

# 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. 25

**Sunday, July 1, 2018**

## 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service of the Third Hour: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10

Resurrection Tone: 4

Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90-92 / Red Book: 105-107

Bulletin Sponsor: **Kaitlyn Thorn's** 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday, offered by the Family.

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**Friday, (July 6)...** 6:15 P.M. to 6:45 P.M. Hearing of Confessions.

7:00 P.M. Vespers on the Feast of the Nativity of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

**Saturday, (July 7)...** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Nativity of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

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**Sunday, July 8, 2018**

## 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service of the Third Hour: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Romans 12:6-14

Resurrection Tone: 5

Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 93-95 / Red Book: 108-110

Bulletin Sponsor: **Kylie Fischer's** 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday, offered by Parents: Michael & Kira Fischer.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants: **+Dennis Miller** (Husband) and **+Helen Panichelli** (Mother), on the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Susan Miller & Family.

**Matthew 8:28-9:1 –**

**8:28-34 –** The demons recognizing Jesus as the **Son of God** are surprised that their power is being terminated **before the time** of the last judgment. Though the malice of the demons is great, they can do nothing against the will of God, and thus can only enter the **swine** at Christ's command. The immediate destruction of the **herd** shows that the men had been protected by God's care; otherwise, they would have perished under the demonic influence. Further, it reinforces that swineherding was not lawful for the Jews, and shows the incomparable value of human beings, whose salvation is worth every sacrifice.

**9:1 –** Jesus' **own city** is Capernaum (4:13)

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**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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**THE DEVIL CANNOT VIOLATE OUR FREEDOM**  
**By Abbot Tryphon in "The Morning Offering"**

The devil does not have power over us – unless we give it to him. His power to tempt us or to fight against us is never beyond our ability to resist, for his power can never violate our freedom. We alone give him power over us, without which he can do nothing. It depends totally on us whether we succumb to his attack against us. Any exercise of his evil authority is directly related to our decisions and whether we allow him to distort our freedom.

St. Symeon the New Theologian said that if the members of a person are not driven by Christ as chariots, they are driven by the devil with the consent and cooperation of that person.

We are never alone and vulnerable to the attacks of the evil one; the Fathers of the Church stress that God is with us. The Lord's grace is sufficient for us to resist the attacks of Satan.

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**THANK YOU, MEMBERS OF ST. NICHOLAS, FOR THE COIN BOX COLLECTIONS, BENEFITING THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER!**

The OCMC appreciates your recent gift of \$230.00 in support of Orthodox missions! Directors of this Apostolate are thankful for your prayerful support of these efforts. OCMC Executive Director Fr. Martin Ritsi and OCMC Missionary Director Den. James Nicholas recently visited the team of long-term missionaries ministering to the growing church in Guatemala. These faithful missionaries are training catechists and future church leaders, coordinating teams that serve in a church-operated health clinic, translating liturgical texts, administering the Sacraments, and guiding thousands of Orthodox Christians through the yearly cycle of the Church. Your contributions are helping to make all of this possible. Your gifts are also sending mission teams all over the world. The first teams to Guatemala and Kenya in 2018 have returned. The Guatemala team provided lifesaving healthcare, and the team of Kenya helped train clergy in the Diocese of Kisumu and Western Kenya. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of OCMC. Yours in Christ, Fr. Martin Ritsi, Executive Director.

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**ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING!**

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church shall conduct its monthly Church Officers' Session this month on Monday, July 23, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. Auditors will meet at 6:30 P.M. All parishioners are welcome to attend these monthly board meetings, and, although only parish leaders can vote, anyone can participate and express their opinions.

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**ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – ANNUAL FALL FOOD FESTIVAL MEETING!**

There will be a meeting of the Annual Fall Food Festival committee on Wednesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M., prior to the Vespers service at 7:00 P.M. All interested persons should attend this kick-off session to our festival, which is our major church fundraiser for the year. Please volunteer and support this event. Come with your ideas and suggestions to enhance the experience for our attendees. Thank you, Tom Pingor, Church President.

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**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. Camperships generously offered this year have been graciously received from: Dave & Andrea Urban - \$300; Sue Semancik - \$300; Sr. A.C.R.Y. Chapter - \$315; Tom Pingor - \$300.

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**WE NEED YOUR CULINARY SKILLS IN MAKING THE IRRESISTIBLE PIROHI ON TUESDAYS (JULY 10 AND 17) IN THE PARISH HALL AT 6 P.M.!**

Come as good stewards in the House of the Lord and enjoy the fellowship of our church family members, as we prepare to supply Café Nikolai with a variety of this Slavic delicacy.

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY VENDOR/CRAFT SHOW IN ST. NICHOLAS PARISH HALL ON SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2018 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.** This exciting mid-summer event will feature over (20) of your favorite vendors and crafters. Plus, a Russian Auction (filled with fascinating and unique prizes), Café Nikolai (well-stocked with our parish's mouth-watering pirohi) and Raffles galore where all participants are bound to win something. Invite your family members, neighbors and friends at work to stop over at our church auditorium for a lively affair that appeals to everyone! Also, for this entire month of July, Andrea Zober shall be selling a huge selection of Tupperware products, where a healthy percentage of the sales will be deposited in the church coffer. And, a Bake Sale is on tap for the Show. Our many talented bakers within the parish are kindly asked to contribute pastries of their choice to satisfy the sweet tooth of our patrons. Bring the "goodies" the day of or on the Friday before the Christmas in July event.

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**FAITH NIGHT AT PNC PARK IS FRIDAY, JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:05 P.M.!** Our Pittsburgh Pirates will battle the New York Mets. Our sister parish of St. John the Baptist on the North Side is organizing a group plan of ticket sales in section 204 of the ballpark. For \$30 you will have a discount on concessions and all-you-can-eat-snacks. Please contact Wendy Martellotti at 412-583-6254 or [martellotti11@verizon.net](mailto:martellotti11@verizon.net) to reserve your ticket by July 8<sup>th</sup>. Let's Go Bucs!

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**RESERVE THE DATE OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, ON YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE PITTSBURGH DEANERY PICNIC IN SCHENLEY PARK (OAKLAND SECTION OF PITTSBURGH) FROM 12 NOON UNTIL 5 P.M.** It will be a covered-dish format where faithful of the five parishes in the Pittsburgh District will sign their names as participants and list what food entrées they will be offering for the picnic. A children's playground is close to the site, and we hope to have entertaining "Rovin' Musicians" offering plenty of good songs and delightful music to dance to.

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**LET'S FILL THE BACKPACKS FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PUPILS IN THE DUQUESNE SCHOOL DISTRICT THIS SUMMER TO GIVE TO THE STUDENTS WHEN THEY START BACK IN AUGUST!** Our parish is working with F.O.C.U.S. America to supply needy elementary & middle school students backpacks, filled with specific school supplies, to further their education, in financially-depressed districts. Ask our projector coordinator, George Matey and assistant, Jean Colantoni, how you can help! The cost of the contents needed for 1 backpack is approximately \$20.00. Tell George or Jean that you would like sponsor a backpack for an elementary student in the Duquesne School District this fall and give from "the bottom of your heart."

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**CORRECTED; URGENT OPENING FOR A DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AT THE OCMC!** The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) in St. Augustine, FL, is currently looking to fill an open position that is essential to its ongoing efforts to grow its ministries. If you would like to work for the Church and help share the Orthodox Faith, please prayerfully consider submitting your resume for the position of Development & Marketing Administrative Assistant. This full-time position with benefits is responsible for assisting in the administrative activity for the OCMC Development and Marketing Departments. They work to help educate, engage, and inform the faithful of the United States in Orthodox Missions. Please see our posting on Orthodox.Jobs.com at [http://www.orthodoxjobs.com/display\\_job49501/.html](http://www.orthodoxjobs.com/display_job49501/.html) for a full description. Please submit resumes to the Annual Gifts and Marketing Director Alex Goodwin at [alex@ocmc.org](mailto:alex@ocmc.org), or call 904-829-5132 for more info.

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**A 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY REFLECTION: A HOLY NATION**

The Apostle Peter went further, to say that as followers of Christ we are a "chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation (ethnos)" (1 Peter 2:9). He was fully aware that the Church did not, and could not, constitute the government. However, Pentecost meant that people of all languages and ethnic backgrounds, from every part of the known world, were joined together into the one Body of Christ. So while Christians would respect and obey their government, even a hostile one, they would be primarily citizens of Paradise, a multi-ethnic Heavenly Kingdom ruled by Christ.

Because we Orthodox in America are a small minority, our non-Orthodox friends may say that we are strange or peculiar. We can respond that we are indeed a "peculiar people" (1 Peter 2:9, in the translation of the Authorized Version of the New Testament). However, we are also American. Like the rest of America, our Orthodox churches originally came from somewhere else. Nevertheless, we have the power to transform the American culture in a way that no other interest group or government agency, or individual can.

Just as the Holy Spirit is given to us individually so that we might grow into the likeness of Christ, so the Holy Spirit can, and does, enter into every culture where there is the Church. Where death may be at work in our society, nevertheless, life is at work through our presence in America. In this sense our American culture can be "baptized." This happens gradually and quietly, as we Orthodox participate in American life. Jesus said that we are like leaven in a loaf, or like salt. Leaven and salt are virtually invisible, but they transform and preserve. Similarly, the presence of Orthodoxy in America brings change to America, giving life and preserving and protecting what is here. We do not need to be the ruling party; the Church does not need to be the government; we do not need to constitute a majority. Rather, we simply need to be a presence – the presence of Christ in America.

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