

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, September 9, 2018

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Resurrection Tone: 6

Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 96-98 / Red Book: 111-114

Birthday prayers intoned for: **Olga Grimes** as she celebrates her 90th year of birth on Sept. 15th.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Mary Yarina** on the 25th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord and for: +**John Yarina**, offered by Mary Ann Kelch (Daughter).

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Rosalia Fesz**, offered by Mary Soffel (Daughter).

Monday, (Sept. 10)... 7:00 P.M. Vespers on the Holy Day of the Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

Tuesday, (Sept. 11)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Holy Day of the Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John – (Strict Fast Day, when there is not eating of meat or dairy products).

Wednesday, (Sept. 12)... 7:00 P.M. Service of Saint Nectarios, with the Anointing of the sick, in body & soul.

Thursday, (Sept. 13)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Michael Hreha**, offered by Susan Hreha (Wife).

Friday, (Sept. 14)... The Indiction: Ecclesiastical (Church) New Year.

Sunday, September 16, 2018

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Resurrection Tone: 7

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 99-101 / Red Book: 114-117

Matthew 22:35-46 –

22:35-40 – The Pharisees had found 613 commandments in the Scriptures and debated about which one was central. Jesus sets forth the **first** and the **second**, which constitute the grand summary of the Law. Though the **lawyer** has come with malice to test the Lord, we know from St. Mark's account that this man is converted by Christ's answer (Mark 12:28-34).

22:39 – This **second** commandment must be understood as written: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself**, or more clearly, "as being yourself." It is often misinterpreted, "You shall

love your neighbor as you love yourself,” which destroys the force of the statement. How much we love ourselves is not the standard by which Christ is calling us to love others. Rather, we are called to love our neighbor as being of the same nature as we ourselves are, as being created in God’s image and likeness just as we are. As the Fathers teach, we find our true self in loving our neighbor.

22:41-46 – Christ asks this question to lead the Pharisees to the only logical conclusion: that He is God incarnate. They supposed the Messiah to be a mere man, and therefore reply that the Messiah would be a **Son of David**. David, as king of Israel, could not and would not address anyone as “Lord” except God. Yet in Psalm 109:1, David refers to the Messiah as “Lord.” Therefore, the Messiah must be God. The only possible conclusion is that the Messiah is a descendant of David only according to the flesh, yet is also truly divine, sharing His Lordship with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. The Pharisees do not **answer** because they realize the implications and are afraid to confess Jesus to be the Son of God. **Luke 20:41-44** – The first reference to **the Lord** applies to God the Father, while the term **my Lord** refers to Christ. This question is answered in that Christ is the Son of David in His humanity and David’s **Lord** in His divinity.

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>

HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY LOVE EVERYONE?

By Abbot Tryphon in “The Morning Offering”

We are instructed by Christ to love our neighbors as ourselves – and even to love our enemies. There are always individuals we find difficult to like, let alone love. Given this, how do we follow the commandment of Christ to love everyone?

As Christians we venerate icons of Christ, among them those that show Him suffering on the Cross. When the priest or deacon censes the church during the services, he also censes the people, recognizing the image of God in everyone.

If we see everyone as Christ, we can still love those who are unlovable, unkind, hurtful, or even evil if we look upon them as Christ crucified. They, like us, are created in the image and likeness of God, yet their sin obscures the image. They, by their fallen nature and unrepentant lives, embody Christ crucified. They are loved by God, and we are commanded to do the same.

But how? This is where grace comes in. Like St. Paul, we can say that anything good we do is Christ in us. Loving one’s enemies is perhaps one of the most difficult of Christ’s commandments to keep, but with Christ all things are possible. As we struggle to love others, we must do so with a prayerful heart, asking that the Lord give us the grace needed to truly love others. It is the same grace from God that is needed to forgive those who offend or hurt us. God forgives us and loves us, so we can also forgive and love others. It is all about grace, for if we seek out the aid of the Holy Spirit, all things good can be ours, including holiness.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING! Saint Nicholas Orthodox

Church shall conduct its monthly Church Officers’ Session 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.

COME DOWNSTAIRS AFTER LITURGY AND ENJOY THE “TAIL-GATE PARTY” DURING THE FELLOWSHIP HOUR! “Are you ready for some football?” With the start of the NFL season, the women’s organization is staging a “pigskin” event” today where 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. Also, a Steelers Gear (10 prizes) raffle will take place on this Lord’s Day, so you’ll want to purchase plenty of ducats to increase your odds of winning. Plus, 2 tickets for the Pittsburgh vs Atlanta (home) game on Sunday, Oct. 7th 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. And, good luck to you legion of black & gold football devotees.

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. Tickets for the picnic are on sale. Adult - \$8, Students 6-18 - \$5, Children 5 and under FREE. Please purchase your tickets as soon as possible from Thomas Pingor, Church Council President. Susan Miller will be collecting donations for the Chinese Auction. You may bring them with you to the picnic or give them to her after Liturgy. Also, please consider bringing a dessert. Thank you!

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.

COME AND HELP US MAKE A VARIETY OF PIROHI ON TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 18 & 25 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!

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

SAVE THE DATE – COME & SEE – SEPTEMBER 22ND 2018 – NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS GREEK ORTHODOX MONASTERY - With the Blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Savas, Gerontissa Theophano & her Sisterhood warmly welcome you to: **5th 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

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.

FALL BAZAAR AT SAINT MICHAEL’S ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RANKIN, PA ON SUNDAY, OCT. 14TH 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 more information please call Fr. Nik at (412) 271-2725.

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.

A GRACIOUS THANK YOU CARD RECEIVED: Bless, Father: I want to write to tell you how grateful I am for your prayers during my recent surgeries & hospitalizations. Thank you for remembering me during my time of need. I know well “the fervent prayers of a righteous man avails much” (Jam. 5:16). Please also extend my appreciation to St. Nicholas parishioners who sent cards & flowers to extend their thoughts & prayers for my recovery. The Apostle James tells us to “... pray for one another that you might be healed...”

(for)... prayer avails much" (James 5:16). I am grateful for the kindness you have shown me and will remember all of you in my own prayers. Kissing your right hand, Katherine Beauchamp.

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