

# Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



## American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

Homestead, PA 15120

Rectory Office Phone: (412) 461-3264

Church Office & Auditorium: (412) 461-9437

Web Site: [www.stnichomestead.org](http://www.stnichomestead.org)

E-mail Address: [STNICKHOMESTEAD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:STNICKHOMESTEAD@GMAIL.COM)

E-mail Address: [frmzak@gmail.com](mailto:frmzak@gmail.com)

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. 17

**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.

Wedding Anniversary Prayers intoned for: **Steve & Carol Fuesko's** 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Holy Matrimony (April 29), offered by the Family.

**60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Service for: Alexander & Ruth Salio** (April 25).

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday, (April 30)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Margaret & +George Ladick**, offered by the Family.

**Wednesday, (May 2), Mid-Pentecost...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Merle & +Matilda Benson**, offered by the Family.

7:00 P.M. Prayer Service of Thanksgiving & Stewardship.

**Saturday, (May 5)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+The Mustakis Family - +George & +Irene, +Nicholas, +Eva, +Caroline, & +Cleo Angeliki**, from the Estate of Cleo Mustakis.

7:00 P.M. Vespers on the Feastday of the Holy & Great Martyr George.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, May 6, 2018**

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN & FEAST OF THE HOLY GREAT MARTYR GEORGE

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

**Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.**

Apostolic Reading: Acts 11:19-30      Resurrection Tone: 4      Gospel: John 4:5-42 (Sunday)

Acts 12:1-11

John 15:17-16:2 (George)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 158; 205-206 / Red Book: 178-179; 228-229

**John 5:1-15** – This healing is the third sign in John's Gospel and exemplifies the divine power to restore a person to wholeness. The Fathers teach this **feast** is the Old Testament Pentecost (also called the "Feast of Weeks"), which celebrates the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai. The references to the Law of Moses later in this chapter confirm this interpretation.

**5:2-4** – This double-basin **pool**, believed to have curative powers, has been discovered about 100 yards north of the temple area, near the **Sheep Gate**. The **water** for this high-ground pool

came from under-ground springs and was used to wash down the sacrificial lambs before they were slain.

The pool functions as a type of Christian baptism. Under the old covenant, **a great multitude** (3) waited to enter the water for physical healing after **an angel** touched it (v. 4). The waters were special in that they were a way of indirectly participating in the animal sacrifices of the temple, since the animals were washed in the same water. Yet the grace was limited to the **first** person to enter. Under the new covenant, baptism is given to all nations as a direct participation in Christ's own sacrificial death (Rom. 6:3-6) without the mediation of angels. Baptism thus grants healing of the soul and the promise of eternal resurrection of the body, and its grace in inexhaustible supply.

**5:5** – According to St. John Chrysostom, Jesus singled out the **man** who had waited for **thirty-eight years** in order to teach us to have perseverance, and as a judgment against those who lose hope or patience in much lesser troubles lasting a far shorter time.

**5:6, 7** – The Lord's question is relevant for many reasons. (1) It made public the fact that **the sick man** kept his faith even in a situation that was seemingly hopeless, for how could a paralytic ever be the first into the water? (2) The Lord draws attention away from the water and toward the need we have for a **man** to help us. This is fulfilled in Christ Himself, who became Man to heal all. (3) Not everyone who is ill actually desires healing. Sadly, some may prefer to remain infirm in order to have license to complain, to **avoid** responsibility for their lives, or to continue exciting the pity of others.

**5:10-12** – Although the Law itself does not specifically forbid the carrying of burdens on **the Sabbath**, this is prohibited in Jer. 17:23 and explicitly forbidden in rabbinical teachings. That Christ is Lord over the Sabbath is made clear by His command (v. 8) and by the man's obedience (v. 9). As is often the case in John's Gospel, the term **Jews** here refers to the leaders and not to the people in general. Notice the malice of these leaders, for they focus solely on the Sabbath violation, asking the man, "**Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed?'**" but ignore altogether the miraculous healing.

**5:14** – That the man was found **in the temple** shows the great faith, for he had gone there directly to thank God for his cure rather than departing to someone's home or to the marketplace.

**Sin no more:** While there is a general connection between sin and suffering (Rom. 6:23), this connection is not always one-to-one, for the innocent often suffer, and the guilty are often spared earthly sufferings. Nevertheless, sometimes our sins lead directly to our own suffering in this world; according to St. John Chrysostom, this was the case with this paralytic. Christ's warning here, however, is that the sins that destroy the soul lead to a far **worse** result than an affliction of the body. The only hope is to flee from sin altogether.

**5:15** – **The man** does not report Jesus to the leaders of **the Jews** in a malicious way, but as a witness to Christ's goodness. For even though these leaders were only interested in the violation of the Sabbath (v. 12), the healed man emphasizes that **it was Jesus who had made him well**, saying nothing about carrying his bed.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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>**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **THINKING ABOUT OUR OWN DEATH**

By Abbot Tryphon of "The Morning Offering"

St. Sisoies, the great ascetic, stood before the tomb of Alexander the Great and beheld the skeletal remains of one who had once been covered in magnificent garments. Astonished, the saint mourned for any of man's ups and downs of time and the exceeding of glory, and he tearfully proclaimed, "The mere sight of you, tomb, dismays me and causes my heart to shed tears as I contemplate the debt we, all men, owe. How can I possibly stand it? Oh, death! Who can evade you?"

As a police and fire chaplain, I have attended more funerals during the past few years than in all my previous years combined. Many of these officers were killed in the line of duty, often by criminals whose lives were being thoughtlessly lived out and whose own end will likely be tragic, given the external consequences of their actions. During these past few years, I have also lost a number of old friends, and given my age, I expect to lose more friends as the years progress.

Death will come for us all, and it is to our benefit not to avoid the thought, for we never know when we will be required to account for our lives. Our days of fasting should be filled with thoughts of our own eventual death and how we should use whatever time God has given us in repentance for our own sins and in service to others.

For the Christian, death itself is not to be feared, for Christ's Holy Resurrection will be ours as well. Yet we also know that in order to be joined to His Kingdom, we must have been transformed, that the fire of God will not be a lake of fire for us.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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 10<sup>th</sup>**. 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](mailto:OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com) or 412-748-0148 if you may be able to assist them.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON WILL BE SPONSORED BY THE MEN'S CLUB ON SUNDAY, MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>, 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 CAMBERSHIP (\$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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**LENTEN COIN BOXES SHOULD BE TURNED IN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OF THE AUDITORIUM!**

Our Church School students and conscientious Adults of the parish who deposited sacrificial money into their Lenten self-denial banks during the Great Fast are kindly reminded to turn in the containers to our

financial officers in the parish office in the hall. We desire to send a check to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center in Florida. And we commend you for your desire to heed the Great Commission of Christ to spread Orthodox Christianity to all the ends of the earth.

## Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church