

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

E-mail Address: STNICKHOMESTEAD@GMAIL.COM

E-mail Address: 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. 30

Sunday, July 29, 2018

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AND THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Resurrection Tone: 8

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34 (Sunday)

Hebrews: 13:7-16

John: 17:1-13 (Fathers)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 102-104; 164 / Red Book: 117-119; 185-186

Birthday prayers are intoned for: **Frannie Zatorsky** (7/28), offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants: **+Andrew Zatorsky, +Flo Lang & +Brandon Trimmer**, offered by the Rajakovich Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Cynthia Dzvoniak**, offered by Mother, Evelyn.

Thursday, (August 2)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of the Holy and Glorious Prophet Elijah the Tishbite.

Saturday, (August 4)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Darrell Grossett**, offered by Mother, Mary Ann.

Sunday, August 5, 2018

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Resurrection Tone: 1

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81-83 / Red Book: 95-99

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Cynthia Dzvoniak**, offered by Sister, Carol Hart.

Matthew 14:22-34

14:22-33 – Only God has dominion over nature, this miracle on the lake of water confirms the divinity of Christ. The Lord's mastery over creation is another sign that He is the Messiah and is divine. Commands to the **sea and waves** can only be issued by God (Job 38:8-11; Psalm 65:5, 6; 106:29). Jesus **was asleep** because as a man, he needed rest. In His Incarnation, He assumed all the natural actions of the flesh, of which sleep is one. The image of Christ and His disciples in a boat is traditionally used to illustrate the Church. God both permits storms and delivers us through them, so that we can see His protection more clearly. Christ rebuke of the storm is also an illustration of His calming the tempests in the human soul. Christ deliberately permits the **windstorm** to arise while He is sleeping in order to perfect the disciples' faith and rebuke their weaknesses, so they would eventually be unshaken by life's temptations. Here their faith

is still mixed with unbelief. They showed faith when **they came to Him**, but unbelief when they said, **“We are perishing.”**

14:27 – This is the second time Christ permits His disciples to be caught in a storm. The first time He was with them; here He had left them alone. In this way, Christ strengthens their faith that He will always be with them in the midst of the storms of life. **It is I** is literally translated “I Am,” which is the divine Name of God. **I AM** is first revealed to Moses at the burning bush in the Old Testament. To the Jews, this was a direct, explicit, and unmistakable claim to perfect equality with God, as evidenced by their reaction. Its use indicates a theophany or revelation of God Himself. The use of this Name by a mere man was considered blasphemy and was punishable by death (Lv. 24:16). However, because Jesus is fully God, His use of this Name cannot be blasphemy, but reveals His unity with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Only in Mark’s account is Christ’s answer so direct. To sit **at the right hand of the Power** means to share authority with the Father. This statement was clearly understood by the high priest to be a claim of equality with God. St. John places special emphasis on the use of this Name to clearly reveal Christ as God. This divine claim illuminates Christ’s authority even over death, a power belonging only to God the Father.

14:28-30 – Peter’s faith allows him to walk **on the water**. Note that Peter does not ask to walk on water per se, but to come to Jesus; his desire is not to perform miracles but to be with the Lord. Peter is able to participate in this divine miracle as long as he keeps his focus on Christ. As soon as he is distracted, he begins **to sink**.

14:31 – The Greek word for **doubt** here means “wavering” or “hesitation,” The cause of Peter’s sinking was not the storm, but the doubt, that Christ does not rebuke the wind but Peter.

14:33 – This is the first time the disciples confess that Jesus is **the Son of God**. Knowing that only God can be worshiped, they confess Christ’s divinity by worshiping Him. **The boat** is symbolic of the Church.

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>

TURNING TO CHRIST AS OUR REFUGE FROM THE STORM By Abbot Tryphon in “The Morning Offering”

These difficult times are causing more and more people to lose hope. The struggle just to stay the course has become increasingly stressful for ever-increasing numbers of people, and Christians are no exceptions. When we are down, it is good for us to turn our faces toward Christ, remembering these words from the Gospel of Matthew: “Truly You are the Son of God” (14:35). This world promises us nothing, but to Christ we have everything, for He is our only refuge in times of trial.

Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica said, “Here on earth there is nothing that can give us inner peace. For neither riches, nor glory, nor honor, nor position, nor family, nor neighbors can give us unshakable inner peace. There is only one giver of life, peace and joy – God.”

As Christians we must not allow anything to disturb our peace of heart, for we know that this life is transitory. Abbess Thaisia of Leushino said, “If you think to find paradise on earth, even in a monastery, then you are very mistaken. Paradise – full blessedness – does not exist on earth, and cannot because man was not created for earth, but for heaven.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING! Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church shall conduct its monthly Church Officers' Session next month on Monday, August 20, 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.

CHECK THE BLUE-COLORED DIVINE LITURGY BOOKS IN YOUR PEW AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE ANY OF THE PUBLICATIONS WHERE THE PAGES ARE COMING OUT OF THE BOOKLET! Our parish financial officers desire to correct this situation with the hymnbooks.

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; Leslie & Michael Sochka - \$300; Andrea Labik - \$315; Men's Club - \$315; Dave Urban - \$100.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC – Our annual church picnic will be on Sunday, September 16, 2018 at the Park in West Mifflin. Parishioners are already volunteering to help with all of the activities necessary to have a successful social outing, however, we are seeking someone to act as a chairperson of the picnic committee. This is an important position and we need a capable leader to assume this responsibility. If you want to serve our church and demonstrate your leadership abilities, here is your opportunity. Please see our church president, Thomas Pingor if you are interested.

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.

ON BEHALF OF FOCUS – NORTH AMERICA: Jean Colantoni and George Matey would like to thank the Saint Nicholas Mothers and Daughters Guild and the following individuals for their financial contributions toward the back-to-school backpack program: Fr. and Pani Zak, Richard & Andrea Babbie, Jean Colantoni, Carole Dunn, Mary Janicko, Mildred Koreny and John Koreny, Andrea Labik, Michael Lakatos, Mary Lou Lenart, George J. Matey, Al and Jackie Maurer, Tom Pingor, Helen Revak and Pat Buck, Joan Ribovich, Alex and Ruth Salio, Cheryl Tomko, Michele Tomko, Alex and Betty Wuchevich, Barb Yuhasz and Adam Zak. Again, thank you! Without your support, this project would not have been a success!

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – ANNUAL FALL FOOD FESTIVAL MEETING! There will be a meeting of the Annual Fall Food Festival committee on Wednesday, August 8th at 6:00 P.M., prior to the St. Nectarios service at 7:00 P.M. All interested persons should attend this session to support our festival, which is our major church fundraiser for the year. Our kick-off meeting in July was well attended and we want to keep up the momentum. Please volunteer and support this event. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the parish hall shortly, so please sign up. Be involved! Be engaged! Thank You!

ST. JOHN'S (EAST PITTSBURGH) OPEN – AUGUST 11, 2018! We hope you can join us for our "43rd Anniversary". On Saturday, August 11, 2018 we plan to gather at Valley Green Golf Course in Greensburg. This year's Open awards: \$5,000 Hole-in-one on hole #11, closest to the pin, second shot, on #8 (Individual winner), longest drive (first drive), in the fairway, on #16 (Individual winner), longest putt (first putt) on #18 (Individual winner). The fee this year will be \$89.00/golfer – as long as you pay by August 1, 2018. After that date, the fee will be \$95.00. But, in either case all monies must be paid by August 7, 2018. So get your group together and mail your check, made out to: St. John's Orthodox Church and send to: Denny Harms, 200 Dundee Drive, West Mifflin, PA 15122. REMEMBER, the fee pays for the green fees, carts, drinks, snacks, steak dinner, and prizes. Call Bob Pervuznik at:412-952-6962.

HAVE YOUR NAME APPEAR AS A PATRON OR BOOSTER IN THE 74TH NATIONAL SENIOR A.C.R.Y. AND 35TH NATIONAL JUNIOR A.C.R.Y. CONVENTION BOOKLET. Held over the Labor Day Weekend (Aug. 31 – Sept. 3), Holy Ghost Senior A.C.R.Y. Chapter of Phoenixville, PA will host this year's conventions at the Crowne Plaza Philadelphia – King of Prussia, PA. An attractive journal will be published for these gatherings and you are encouraged to offer your support with an advertisement, which shall also include a Memorial Listing for you departed loved ones. Our Senior A.C.R.Y. President Cathy Pawlik is presently receiving donations for the publication. Kindly submit your monetary gift to her by the Sunday, July 29 deadline.