offering another
challenge to all the beloved members of our Diocese. Here is the link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3coy-kRxPL4> It is also posted on the Diocesan Website.

**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 Hierarchy’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 TODAY, AT THE 4 P.M. MOLEBEN (PRAYER)
AND LENTEN MEAL 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.
Tickets held at the door, not mailed. Tables for groups of 8-10 only. For info. or to volunteer at the meal, call Zelfa at 412-417-
4706. A supervised children playroom will be available.

**FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE FASHION-CONSCIOUS, YOUR SEATING IS READY AT THE
“DESIGNER PURSE BASH” ON SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018 AT ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX
CHURCH AUDITORIUM IN HOMESTEAD, PA!** Doors open at 4:00 P.M. / Buffet served at 4:30 P.M. /
Tickets \$30 & includes 3 chances & full meal. Grand Prize is a Louis Vuitton, valued at over \$900! Other
prizes include Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Coach, & more! Contact Jessica Krchmar at 412-290-3526 or
jessicakrchmar@gmail.com Proceeds benefit St. Nicholas Orthodox Church and ACRY Chapter #11.

FIRST ANNUAL SENIORS’ RETREAT AT CAMP NAZARETH IN MERCER, PA, FROM APRIL 23-25!
His Grace, Bishop Gregory is calling upon all our Seniors, age 65 and older, to join him at the Camp for 3
days of fellowship and prayer in order to be spiritually rejuvenated. The Retreat is being offered with our
Seniors specifically in mind. The central theme of the Retreat comes from Psalm 77:5, “I consider the days
of old, I remember the years long ago... I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord...” The Retreat will focus on
gratitude for God’s many blessings in our lives and the hope that His mercy creates in us. The schedule
will include worship, fellowship, learning, fun, time for reflection and relaxation, and time spent together.
You can review the registration form on the Diocesan website (www.acrod.org). Online Registrations
begins March 1, 2018. There will be the option to register via mail as well. All registrations are due by April
18, 2018. Bishop is looking forward to spending time with the participants especially because many have a
rich history in our Diocese, a history he wishes to hear and learn more about.

**COME TO CONFESSION BEFORE OR AFTER THE ALL-SOULS SATURDAY’S DIVINE LITURGIES OR
AFTER FRIDAY’S LENTEN SERVICE!** If we are to be forgiven by God, He requires of us that we also
forgive one another. For many of us, this is the most difficult aspect of repentance and confession. Yet we
say it each time we pray the Lord’s prayer, “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
against us.” Just as God’s love for us is personal, so must ours be for Him. As the Christian grows from
child to adult, his or her personal response to God becomes crucial. This personal response is the act of

confession. God the Father runs to meet and kiss you, like the humble father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, in the Mystery of Holy Penance. Do not keep Him waiting! Come this week!

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)