

# Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



## American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

Homestead, PA 15120

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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. 34

**Sunday, August 26, 2018**

## 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & LEAVE-TAKING OF THE HOLY TRANSFIGURATION

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24      Resurrection Tone: 4      Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42 (Sunday)  
2 Peter 1:10-19      Matthew 17:1-9 (Feast)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90-92, 166-169 / Red Book: 105-107, 187-191

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: **Dormition Feast**, offered by the Mothers' & Daughters' Guild.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Anna Bartko's 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday (8/31)**, offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, the priest,  
**+Protopresbyter Paul Herbert.**

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**Monday, (August 27)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Members of St. Nicholas Rosary Society**, offered by the Rosary Society.

7:00 P.M. Great Vespers on the Dormition of the Most Holy

Mother of God, with the Blessing of Bread, Wheat, Wine & Oil.

**Tuesday, (August 28)...** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God, with the Blessing of Flowers and Fragrant Herbs.

**Wednesday, (August 29)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+William Pingor**, offered by Rose Pingor (Wife).

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**Sunday, September 2, 2018**

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

Service of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hr.: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4      Resurrection Tone: 5      Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

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

**Matthew 21:33-42** – In this **parable**, the **man** represents God the Father, and the **vineyard** refers to God's people. The **vinedressers** are the leaders of the Jews entrusted to care for the people. Each **servant** (vv. 10-12) sent by the owner stands for an Old Testament prophet who comes to call people back to God, while the **beloved son** (v. 13) refers to Christ Himself. When the Son is cast **out of the vineyard** (v. 15) to be **killed**, this is understood on two levels: (1) that Jesus was killed outside of Jerusalem; and (2) that Jesus was crucified by foreign soldiers, not by those of His own vineyard. The **others** (v. 16) who later receive the vineyard are the Gentiles brought into the Church.

**21:41** – Again, the Jewish leaders convict themselves. Using their own principles, the elders convict themselves in their answer to Christ’s parable.

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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 REPENTANCE OF EGOTISM TRUMPS ALIENATION**

**By Abbot Tryphon in “The Morning Offering”**

The collective human condition is one of alienation from God, due to the sinful tendency of us all. Every problem in the world has its roots in this state of alienation. This includes divisions within families, nations, religions, social classes – all that keeps us apart. Only when we acquire peace, which is a gift from God, can this alienation be dispelled.

The root cause of alienation can be found in the ego, which sees itself as the center of everything and sees self as all-important; it caused the Fall of humankind. The cure of this spiritual illness is the acquisition of a humble and contrite heart.

When we struggle against the ego, with the desire to be transformed by the Holy Spirit, we see that all our neighbors, including those who are of other faiths, nations, and races, are our brothers and sisters (our relatives). We see that money, the acquisition of things, our social status, and our “tribe” are all but part of our collective human condition of alienation from God. Even our polluting of the environment and our cruelty to animals are related to that alienation.

Our world is on the brink of disaster, and we refuse to notice because we are so centered on ourselves. If we wonder why there are divisions among the peoples of the world, we need look no further than ourselves. When war breaks out with another country, we assume it is their fault, because, after all, “God is on our side.” We are like families, always wanting to put the blame on one relative, yet refusing to believe that it might be we who are in need of change.

The only way to end this alienation is in true repentance. When we start to speak like the Apostle Paul, saying with true conviction, “I am the chief of sinners,” grace abounds, and God changes our hearts. Without the acquisition of a humble and contrite heart, it will always be about “them.”

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**ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING! Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church shall conduct its monthly Church Officers’ Session next month on Monday, September 24, 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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**MOTHERS & DAUGHTERS’ TAILGATE PARTY ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 9TH DURING THE FELLOWSHIP HOUR! “Are you ready for some football?” With the start of the NFL season two weeks away, the women’s organization is planning a “pigskin” event on the second Lord’s Day in September when you can purchase a “Hot Dog” Game time meal with baked beans, potato chips and other sweet or salty “munchies” to enjoy in the parish hall or take home for the Steelers’ game. The cost for the repast is only: \$6.00. Sign-up for the “goodies” on the request list in the auditorium. Also, a Steeler Basket raffle will be staged on that date, so you’ll want purchase plenty of ducats to increase your odds of winning. Plus, 2 tickets for the**

Pittsburgh vs Atlanta (home) game on Sunday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M. will be secured by some lucky ticket-holder. Chances are \$10.00 each and only 100 will be solicited. See Jean Colantoni for tickets.

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**ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC** – Our annual church picnic will be on Sunday, September 16, 2018 at the Park in West Mifflin. There will be no Coffee & Fellowship Hour that Lord’s Day following the Divine Liturgy, so that faithful members can quickly drive directly to the Park, off of Bettis Road. 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.

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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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**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, Pam Kimbrell, 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. Thank you! Without your support, this project would not have been a success!

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**COME AND HELP US MAKE A VARIETY OF PIROHI ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:00 P.M.!** We want to get an early start on the Fall Food Festival with the making of the Slavic delicacy. Exhibit your wonderful stewardship traits for the Lord’s Bride (The Church) and enjoy the fellowship of believers who share our precious faith. Commit yourself to the Annual Fall Food Festival (Oct. 12 & 13). Sign-up sheets will be posted in the parish hall shortly, so please sign up. Be involved! Be engaged! Thank You!

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**ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL MEETING -** There will be a meeting of the Annual Fall Food Festival committee on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M., prior to the Saint Nectarios service at 7:00 P.M. All interested persons should attend this session to support our festival.

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**SAVE THE DATE – COME & SEE – SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> 2018 – NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS GREEK ORTHODOX MONASTERY -** With the Blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Savas, Gerontissa Theophano & her Sisterhood warmly welcome you to: **5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DINNER BANQUET** in memory of Gerontissa Taxiarchia at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral. 3:30 Vespers; 6:00 Dinner. Salmon or Chicken Entrees: \$100 per ticket. RSVP Online Now: 2018MonasteryBanquet.Eventbrite.com 121 St. Elias Lane – Saxonburgh, PA 16056 724-352-3999 [www.nativityofthetheotokosmonastery.org](http://www.nativityofthetheotokosmonastery.org)

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**WORK AT KENNYWOOD PARK DURING THE FRIDAYS AND SATURDAY’S “FRIGHT NIGHTS” IN OCTOBER, PERMITTING OUR CHURCH TO REAP A FINANCIAL TOKEN!** You must be an adult, at least 18 years of age to participate in these two areas: Costumed Actors or Actresses lending their skills and talents to “scare” patrons in frightening encounters with the customers, or working in the food or concessions’ stands soliciting refreshments for the frenzied crowds. Depending on the hours that you labor in either of these areas, a monetary check will be sent to your place of worship. Consider this means of employment as a stewardship venture for St. Nicholas Church. Inform our church president, Tom Pingor, if you and other parishioners would be willing to engage in these amusement park activities.

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**FALL BAZAAR AT SAINT MICHAEL’S ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RANKIN, PA ON SUNDAY, OCT. 14<sup>TH</sup> FROM 11:00 A.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M.!** The parish is located at 146 Third Avenue. There will be a variety of foods including Slavic Specialties for eat-in or take-out, Bake Sale, Children’s Games, Beverages, Raffles, Crafts and Bingo. Plenty of parking is available. For additional information please call Fr. Nik at (412) 271-2725.

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**TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL 7-K WALK FOR MISSIONS AT SOUTH PARK, SPONSORED BY THE ORTHODOX CLERGY BROTHERHOOD, ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2018!** 2018 Walk Proceeds earmarked for the Guatemalan Mission – Catechetical Training Center. Walker with the highest collected funds at walk will receive Fleet Feet Shoes certificate. Register at Walk: 1:00 P.M. Oct. 14 at South Park’s Children’s Playground Pavilion, (Corrigan & Brownsville Rd., 15129). Complimentary Refreshments before the Walk and Lunch after the Walk. Super Holy Oil Blessing, Pinata at 1:30 P.M.; Walk begins at 2:00 P.M.

Free T-shirt for children 8 years and under who raise \$50 or others who raise \$100 or more. Mail balances by Oct. 30 to: Walk for Missions, C/O Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228.

## [Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)