

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, April 1, 2018

TRIUMPHAL ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM: PALM (WILLOW, FLOWERY) SUNDAY

Matins: 8:00 A.M. with the Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 188-192 / Red Book: 210-214

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of +**John Harris** 90th Birthday Remembrance, offered by
Debbie Harris, daughter.

GREAT & HOLY PASSION WEEK BEGINS AT SUNSET (No
meat products are to be eaten this entire 7-day period).

7:00 P.M. Bridegroom Matins.

GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY, (APRIL 2)... 7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified
Gifts (3-hr. fast of food or drink before partaking of Holy Communion).

GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY, (APRIL 3)... 7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Pre-
Sanctified Gifts (3-hr. fast of food or drink before partaking of Holy Communion).

GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY, (APRIL 4)... 7:00 P.M. Mystery of the Holy
Unction Service, with the Anointing of the sick, in body & soul.

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY, (APRIL 5)... 9:30 A.M. Vespers-Liturgy of St.
Basil the Great. 7:00 P.M. Matins of Great and Holy Friday with the Reading of the 12
Passion Gospels.

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY, (Strict Fast), (APRIL 6)... 7:30 P.M. Vespers and
Procession with the Holy Shroud of Jesus Christ and placing it in the Tomb.

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY AND ANNUNCIATION, (APRIL 7)... 9:30
A.M. Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. 8:00 P.M. Resurrection Matins, Outdoor
Procession (weather permitting) and Blessing of Paschal Foods in the parish auditorium,
afterwards.

Sunday, April 8, 2018

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA (THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST)

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M. with the Reading of the Gospel in various languages

Apostolic Reading: Acts 1:1-8

Gospel: John 1:1-17

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 193-196 / Red Book: 215-219

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of the departed souls of the +**Harris Family**, offered by
Trona & Family and in memory of +**Anna Kerilla**, offered by herself.

**Paschal “Agape” Fellowship Social held in the parish hall following the Divine Liturgy.
BEGIN FAST-FREE WEEK**

John 12:1-18 –

12:1 – This **Passover** is the third mentioned in John and is the setting for last week of Christ’s earthly ministry, which is narrated in careful detail. **Jesus** had already been glorified through His signs and words; it remained for Him to be glorified through His death and Resurrection.

1:4 – Only God has **life** in Himself. Thus, the Word, being God, is the source of life, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit. **The life was the light of men:** John now introduces mankind as receiver of the divine light. By participating in the life of the Son, believers themselves become children of the light (12:36; Eph. 5:8; 1 Th. 5:5). Moses saw the divine light in the burning bush (Ex. 3:2); the whole nation saw it at the Red Sea (Ex. 13:21); Isaiah saw it in his heavenly vision Is. (6:1-5); and the three apostles saw it at the Transfiguration (Mt. 17:1-5).

12:3-8 – The other disciples said the same thing **Judas** said (v. 5), but with a very different motive. Judas spoke from greed, while the others spoke from the virtue of charity. That Jesus put a **thief** in charge of the money shows that by every means He attempted to save Judas: He fulfilled Judas’ lust for money; He allowed Judas to exercise apostolic authority (6:11); He washed Judas’ feet with the other disciples (13:5); and He allowed him to partake at the table of the Mystical Supper (13:26). Yet Judas could never overcome the greed. **Judas** on his own initiative seeks to betray Jesus. His motives have been debated, but the Fathers and the liturgical hymns declare that greed was his primary motive. This is revealed in John 12:4-6, when Judas was particularly upset about the “waste” of myrrh in the preceding story because he was a thief. The phrase **one of the twelve** is not used so much to identify Judas, who was already known by Matthew’s hearers, but to emphasize the depth of the betrayal – that it was one of Christ’s closest followers.

Math. 21:1-11 – Christ’s Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem is celebrated by the Church on Palm Sunday. By Christ’s time, Jewish nationalism had led to the expectation of a political Messiah to deliver them from Roman control and to reestablish David’s kingdom. In humility, Jesus shows that He has not come to establish an earthly kingdom. He does not ride on a horse nor in a chariot, but on a **donkey** – a sign of humility and peace (Zec. 9:9). The entrance into the Holy City declares the establishment of the Kingdom of God. It is also a promise of Christ’s final entrance into the heavenly Jerusalem with all believers and of His accepting the New Jerusalem as His pure Bride (Rev. 21:2).

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>

PALM SUNDAY

Sixth Sunday of Lent

H. E. Metropolitan Nicholae, Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas & Liaison
Bishop to IOCC from the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops

Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! – John 12:13

Today marks the start of Great and Holy Week. Today, shouts of joy are undergirded by our knowledge, as we look back across two millennia, of the somber events that immediately followed the triumph of Palm Sunday. For the celebration in Jerusalem is

fleeting, and we read of it now with a mixture of joy and sorrow: joy because we understand that Christ deserves a reception like this, and more – and sorrow because we know that many will soon shout “Crucify Him!”

This week is the final stage in our Lenten journey, but not in our journey toward salvation. As we participate this week in Christ’s own final days, let us be reminded of what He gave on the Cross, of what He still gives in the Holy Eucharist: Himself. Fully God yet fully man. He tasted death so as to destroy it, and to give all of humanity hope in His Resurrection.

May we seek the Risen Christ, both at the end of this Holy Week and every day of our lives!

O Lord our God, teach us to emulate Christ’s example of self-emptying by humbly offering compassionate service in Your name.

LITURGICAL CHANGES FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES! Since the Feast of the Annunciation occurs on Great Saturday this year, the following liturgical format for the celebration of Vespers on Great Friday and the Divine Liturgy on Great Saturday is presented here in order to facilitate the celebration of these services **VESPERS – GREAT FRIDAY (APRIL 6)** – The priest, vested in purple Epitrachil begins with the usual beginning. It is to be noted that on this occasion the color black is not to be used in the church, neither on the altars nor the color of vestments. Due to the Feast of the Annunciation, the following concerns the use of bells: the ringing of the bells ceases on Thursday evening with the reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels (Matins) (after the 7th Gospel) until noon on Great Friday. The bells are rung at the beginning of Vespers on Great Friday, and are rung for the services until the end of the Liturgy on Great Saturday. From the conclusion of the Liturgy on Great Saturday until the beginning of Resurrection Matins, the bells are silenced.

Order of the Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great – Great Saturday – On Great Saturday, the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated with Vespers and the Blessing of Bread.

Due to the Feast of the Annunciation, festive WHITE VESTMENTS are to be worn from the beginning (Traditionally, it would be blue for the Mother of God, but since this is already a Resurrection announcement, that is why WHITE should be worn) No dark vestments are used at all.

HEAR AND SEE OUR HIERARCH’S THOUGHT-PROVOKING SPEECH ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM! A video of His Grace’s excellent speech recently in Naples, Florida on the subject of “Religious Freedom” is now posted on the internet. It can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/mnq0dv6DCA0>. Please inform your family members and Orthodox Christian friends with this information.

SEE AND HEAR BISHOP GREGORY’S PRESENTATION ENTITLED “ENGAGE THE CALL TO BE A DISCIPLE!” The excellent talk that His Grace gave to us at the recent Lenten Retreat is now posted to our Diocesan You Tube Channel. Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/-Sq8zc-hVYM>. Pass this info. on to others.

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 Coffee & Fellowship Hour, 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.

6TH ANNUAL LADIES SPRING TEA ON APRIL 22ND FROM 1-3 P.M. AT THE ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CHURCH HALL, 363 WEST 11TH AVENUE, HOMESTEAD, PA 15120!

The Savolskis-Wasik-Glenn Funeral Home will like to cordially invite you to join them and other women of the community to the Tea. Please join us for an afternoon of games, laughter and a light lunch. Please RSVP by calling the funeral home at 412-462-2288 no later than April 18th. Spring hats and colorful attire are encouraged. Feel free to bring a family member or friend. Any questions, please call Alisha at the funeral home.