

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. 16

Sunday, April 22, 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE HOLY MYRRH-BEARERS

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 6:1-7 Resurrection Tone: 2 Gospel: Mark 15:42-47; 16:1-8

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 200-201 / Red Book: 223-224

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of +Wendy Pingor, on the 4th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

Birthday prayers are extended to: Merle Pido (April 20th) offered by Gaylene Merritt; and to: Johnny Fedornock (April 23rd) and Nathaniel Fedornock (April 26th) offered by the Fedornock Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +Anna & +John Yurcisin, offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +Andrew Tomko, offered by Ann Tomko & Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +Albert & +George Hreha, offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +William Kane & +Deborah Kane, offered by Agnes Kane.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +Wendy Pingor, on the 4th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

Monday, (April 23)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God' departed servant, +Elizabeth Krompigel, offered by Ann Bunting.

Thursday, (April 26)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +Joseph Grimes, offered by wife, Olga & Family.

Friday, (April 27)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God' departed servant, +Michael Spontak, offered by Margaret Beczak.

Saturday, (April 28)... 7:00 P.M. Vespers.

Sunday, April 29, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 9:32-42 Resurrection Tone: 3

Gospel: John 5:1-15

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 202-203 / Red Book: 225-226

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: In honor of Colin Kimbrell's Birthday, offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God’s departed servants, +**Andrew & Mary Hudak**, and +**Andrew Fedoris**, offered by Matilda Fedoris.

Mark 15:42-47; 16:1-8 –

Luke 23:50-53 – If the apostles had buried Christ, doubters could claim His body was simply hidden away. **Joseph** being both a **council member** and a **good and just man** refutes any possibility that the Lord’s body was deceptively hidden by the apostles. The spiritual significance of a tomb **where no one had ever lain before** is that Christ died a death unlike any person had ever died: a death without corruption, a death leading to victory over the grave itself.

16:1 – Because Christ died so close in time to **the Sabbath**, the burial customs of the Jews could not be completed. Therefore, these faithful women went as early as possible to complete the rites of burial. **Mary the mother of James:** Certain Fathers teach that she was the wife of Alphaeus, and this James was one of the Twelve (6:15). Most, however, hold that this is the Virgin Mary, being in fact the step-mother of a different James, “the Lord’s brother.” In Jewish usage, **brother** can indicate any number of relations. Christ Himself had no blood brothers, for Mary had but one Son: Jesus. The brothers mentioned here were either stepbrothers, sons of Joseph by a previous marriage, or cousins. Indeed, Jesus commits His mother to the care of John at the Cross (John 19:25-27), which would have been unthinkable if Mary had had other children to care for her. Many teach that **Salome** was the wife of Zebedee and the mother of James and John.

16:4 – The stone had been rolled away not to accommodate the Lord’s exit from the tomb, for in His resurrected body, He needs no such accommodation (John 20:19). Rather, this was to allow the witnesses – and us – to look in and see that the tomb was empty.

16:7 – The specific mention of **Peter** reveals a special care for the one who had denied Christ. In the words of Theophylact, Peter would have said of himself, “I denied the Lord, and therefore am no longer His disciple.” The angel’s command is a promise that Peter is forgiven.

16:8 – They said nothing to anyone does not mean the women never said anything, but that they kept silent until Jesus appeared to them (vv. 9-11).

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>

CREATED WITH FREE WILL

By Abbot Tryphon of “The Morning Offering”

One of the primary differences between Islam and Christianity has to do with their understanding of the nature of God. Islam teaches total surrender to Allah, who demands submission. There is no invitation to enter into a relationship freely, nor is there room for an individual to choose or not choose to love the Creator, for Allah is far above his creation.

By contrast, the God of Christianity is one who invites us into a relationship that is personal. As in all relationships based on love, we are free to choose to commune – or not – with a God who is, by His very nature, relational. There is no force behind this invitation, for we are free to choose – or not – just as any relationship based on love requires both parties to be free to choose – or not. Our obedience is a religious act that must be free, and it must be based on love.

Our Lord Jesus Christ used parables to teach, precisely because He was inviting us to freely choose to follow Him and to keep His commandments. He showed us the way to eternal life, not by giving commands as the Son of God, but as a loving teacher whose wisdom was imparted in a way that left the choice up to us.

Muhammad, by contrast, gave his followers specific laws that must be followed, including total submission to Allah. And should they ever renounce Islam, they would face a penalty of death. This lack of freedom in the teachings of Muhammad has its roots in his failure to teach about the notion of personhood.

In Christ we have the image of the Pantocrator, a fresco that is traditionally the primary focus in the dome of an Orthodox temple. The Pantocrator is He who holds all things in His hands, through His love and forbearance. This God of Christianity does not punish; He educates, just as Christ educated His disciples through the use of parables.

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 \$10,000, 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 3rd. 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.

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.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2018! To our High School and College graduates and Parents: By Sunday, May 20, please email Fr. Michael the following information: **High School Students:** name of your High School, any academic and/or athletic awards, where you will attend in the fall and your attended major in college (or undecided at this time). **College Students, Graduate and Post Graduate:** name of your college/university, your field of study and degree you have earned. We will recognize our graduates on **Sunday, June 10th**. Please be in church on that Lord's Day so that we can take a group photo.

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 re- location efforts. Please contact them at OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com or 412-748-0148 if you may be able to assist them.

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.

THE MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON WILL BE SPONSORED BY THE MEN'S CLUB ON SUNDAY, MAY 13TH, FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY!

Our conscientious males of the church shall treat all women of the parish to an appetizing picnic-style meal of a variety of meat & cheese sandwiches, macaroni/potato salad, potato chips, fruits and luscious frosted cakes for dessert, plus hot or cold beverages. A free will-offering shall be in effect for this delicious repast. All faithful members are encouraged to pray in our church on that Lord's Day, as special prayers are intoned for all the mothers of St. Nicholas, Diocese and the United States of America. A Panachida service will also be conducted for the repose of the souls of all departed mothers of our parish.

OFFER A CAMPSHIP (\$315) OR ANY GENEROUS SUM OF FINANCES TO SEND ALL OF OUR CHILDREN OF CAMPER AGE TO NAZARETH THIS SUMMER FOR THE DIOCESAN CAMPING SESSIONS! The youths make "friends forever" at Camp and live an authentic Orthodox Christian life-style.

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)