

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

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Sunday, August 5, 2018

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Matins: 8:00 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

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Kataryna Bartko's** 4th Birthday, offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants on their birthdays: **+John Ribovich**, Father, (Aug. 11) and **+Susan Ribovich**, Mother, (Aug. 3), offered by Joan Ribovich.

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

Tuesday, (August 7)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Helen Mochnach**, offered by Albert & Jackie Maurer.

Friday, (August 10)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Joseph Grimes & +Tom Roger**, offered by Carole, Larry & Bill Dunn.

Sunday, August 12, 2018

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

Resurrection Tone: 2

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 84-86 / Red Book: 99-102

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: In memory of **+Dolores Pingor**, on the 11th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Dolores M. Pingor**, on the 11th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

Matthew 17:14-23

17:14-16 – Sickness in Scripture is often connected to demonic activity. **By kneeling**, this father shows humility, but he lacks faith. While the **disciples** also lacked faith (v. 20), Christ rebukes the man for placing the blame on the disciples when it was his greater lack of faith that prevented the boy's healing. In effect, Jesus defends His disciples in front of the multitudes but later rebukes them privately (19-21), teaching us that we ought first to correct people in private. Church discipline is based on mutual correction in three expanding stages. Sin and correction are to remain private unless the offender refuses to repent. All correction must be done with great care and humility, with the highest concern being the salvation of the offender. To be able to administer correction with **gentleness** is a spiritual gift. Nevertheless, correction must take place so that the sin does not spread to others as well.

17:19-21 – St. John Chrysostom notes this rebuke is directed at the nine disciples who could not cast out the demon, whereas “the pillars” of faith – Peter, James, and John (Gal. 2:9) – were not included in the rebuke, as they had been on the mountain with Christ (v. 1).

This kind (v. 21) refers to all powers of darkness, not simply those that cause a particular illness. The banishment of demons requires **faith** (v. 20), **prayer**, and **fasting** (v. 21), for there is no healing and no victory in spiritual warfare without all three. Beginning with the Didache, the Fathers have taught that both the person in need of healing and the person performing the healing must believe, pray, and fast. While it is not recorded that an apostle literally moved a **mountain**, the Fathers are clear that they had this authority if the need had arisen (certain saints did make crevices appear in mountains). Furthermore, not everything the apostles accomplished was written down. Beyond the literal meaning, this promise is also an illustration of the power of faith and prayer in all areas of life. “Whatever we ask, without hesitation and believing in God’s power, we shall receive” when we ask for spiritually profane things (Theophilus).

17:22, 23 – Jesus predicts His death and Resurrection a second time to show that He is going to His Passion freely and not being taken against His will. After Peter’s confession, Jesus reveals the true nature of His messiahship: the mystery of His Passion. It was expected that the Messiah would reign forever, so the idea that Christ would die was perplexing to **Peter** and remained scandalous to the Jews even after the Resurrection (1 Co. 1:23). Peter unwittingly speaks for **Satan** as the devil did not want Christ to fulfill His mission and save mankind through suffering and death.

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>

PRAYER, FASTING, AND ALMSGIVING

By Abbot Tryphon in “The Morning Offering”

Jesus Christ called for a thorough conversion of our heart and mind, and a complete turning away from the old man (our fallen nature). The main act that begins this conversion is metanoia, a thorough change of mind. This happens when we become aware that we have sinned and that we are in need of God’s forgiveness, and we resolve, with His help, to submit to Him.

When we go to confession, a priest sometimes gives a penance, which is a spiritual discipline that can aid in our journey to God. Penance is often in the form of disciplines meant to help increase the time we spend in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These three disciplines help us deepen our relationship with Christ and aid in the acquisition of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we are asked to do akathist hymns, where we seek the aid of saints or the Holy Virgin as we struggle to go deeper in our spiritual quest. We might be given extra periods of fasting, so that in depriving ourselves of food, we will be able to see deeper into our hearts and be rid of the dirt and grime that resides within us. Other times we might be asked to perform acts of charity as a way of moving beyond ourselves.

Disciplines that focus on increased prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, along with immersing ourselves in the Holy Scriptures, help us in our quest to live a life in total

submission to Christ. These three aid us in the acquisition of the Holy Spirit and help us to live our life for Christ.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are not ends in themselves but exercises that help in spiritual warfare against the demon that would bring us down. They help us in our attempt to repent and to have a thorough change of mind (metanoia). This repentance does not mean that we must feel sad, but that we strive to put off all pride and selfishness, and replace the ego with love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, kindness, meekness, and self-control.

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.

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. Camperships generously offered this year have been graciously received from: Dave & Andrea Urban - \$400; Sue Semancik - \$300; Sr. A.C.R.Y. Chapter - \$315; Tom Pingor - \$300; Leslie & Michael Sochka - \$300; Andrea Labik - \$315; Men's Club - \$315; Helen Revak - \$150, Cheryl Tomko - \$100; Mothers & Daughters Guild - \$315.

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.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 26TH ANNUAL GARAGE SALE – AUGUST 24-25 IN NORTHSIDE PITTSBURGH! There will be baby items, home accessories, kitchenware, books, CD's, DVD's, clothing

and much more! There will be hundreds of items under a buck! Our ethnic food kitchen will also be open (eat-in or take-out). Come Friday, August 24th & Saturday, August 25th from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. each day. Cash only – rain or shine – no early birds – “look for the gold-domes” at 2688 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212 – Please call 412-748-0148 with any questions.

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)