

# Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



## American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

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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 25, 2018**

## 26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19 Resurrection Tone: 1 Gospel: Luke 10:25-37 (8th Sunday of Luke)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81-83 / Red Book: 95-99

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Cathy & Samantha Trumpower's** Birthdays, offered by husband & father, Doug.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servants, +**John**, +**Margaret** (on her Birthday), and +**Johnny Harris**, offered by Deborah Harris.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Cynthia A. Dzvonic**, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Belan.

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**Wednesday, (Nov. 28)...** Nativity Fast (Philip's Fast) Begins – On this first day of the Christmas Fast or Advent, no meat or dairy products are to be eaten by the faithful members of the Church.

**Thursday, (Nov. 29)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Mary Lukacs**, offered by the Children.

**Saturday, (Dec. 1)...** 11:00 A.M. to 12 Noon Hearing of Confessions during the Nativity Fast.

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**Sunday, December 2, 2018**

## 27<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17 Resurrection Tone: 2 Gospel: Luke 12:16-21 (9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 84-86 / Red Book: 99-102

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Bob Bartko's** Birthday, offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Cynthia A. Dzvonic**, offered by Timothy J. Kane (Son).

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, father, +**Andrew Janicko**, offered by Mary Janicko and Helen Revak (daughters).

**Luke 10:25-37 –**

**10:30 – Jerusalem** is the place of peace, symbolic of communion with God. **Jericho**, on the other hand, was renowned as a place of sin. **Jericho** was notorious as a place of iniquity and is commonly associated with sinful living.

**10:31, 32 –** Titles and positions are meaningless in God's sight when good deeds do not accompany them: "The dignity of the priesthood means nothing unless he also excels in deeds."

(St. Cyril of Alexandria). That the **priest** and the **Levite** do not help the man also indicates the failure of the Old Testament Law to heal the consequences of sin.

**10:33** – The **Samaritan**, while a despised foreigner, is an image of Christ (John 8:48), for He “came down from heaven” (Creed) to save even those in rebellion against Him.

**10:34, 35** – The bandages, **oil**, and **wine** are sacramental images for (1) the garment of baptism, which delivers us from the wounds of sin; (2) the oil of chrismation, which gives us new life in the Holy Spirit; and (3) the communion of the divine Blood, which leads to eternal life. **His own animal** indicates Christ bearing our sins in His own body, and the **inn** reveals the Church in which Christ’s **care** is received. He pays the price for that care (1 Co. 6:20; 7:23).

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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/acroddioocese> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews> You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddioocese>

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## THE SAINTS AND THE POOR

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

The Orthodox Church is very clear in her teaching regarding the poor. Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us by His example as the great philanthropos, and we can do nothing less than follow. He commanded us to love and serve the poor and hungry. He told us we must care for the sick and suffering, and that we must visit those in prisons and clothe the naked.

The Church’s liturgical hymns and seasons are filled with the commemoration of saints who were known for their love of the poor. St. Basil the Great of the third century established Church-sponsored hospitals and mental institutions. St. Nicholas of Myra distributed money to those in need. St. John the Almsgiver was one of the most charitable patriarchs of the Byzantine Empire. St. Joseph of Volokholamsk emphasized the ancient monastic tradition of hospitality and care for the poor, and St. Elizabeth, a grand duchess of Russia, established hospitals for the poor and destitute. The newly canonized saint Mother Maria Skobtsova created soup kitchens and established houses of hospitality in World War II France.

The holy saints provide unique examples to the rest of us of what it means to be Christian. They showed forth the light of Christ by following His example of love for the poor, giving of their talents, time, and money to those in need. Orthodox Christians hold up the saints as exemplary people whose lives are worthy of emulation. They show us the way to live out the Gospels and point out the way of Christ.

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**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 anyone can participate and express their opinions.

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**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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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; Get ready to place an order for the mouth-watering St. Nicholas Medovniki Cookies that will soon be baked and sold by the Senior Chapter. The pastries will be individually wrapped with a special treat from St. Nick himself; Have your name appear as a Patron (\$6), Booster (\$3), or Memorial Lister (\$6) in the New 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.

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**YOUR FUTURE PASTOR WILL BE THEOLOGICALLY-TRAINED AT CHRIST THE SAVIOUR SEMINARY IN JOHNSTOWN, PA; SUBMIT A GENEROUS SUM TO THE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL!**

Our God-saved Diocese is dependent upon and blessed to have a wonderful theological school in Johnstown, PA for the training of our future parish priests. We pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood and are charitable in our monetary gifts to this Diocesan Apostolate. One of our present Deacons, Fr. Deacon Marc is now taking a class at the institution. Therefore, let us submit our financial contributions, using the specially-marked "Seminary Offering" envelope in your box set of paper containers.

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**HOLY TRINITY SPIRITUAL LIFE MINISTRY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE 2018 PARISH FAMILY RETREAT ENTITLED "CREATED TO THRIVE IN PARENTING IN OUR HOME. IN MARRIAGE, IN COMMUNITY" ON FRIDAY, NOV. 30, 7:30-9:00 pm & SATURDAY, DEC. 1, 9:00 am-3:00 pm AT THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN PITTSBURGH, PA!**

Dr. Philip Mamalakis, Speaker, Author, Professor, Husband, is the Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA. He has spoken at conferences and retreats around the country on the topics of Orthodox pastoral theology and marriage, family, and parenting. He is author of "The Journey of Marriage in the Orthodox Church" and the recently-released "Parenting Toward the Kingdom." Admission is Free but registration is required. Sign up online, today. The Retreat includes lunch on Saturday from 12:30-1:15 pm. Everyone is welcome! Childcare available on advance request. Register today at [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/events](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/events) The address of Holy Trinity Church is: 985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237. For info. contact Spiritual [Life@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:Life@HolyTrinityPgh.org) or 412-292-4206. The four sessions of the retreat are: "Thriving in our Home" on Friday evening, 7:30-9:00 pm. Is Church just somewhere we experience sights, sounds and smells? How do we bring Church home? Does our Orthodox Christian Faith make a daily difference? Learn how to connect the reality of the Kingdom of God to our "real life." "Thriving in Community" on Saturday Morning, 9:00-10:30 am. How can we thrive as a Church community? Learn how God is inviting each of us, daily, to grow in His life and love through our relationships with others around us, even when those opportunities aren't as easy as we had hoped. "Thriving in Marriage at Saturday Middy, 11:00 am-12:15 pm. Explore the unique aspects of marriage as we understand it in the Orthodox Church. How does marriage lead us to discover God's plan for "happily ever after?" And how can we learn to thrive in all our intimate relationships? "Thriving in Parenting" on Saturday Afternoon, 1:30 pm-3:00 pm. What can parents do to help kids grow and thrive as Orthodox Christians? Will our children stay connected to the Church when they grow up? How can we foster an environment so they can truly grow into children of God?

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**ST. NICHOLAS "CHARITY DINNER" BENEFITING OUR DIOCESAN SEMINARY WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE EDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB IN PITTSBURGH ON SUNDAY, DEC. 9TH!**

The country club is located at 100 Churchill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235. Cash Bar will be open at 4 P.M., whereas, the bountiful Christmas Buffet-style Feast shall begin at 5 P.M. For the Carpathian Auction that will be staged at the end of this holiday gathering, please offer a Nativity gift that patrons will place many chances before in the container to win. Your presents can be passed on to Father Michael. Tickets for the repast are: \$30 for Adults; \$10 for Children ages 6-12 years old; Free for Kids 5 & younger. Secure the ducats from the financial officers in the church office. And, plan to meet the Seminarians, enjoy the Nativity Carols' sing-a-long, buy lots of chances to win a Christmas prize, and welcome a very Special Guest to the festivities.

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**2019 CHURCH WALL CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE DOWNSTAIRS!** The Savolskis \* Wasik \* Glenn \* Funeral Home in Munhall have once again sponsored the attractive date books for our parishioners, and we are appreciative of their considerate gesture. In order for all of our faithful members to secure a church calendar for their homes, we kindly ask that you merely take one calendar per home.

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**PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST BY GOING TO CONFESSION DURING THE CHRISTMAS FAST!**

Your Pastor will be hearing confessions on all the Saturdays during Advent at designated times. The Philip's Fast affords us the opportunity to increase our sacramental life in the Church, attaining the grace from Almighty God to spiritually nurture our immortal souls in getting ready to receive the new-born Christ-Child and Saviour into our hearts and minds. When we set our thoughts to come to the Mystery of Holy Penance, it is one of the most important, if not the most

vital appointments that we shall ever make in life. We have only ourselves to blame if we feel that Christmas has become so commercialized and consider our own behavior during the holiday season.

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