

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. 11

Sunday, March 18, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

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

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

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

Resurrection Tone: 8

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 102, 183-184 / Red Book: 117, 206-207

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In honor of **Elizabeth Sochka's** 20th Birthday, offered by Proto-deacon Michael & Leslie Sochka & Andrea Labik.

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

Michael's Church in Rankin, 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.

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

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 24... 10:00 A.M. Memorial Service for the Deceased +**Margaret Yawkey**, offered by husband, Fr. Deacon Thomas Yawkey.

Sunday, March 25, 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: ST. MARY OF EGYPT

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

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

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Resurrection Tone: 1

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81, 185-186 / Red Book: 95-96, 207-208

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of the departed, +**Michael Tomko & +George Sukal**, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

3:00 P.M. Pittsburgh Deanery Lenten Vespers at St. John the Baptist Church in North Side 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 9:17-31 –

Matthew 17:14-16 – Sickness in Scripture is often connected to demonic activity. By **kneeling**, this father shows humility, but he lacks faith. While the **disciples** also lacked faith (v. 20), Christ rebukes the man for placing the blame on the disciples when it was his greater lack of faith that prevented the boy's healing. In effect, Jesus defends His disciples in front of the multitudes but

later rebukes them privately (vv. 19-21), teaching us that we ought first to correct people in private. Church discipline is based on mutual correction in three expanding stages. Sin and correction are to remain private unless the offender refuses to repent. All correction must be done with great care and humility, with the highest concern being the salvation of the offender. Nevertheless, correction must take place so that the sin does not spread to others as well. **17:19-21** – St. John Chrysostom notes this rebuke is directed at the nine disciples who could not cast out the demon, whereas “the pillars of faith – Peter, James, and John (Gal. 2:9) – were not included in the rebuke, as they had been on the mountain with Christ (v. 1).

This kind (v. 21) refers to all powers of darkness, not simply those that cause a particular illness. The banishment of demons requires **faith** (v. 20), **prayer**, and **fasting** (21), for there is no healing and no victory in spiritual warfare without all three. Beginning with the Didache, the Fathers have taught that both the person in need of healing and the person performing the healing must believe, pray, and fast.

21:21 – While it is not recorded that an apostle literally moved a **mountain**, the Fathers are clear that they had this authority if the need had arisen (certain saints did make crevices appear in mountains). Furthermore, not everything the apostles accomplished was written down. Beyond the literal meaning, this promise is also an illustration of the power of faith and prayer in all areas of life. “Whatever we ask, without hesitation and believing in God’s power, we shall receive” when we ask for spiritually profitable things (Theophilus).

Mark 9:30-32 – Jesus predicts His death and Resurrection a second time to show He is going to His passion freely, and not being taken against His will.

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>

ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Very Rev. Michael Elias, St. Mary’s Antiochian Orthodox Church, Brooklyn, New York

**He said to them, “But who do you say
That I am?” Peter answered and said to
Him, “You are the Christ.” – Mark 9:29**

This Sunday, the fourth in our pilgrimage toward Christ’s Resurrection, the Church in its wisdom holds up as an example of asceticism a great saint whose life and writings can inspire those who honor him. St. John Climacus or St. John of the Ladder, was the abbot of St. Catherine’s Monastery on Mt. Sinai in the sixth century.

St. John stands as a witness to the spiritual effort that is necessary both for our Lenten journey and for our entrance into the Kingdom of God. The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is “not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers of the present darkness” (Ephesians 6:12). We must, therefore, take steps to become detached from things of this world and to cling more closely to God alone. Fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are our spiritual resources. During Great Lent the Church reminds us to draw our attention away from daily distractions, desires, and passions and to place it once again on our ultimate goal, union with our merciful and holy God.

St. John encourages the faithful in their efforts and reminds us that “he who endures to the end will be saved” (Matthew 24:13). How can we achieve this? We can draw spiritual strength through the sacraments and by humbly practicing the disciplines handed down to us in the Church. If we are to be one with Christ, we must also serve as He served, seeing those in need around us and around the world.

**Most Holy God, give us compassion to see
and to serve wherever needed, and cleanse
our hearts that we may seek only You.**

SARRIS CANDY FOR PASCHA DELIVERY DATE IS EXPECTED 3/25/'18! Your support is appreciated!

PROCEED DOWNSTAIRS AFTER THE LITURGY AND PARTAKE OF BREAKFAST WITH THE

BISHOP! Tickets are \$8.00 for Adults; \$4.00 for Children ages 6-12 years; Free for Children 5 years old and younger. 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 20TH 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 20 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.

SPECIAL PARISH MEETING – St. Nicholas Church shall conduct a Special Parish Meeting on Sunday, March 25, 2018 after the Divine Liturgy at approximately 11:15 A.M. All church members are encouraged to attend this important session. The meeting should last about 15-20 minutes.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING - St. Nicholas Orthodox Church will hold its monthly Board Meeting on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. Auditors will meet at 6:30 P.M. All parishioners are welcome to attend these monthly board sessions, and although only parish officers may vote, anyone can participate and express their opinion(s).

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. Also, at this exciting event, we will be having (12) themed baskets to raffle off. If you would like to help by donating towards any of them, see Pani Zak for the list at the Communion Breakfast, this morning.

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 LITURGY OF THE PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS OR BEFORE OR AFTER FRIDAY'S LENTEN SERVICE OR ON SATURDAYS, MARCH 24 & 31 FROM 12-1 P.M.

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!