

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

Vol. 6; No. 42

Sunday, October 21, 2018

21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service of the 3rd Hour: 8:20 A.M.

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 became 95 years young on Oct. 19, 2018, offered by Andrew Tomko & Family.

Thursday, (Oct. 25)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Elizabeth Bigda**, offered by +Helen Beres.

Sunday, October 28, 2018

22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 Resurrection Tone: 5 Gospel: Luke 8:5-15 (4th Sunday of Luke)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 93-95; 114-115 / Red Book: 108-110; 130-131

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Raymond Brancho**, +**Eugene Brancho** & +**Maria Zini**, offered by Andrew & Lucy Tomko.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Mrs. Anna Brugos**, on the 19th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, and for: +**Mrs. Shirley Brugos**, on her birthday, offered by Edward J. Brugos, Cheri Williams & Family, Deborah Daniels & Family.

Luke 7:11-16 –

7:11-17 – This is one of the three resurrections performed by our Lord as recorded in the Gospels (see also **Luke 8:41-56; John 11:1-44**). They confirm the promise given to the prophet Ezekiel that God will one day open the graves and raise all the dead (Ezekiel 37:1-14). Many people have exercised authority over the living; only the Son of God “has power over both the living and the dead” (funeral service). While Christ has power through His word alone (John 11:43), here He also **touch**ed the coffin to show that His very body is life-giving. This event also prefigures Christ's own Resurrection. As Mary would weep for Jesus at the Cross, yet her tears would be turned to joy by the Resurrection, here a widow's **only son** is raised from the dead, putting an end to her weeping (Saint Ambrose, the Martyr)

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>

STRIVING TO BRING A "NEW NORMAL" INTO OUR LIVES!

By Father John Matusiak

Labor Day has come and gone – as has the “ecclesiastical new year” which Orthodox Christians observe on the first day (Sept. 14) of September. As the days become shorter, we once again focus on the “normal routines” we may have suspended during the “lazy, hazy days of summer” – family, school, work and church.

As with the beginning of the civil new year on the first of January, the ecclesiastical new year provides Orthodox lives with an opportunity to take stock of their spiritual lives while resolving to “do better” with regard to our relationships with our Lord, our families and friends, our coworkers, and yes, even our enemies. The new year brings with it the expectation of “cleaning house” of those things we need to change in our lives – a “new beginning,” so to speak, in becoming the persons our Lord call us to be.

In addition, of course, to regularly participating in the Church's liturgy and fellowship – things we may have missed on occasion during the summer months – there are three elements of Church life that we are called to fully embrace not only now, but every day of our lives.

The first is prayer. How often we feel overwhelmed when it comes to making time to pray, given the “busy-ness” we find ourselves facing as fall approaches. Prayer involves so more than simply bringing our sorrows and joys before the Lord. It involves embracing a spirit of thanksgiving to God for all of His blessings and gifts – and for our very lives themselves. When we are in need or distress, we rarely fail to ask for God's help and guidance in discerning His will. Yet we often forget to render thanks to Him when our prayers are answered. In the Old Testament books of Psalms – sometimes called the Church's “first hymnal” - we encounter words of repentance and lament, but we likewise find praises of thanksgiving to God: “O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!” But beyond the words of our prayers is our call to embrace the very presence of the divine as we pray. One certainly should “talk to God” in prayer, but acknowledge His presence in every moment of our lives is the ultimate goal. At this time of the year it is a good idea to consider that while we may often find ourselves reading prayers, we may not be praying – in the sense of embracing God's presence in our lives, and especially during times of change or difficulty or conflict. Through our words, we indeed “connect” and “communicate” with our Lord, even though as one of the prayers of the Church notes that “there are no words which suffice to praise Thy wonders.” What we seek, on a deeper level, is to know God, not to merely know about Him; to experience Him at every junction of our lives; and to anticipate the eternal life He offers to those who respond to His invitation to “come and see.”

Fasting is equally central to our lives as Christians. Our Lord fasted – and for Orthodox Christians, fasting is not an “option,” but an “expectation.” In the Gospel of Saint Matthew, our Lord says, “when you fast,” not “if you choose to fast.” And while the Church indeed designates certain days and seasons during which fasting from certain foods is the expectation, now is a good time to consider other things from which we might refrain – such as the amount of time we watch television or spend surfing the

internet or post things on Facebook and Instagram. Fasting not only involves refraining from this or that food item, but also involves our ability to control those other things that, left unchecked, we often allow to control us, regardless of what those things might be. While fasting from food, we should also consider fasting from anger, gossip, idle talk, and life's endless distractions that, in reality, only complicate our lives.

Finally, we are called to give alms, to help those in need, to "put our faith into action" by reaching out to the needy, the homeless, the poor and forgotten and marginalized, even as our Lord reaches out to us so freely and lovingly. In Matthew 25, we read the parable of the sheep and the goats, in which our Lord reveals that giving alms means more than giving money to various causes. Rather, He reveals that what we are called to give is ourselves – our time and our talents, as well as our treasures – to one and all, especially to the least of those among us, recognizing in them the very icon and image and presence of our Lord, and treating them with the same love we would if they were the Lord Himself.

As we return to our predictable routines, let us also fully embrace the opportunity to discover a "new normal," to "begin our lives anew" in and with our Lord and those whom He sends our way. May our resolution be one that enables us to re-order our lives in His image, to turn away from those things that prevent us from doing so, and to fully embrace the opportunities available to us through the scriptural practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

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.

PARTICIPATE IN THE ETHNIC FOOD FAIR OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH IN EAST PITTSBURGH THIS SATURDAY FROM 11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.! The Pittsburgh Deanery parish is located at 211 Cable Avenue, and you can eat in or take out the mouth-watering Slavic delicacies, including Pirohi, that will be available. Raffle Baskets & Bake Sale are also featured. More info: Call 412-824-0246.

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.

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](#)