

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. 41

Sunday, October 14, 2018

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & FEAST OF THE PROTECTION OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Hebrews 9:1-7

Resurrection Tone: 3 Gospel: Luke 6:31-36 (Sunday)

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Protection)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87-89; 113-114 / Red Book: 102-105; 129-130

Altar Candles' Sponsor: 49th Wedding Anniversary of **Robert & Trona Paganico**, offered by Children & Grandchildren.

Birthday Prayers intoned for: **Sara Merritt** (Oct. 14), **Breanna Merritt** (Oct. 16), **Jacob Pido** (Oct. 22), offered by Gaylene Merritt.

Wedding Anniversary petition intoned for **Robert & Trona Paganico** on their 49th Anniversary in Holy Matrimony.

NO WEEKDAY CHURCH SERVICES WILL BE CELEBRATED AT ST. NICHOLAS FROM OCT. 15 THROUGH OCT. 24, 2018!

Father Michael will be taking a short vacation, beginning on Thursday, October 18, and shall return to Homestead on Wednesday, October 24. While he is away from the parish, there will be **no** weekday Divine Liturgies or Prayer (Moleben) services conducted at St. Nicholas. In case of an emergency where an Orthodox Christian priest is needed, please phone Rev. Fr. David Urban of St. John the Baptist Church in North Side Pittsburgh, PA at (412) 748-0148. Fr. Michael & Pani Deborah kindly ask our faithful members to pray that their priest and his wife will have a safe trip and experience a refreshing vacation period.

Sunday, October 21, 2018

21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 Resurrection Tone: 4 Gospel: Luke 7:11-16 (3rd Sunday of Luke)

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

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of **+Ernie Vasil** on the 3rd Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Mary Ann & Tracy.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of **+Ernie Vasil** on the third Anniversary (Oct. 26) of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Mary Ann Vasil & Tracy Hvasta.

Birthday Prayers intoned for: **Ann Tomko**, who will become 95 years young on Oct. 19, 2018, offered by Andrew Tomko & Family.

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 –

10:38-42 – Mary and Martha are the sisters of Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead (John 11:1). Martha is not rebuked for **servicing**, but for complaining and being **distracted, worried, and troubled**. In following Christ, we serve in order to facilitate the spread of the gospel.

11:27, 28 – These verses are read on most feasts of the Virgin Mary. Jesus corrects the **woman from the crowd**, not by denouncing his mother, but by emphasizing her faith. People are **blessed** in God’s eyes if, like Mary, they **hear the word of God and keep it**. The Greek word *menouge*, here rendered **more than that**, is translated “Yes indeed” in Rom. 10:18. This word corrects by amplifying, not by negating.

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>

APPARITIONS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

By Proto. Lawrence Barriger’s Insights Into The Orthodox Faith

On October 1st (14th), the Church celebrates the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God. This Feast commemorates the apparition of the Mother of God in the Blachernae Church of Constantinople.

Although the traditions vary concerning when this event happened, most sources agree that it was on October 1st, 911, under the reign of the Emperor Leo the Wise. At that time, Slav barbarians were besieging the city of Constantinople. (Other versions of the story say that there was a plague raging at the time). Many people gathered in the Blachernae Church that was dedicated to the Mother of God to spend the night in prayer. About four o’clock in the morning the Mother of God appeared over the crowd, clad in purple and gold encrusted clothing and spreading out a veil in her hands as though to protect them.

Seeing this vision, St. Andrew the “Fool for Christ” gestured towards it and asked his disciple Epiphanius, “Do you see how the Queen and Lady is praying for all?” The icon of the Protection of the Mother of God reflects this vision and St. Andrew’s expression of joy. The annual remembrance of this apparition was the genesis of this beautiful Feast.

Most psychologists and anthropologists would agree that apparitions and visions are a part of the human experience. It is not uncommon that in religious experience there are apparitions. Some accounts of the vision of the “Protection of the Mother of God” in the Blachernae Church claim that St. Andrew and his disciple, St Epiphanius, were the only ones who saw the apparition. Other accounts imply that the Theotokos was seen by all present.

The vision of the Mother of God at the Coptic Orthodox Church of the Theotokos in Zeitun, Egypt in 1968 were witnessed by thousands of people. Orthodox, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslims, and atheists all bore witness to the same thing. The vision of the Mother of God, lasting one time as long as eight hours, did not have any “secret” messages or deliver any explicit detailed instructions on faith or practice. This vision of Mary was not to a select group of visionaries but, like the weeping icon of Chicago that many of us witnessed, was plainly seen by all present and challenged the doubts of all in her presence.

This is perhaps the greatest criterion by which to judge the “authenticity” of any apparition of the Mother of God: it is not given to a select group of “initiates” with

secret instructions but, like the vision of the Mother of God in the Blachernae Church centuries ago, to all who seek her intercession with a pure heart.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING! Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church shall conduct its monthly Church Officers' Session on Thursday, October 25, 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.

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION TO ALL MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH! Thanks to Carol Dunn and all Parishioners of St. Nicholas from Olga Grimes and her family for all the cards and special 90th Birthday greetings. She is near her daughter in California and is happy and in a sweet state. She paints beautiful pictures and enjoys looking at the ocean. Sincerely, Gary Grimes.

SUBMIT THE (OCF) MARKED ENVELOPE WITH AN APPROPRIATE OFFERING! Recognizing our college students and bringing awareness to Orthodox campus ministry that is taking place through the efforts of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, let us contribute liberally to this endorsed agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. As our beloved Bishop Gregory has pointed out on numerous occasions, statistics show us that more than 6 out of 10 of all young adults, including Orthodox, leave the Church after graduating from high school and college. To help counteract this trend, OCF is on the frontlines of over 350 college campuses engaging our students in the Orthodox faith through fellowship, education, worship, and service. Through this four-tiered approach, college students who participate in OCF make their way from schools to parishes spiritually stronger and ready to serve.

A WORKSHOP ON RAISING BELIEFING CHILDREN – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27 FROM 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M. AT CAMP NAZARETH, MERCER, PA! Child Care Provided by Camp Nazareth. Lunch and Snacks Provided. Register for the event at acrod.org. Freewill Offering at the Door. Presentations and Discussions led by His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa and Very Rev. Stephen Loposky.

FALL BAZAAR AT SAINT MICHAEL'S ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RANKIN, PA TODAY, OCT. 14, 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, TODAY, OCTOBER 14! 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.

CHURCH OFFICERS WILL MEET FOR A STEWARDSHIP SESSION ON SATURDAY, NOV. 3RD AT 1 P.M. IN THE PARISH AUDITORIUM! Danny Hromyak, member of the Diocesan Stewardship Commission, shall inform our parish leaders the steps taken by our Diocesan parish of St. John's Church in Hermitage, PA in implementing the stewardship program for the welfare of the church. All church board members are kindly asked to be present.

JUNIOR ACRY ENCOUNTER AT CAMP NAZARETH NOVEMBER 9-11, 2018! The Junior ACRY invites youth aged 8-18 to attend the weekend Encounter 2018 at 339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA. Join the national organization for a weekend of prayer, fun and fellowship. Activities will include Divine Liturgy, a religious talk with clergy, sports, and a special event. His Grace, Bishop Gregory will be with us as well. Registration is on Friday, Nov. 9th – 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. Conclusion: Sunday, Nov. 11th – 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy – Parents welcome! Noon Encounter Dismissal. Registration Forms are available at <http://www.acrod.org/organizations/senioracry/jracry/forms>. Please email sarahlavra@gmail.com by Nov. 1.

ALL-NIGHT VIGIL WITH THE KARDIOTISSA (TENDER-HEARTED ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD) ON FRIDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 9 AT HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN MT. LEBANON, PA! Join the community of Holy Cross. 6:00 PM – Arrival of the Kardiotissa Icon; 7:00 PM – Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos; 8:00 PM – Sermon and stories by Fr. Mark Leasure, followed by anointing with Myrrh; 10:00 PM – Festive Matins/Orthros Service (With hymns to the Theotokos and St. Arsenius of Cappadocia – Feast Day Nov. 10 – the godfather of St. Paisius the Athonite); 11:30 PM – Divine Liturgy; 1:00 AM – Light meal; The church will be open all night for you to come pray. The icon will depart Saturday morning. Holy Cross Church, Gilkeson Road in Mt. Lebanon, across from the Galleria.

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church