

# 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. 14

**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

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of the deceased members of the +Tomko & +Sukal Families, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of the departed souls of the +Harris Family, offered by Trona & Family.

Birthday prayers extended to **Nicholas Thorn** (4/9/18), offered by the Family.

**BEGIN FAST-FREE WEEK!**

**Paschal "Agape" Fellowship Social held in the parish hall following the Divine Liturgy.**

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**BRIGHT MONDAY, (APRIL 9)...** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy, concluding with an Outdoor Procession (weather permitting) and the Reading of the Resurrection Gospels.

**BRIGHT TUESDAY, (APRIL 10)...** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy.

**BRIGHT FRIDAY, (APRIL 13)...** Icon of the Most Holy Mother of God – "Life-Giving Font" venerated.

**BRIGHT SATURDAY, (APRIL 14)...** 7:00 P.M. Vespers

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**Sunday, April 15, 2018**

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA: ST. THOMAS SUNDAY**

**Matins of the Resurrection: 8:00 A.M.**

**Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M. and the Partaking of the blessed "Artos" Bread.**

Apostolic Reading: Acts 15:12-20

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 199-200 / Red Book: 221-223

Bulletin Sponsor: **Dave Urban's** Birthday, offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Ann**

**Opsitos**, on her birthday (4/10/18), and +**Martha Opsitos**, on her birthday (4/11/18), offered by Ann Marie Kline.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Ann**

**Janicko**, offered by Mary Janicko and Helen Revak (daughters).

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Anna**

**Rosgonyi**, offered by herself.

John 1:1-17 –

**1:1** – In the beginning recalls the creation story of Genesis, but speaks more clearly of the Creator Himself. Furthermore, while Genesis spoke of the first creation, this “Prologue” of John (vv. 1-18) reveals the new creation in Christ.

**Was the Word** (Greek *logos*): The Word is the eternal Son of God. *Was* indicates existence without a reference to a starting point and emphasizes the Word’s eternal existence without beginning. *Logos* can mean “wisdom,” “reason,” and “action” as well as “word,” all of which are attributes of the Son of God. **The Word was with God:** *With* shows that the Word – the Son of God – is a distinct Person from the Father and that He is in eternal communion with the Father. **The Word was God:** The Word – the Son of God – is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father; He Himself is God with the same divinity as the Father. Some twist and mistranslate this phrase “the Word was a god” in order to propagate their heresy that the Son of God is a created being, a creature not fully divine. Such a translation is unsupportable, false, dishonest, and deceptive.

**1:3** – The Word is the co-Creator with the Father and the Holy Spirit (Gn. 1; Ps. 32:6, 9; Heb. 1:2) and not merely an instrument or servant used by the Father. Will, operation, and power are one in the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. Thus, the heavens and the earth are the works of the One who made them, while the Son was not made but is eternally begotten of the Father

**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 three apostles saw it at the Transfiguration (Mt. 17:1-5).

**1:5** – **Darkness** indicates both spiritual ignorance and satanic opposition to the light. Those who hate truth prefer ignorance for themselves and strive to keep others ignorant as well (3:19). The word translated **comprehend** means both “understand” and “overcome.” Thus, darkness can never overpower the light of Christ, nor can it understand the way of love.

**1:6** – This **John** is John the Baptist, not the author of this Gospel.

**1:9-11** – Christ offers **light** to every person, but **the world** and even many of **His own** refuse to **receive Him**; thus, they can neither **know** nor recognize Him. Those who accept Him have His light. In a hymn sung at the end of Liturgy, after hearing the Gospel and receiving communion, we sing, “We have seen the true light, we have received the heavenly Spirit.”

**1:12** – **Right** also means “authority” and indicates a gift from God, not an inalienable right. Those who receive Christ become **children of God** by adoption (Gal. 4:4-7) and by grace inherit everything Christ is by nature. To **believe in His name** means to believe and trust in Him who in His humanity took the name Jesus as Word, Son, Messiah, and Savior.

**1:13** – Adoption as a child of God is not a matter of ethnic descent (**of blood**) as it was in the Old Testament; nor are we children of God simply by natural birth (**the will of the flesh**), nor by man’s own decision (**the will of man**). Becoming a child of God is a spiritual birth by grace, through faith, and in the Holy Spirit. This is accomplished and manifested in the sacrament of Holy Baptism (3:5-8).

**1:14** – **The Word became flesh** clarifies the manner in which the Son and Word of God came to His people (vv. 9-11), pointing specifically to His Incarnation. The Word became fully human without ceasing to be fully God. He assumed complete human nature: body, soul, will, emotion, and even mortality – everything that pertains to humanity except sin. As God and Man in one Person, Christ pours divinity into all of human nature, for anything not assumed by Christ would not have been healed.

**Dwelt among us:** In the Old Testament, God’s presence dwelt (“tabernacled”) in the ark of the covenant and later in the temple. Here, the eternal Word comes to dwell in and among humanity itself. **His glory** refers both to His divine power shown by His signs and wonders (2:11; 11:4, 40), and to His humble service to mankind, shown most perfectly on the Cross (12:23-32; 13:31). In both ways, Christ reveals that He is the One sent from the Father.

**Only begotten of the Father:** The Son has no beginning, but has the Father as His source from eternity. He is called only begotten because there is no other born from the Father. (The Holy Spirit exists eternally from the Father through another mystery called “procession”).

**Full of grace and truth:** This phrase qualifies both the Word and His glory. Grace is Christ’s uncreated energy given to us through His love and mercy. Truth includes His faithfulness to His promises and covenants and to the reality of His words and gifts.

**1:16** – In saying we have all received **of His fullness**, the Scriptures confirm that God’s grace can fill human nature to the extent of actually deifying it. In Christ, God’s children become gods by grace (10:34, 35) without ceasing to be human. As metal thrust into fire takes on properties of

fire (such as heat and light) without ceasing to be metal, so human nature permeated by God takes on properties of the divine nature. **Grace for grace** is a Semitic expression signifying an overabundance of grace.

**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.

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**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>

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**PURCHASE A "FAMILY DAY" RAFFLE TICKET OR TWO AND ENABLE OUR CAMP NAZARETH TO IMPLEMENT A MEMORABLE DIOCESAN CAMPING SESSION FOR OUR YOUTHS THIS SUMMER!**

Our parish has received her allotment of the \$20 ducats and plans to pay for all (135) tickets, with the proceeds returned to our Diocesan Apostolate for Youths. See Cathy Pawlik today to secure the ducats in hope of winning the Grand Prize of \$1,000, plus, other cash awards and (1) week Diocesan Summer Camping Week Reservations for a child of your choice. Family Day at Camp Nazareth shall be celebrated on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Plan to be in Mercer, PA that weekend, and participate in the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, beginning at 10:00 A.M. A bountiful luncheon meal shall be served to all worshipers at 12 Noon in the Main Lodge. The High & Low Ropes courses, the Junior-size Olympic swimming pool and Gift Shop will be open for activities. The Gala Raffle Drawing is also set for the afternoon hours.

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**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 info.

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**THE CHOIR IS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE ANNUAL PASCHA CANDY SALE!** We

appreciate the participation of our parishioners and friends and wish you a joyous Paschal season.

Sincerely, Members of the St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Choir

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**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.

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**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](mailto: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. Items needed are: Lottery tickets, Bottles of Cheer, Gift cards and Bath & Body Items. See Jean Colantoni, as well.

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**PROPERTY SEARCH** – As St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, North Side Pittsburgh, continues to explore relocating to the 79 corridor (from Mt Nebo Road to southern Cranberry), would you by chance have a piece of property that could help their relocation efforts. Please contact them at

[OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com](mailto:OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com) or 412-748-0148 if you may be able to assist them. Christ Is Risen!

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**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](http://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.

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**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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## [Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)