

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, November 11, 2018

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22 Resurrection Tone: 7 Gospel: Luke 8:26-39 (6th Sunday of Luke)

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

Birthday Prayers intoned for: **Michael Fischer**, on his 42nd Birthday, offered by the Family; and for: **John Koreny** (Nov. 11), offered by Mildred Koreny;

Wedding Anniversary Prayers intoned for: **Alicia & Nick Kerber** on their 1st year Anniversary in Holy Matrimony, offered by Mom & Dad.

Monday, (Nov. 12)... 10:00 A.M. Memorial (Panachida) Service at St. Nicholas Church Cemetery on Veterans' Day.

Wednesday, (Nov. 14)... 7:00 P.M. Moleben (Prayer) Service of St. Nectarios, with the Anointing of the sick, in body and soul.

Thursday, (Nov. 15)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Andrew Revak**, offered by Wife, Helen & Children, Dan & Patricia.

Friday, (Nov. 16)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Michael & +Susan Hresko**, offered by Mary Bake (Daughter).

Sunday, November 18, 2018

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-7 Resurrection Tone: 8 Gospel: Luke 8:41-56 (7th Sunday of Luke)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 102-104 / Red Book: 117-119

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of +**Sue Semancik** on the 40th day of her falling asleep in the Lord (Nov. 21).

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Clifford Price**, offered by +Marlene Price, Wife.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Charles & +Olga Romanchuk**, offered by Mary Ann and +Ernie Vasil.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, wife & mother, +**Michelle Dzvonic** and for her mother, +**Sophie Virostek**, offered by the Dzvonic & Bishop Families.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's newly-departed servant, +**Maxine Kimbrell** on the 40th day of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Jim & Pamela Kimbrell.

Luke 8:26-39 –

Math. 8:28-34 – The demons, recognizing Jesus as the **Son of God**, are surprised that their power is being terminated **before the time** of the last judgment. Though the malice of the demons is great, they can do nothing against the will of God, and thus can only enter the **swine** at Christ's command. The immediate destruction of the **herd** shows that the men had been protected by God's care; otherwise, they would have perished under the demonic influence. Further, it reinforces that swineherding was not lawful for the Jews, and shows the incomparable value of human beings, whose salvation is worth every sacrifice.

Luke 8:33 – Some teach that the presence of **swine** indicates a Gentile population. However, since our Lord forbade His disciples to go to the Gentiles (Math. 10:5) and was Him reluctant to seek out the Gentiles (Math. 15:24), likely these were Jews engaged in a sinful occupation.

Math. 4:15 – The term **Galilee of the Gentiles** indicates that many non-Jews lived in the region. Having a mixed population, it was not considered a genuinely Jewish land, even though many Gentile residents had converted to Judaism during the Maccabean period. Because many of the Jews there had been influenced by the Greek culture and its customs, they were generally considered second-class citizens by the Jews of Judea.

The destruction of the entire **herd** reveals: (1) while animals are a venerable part of creation, man is of far greater value; (2) Christ removes a source of sin, for swine herding was an abomination to the Jews (Dt. 14:8); (3) **demons** have no power over creation, but are subject to the will of God – they could only enter the swine at Christ's command; (4) people are protected under God's providence – otherwise the demon-possessed man would have come to the same end as the swine; (5) the magnitude of the economic loss would remain as a sign for the hardhearted people who fled the region (v. 34).

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>

THE HOUND OF HEAVEN

By Fr. John Mack in the "Journey to the Kingdom"

The Fathers refer to God as the Hound of Heaven. Hound dogs are very persistent. Once they have a scent, they don't give up. God is the Hound of Heaven: He will not leave us alone, He will not leave us in this nice world that we have created for ourselves, which is an illusion, a world which will most surely take us to hell. Even if we don't want Him, He will constantly remind us of Himself. The Fathers say that God becomes the burr under the saddle, the rock that's in your shoe when you're hiking that you can't find and you can't get rid of.

God becomes that for all of us, not because He wants to make our lives miserable, but because He loves us. And we get angry. We get angry at God's reminders and at those He commissions to remind us, such as priests and bishops and pious friends. God doesn't pay attention to our anger. God loves us so much that He sends messengers. We can kill the first messenger, and God sends a second. We can kill the second messenger, and God sends a third. We can kill the third messenger, and God will send a fourth, just as He sent prophet after prophet to the children of Israel.

God hounds us with His love until finally He's backed us into a corner and we have nowhere to go. I'm sure you've been in that corner many times, and you break down and say, "Okay, You beat me. I want You in my life. I believe and I will live by faith."

You would think we would learn our lesson. But you know what happens – we start getting full of ourselves and we start asking God to leave again. God keeps coming after us until we break and say, “Lord, I believe.”

This Gospel lesson ultimately is not about the demon-possessed man nor about the villagers. This Gospel lesson is about Jesus and His love for us. This Gospel lesson frightens us, because we know that we ask God to leave, and we could ask Him to leave our lives completely. Yet the Gospel lesson also reassures and comforts us; it reminds us that even if, in our worst moments, we do ask God to leave, God loves us too much to leave us. God desires our salvation too much ever to let us go. God will come again and again.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING! Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church shall conduct its monthly Church Officers’ Session on Monday, November 26, 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.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS VS. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS WINTER 2018 BLOCK POOL! Our church is conducting a Winter Block Pool for the football game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the New England Patriots on Sunday, December 16, 2018. Each block will be offered at a price of \$10/block. Prizes will be awarded for the end of the 1st and 3rd Quarter at \$50; Half-Time prize is \$100; and the Final Score prize is \$300. Please stop by the church hall after Sunday services or contact Tom Pingor to purchase a block or two to support this fundraiser of our church. And, Thank You for your support!

SENIOR A.C.R.Y. CHAPTER #11 REMINDERS: Purchase a “Lots of Luck Calendar” for \$25 from Carol Dunn and become eligible to win a monetary prize daily for a whole year. These calendars are perfect gifts to give on the Feast of St. Nicholas or the Nativity of Christ celebration; Place an order for the delectable Christmas candies from Gertrude Hawk Chocolates and permit our chapter to reap a 50% profit on all requests. The scrumptious candies have been sampled by our Church officers, who attest of its fine quality and addictive possibilities. Purchase a good supply of chocolates for the holidays to serve to visitors, family members and friends; Have your name appear as a Patron, Booster or Memorial Lister in the Full-Color ACRY Annual. You have until the end of November to have your name listed in the Diocesan Yearbook. The annual publication is filled with photos of Diocesan church life and splendid articles concerning our Orthodox Christian faith.

IOCC ORTHODOX HOMEFRONT: PARISH EMERGENCY, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE WORKSHOP THIS AFTERNOON AT HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH FROM 2:30-5:30!

The Church is located at 985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237. The Homefront helps parishes prepare for regional emergencies, disasters, and parish critical incidents, enhances their capability to respond, and connects parishes with a network of organizations and agencies active in emergencies. Parish leaders – especially clergy, church council/board members, and laypeople with expertise in emergency response, health and social services, etc. Register free online to www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/events/homefront. (Limit 3-6 attendees per parish).

DINNER WITH WINE PAIRINGS TODAY FROM 6:00-8:00 P.M. AT KHALIL’S II RESTAURANT IN PITTSBURGH, PA! Hosted by the eating established, located at 4757 Baum Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Come enjoy a traditional family-style Middle Eastern feast with four wine pairings. Tickets: \$75 per person. Limited seating available. Questions? Contact Danielle Opacic at dopacic@verizon.net or 412-915-5525. Tickets & Sponsorships at iocc.org/pittsburgh

THE PITTSBURGH ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULTS’ MEETING THIS EVENING AT 6:30 AT THE INDUSTRY PUBLIC HOUSE IN LAWRENCEVILLE, PA HAS BEEN CANCELLED!

VETERAN’S DAY SERVICE AT ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH CEMETERY ON MONDAY, NOV. 12TH AT 10 A.M.! Please come to this memorial service at the cemetery and pay your respect to our veterans!

FELLOWSHIP, FOOD, RAFFLES, AND OF COURSE, TURKEY BINGO AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH IN NORTH SIDE PITTSBURGH NEXT SUNDAY, NOV. 18! “Look for the Gold Domes” at 2688 California Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212. Doors Open at 2 – Bingo Begins at 3. Come and experience an afternoon of fun amongst family and friends! Winners will receive a turkey to take home. Please Come Hungry! Meals, refreshments, and other goodies will be available for purchase from our Carpathian Kitchen. Donation is \$10 for admission which includes 3 Bingo cards. Additional cards and “Specials” will be available for purchase. Please RSVP to ORTHODOXPITTSBURGH1932@GMAIL.COM OR 412-748-0148. Checks payable to “St. John the Baptist Church”

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