

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. 7; No. 46

Sunday, December 8, 2019

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (TENTH OF LUKE)

Chanting of the Nativity Canon: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-7;

Resurrection Tone: 8;

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

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

Bulletin Sponsor: **Noah Thorn's** 21st Birthday, offered by God-Parents, Mike Fischer & Debbie Harris.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of **+Mildred Sukal**, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

Birthday Prayers intoned for: **Noah Thorn** (12/10) on his 21st Birthday, offered by God-Mother, Deborah Harris & Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Mildred Sukal**, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+John Koreny**, on the anniversary (Dec. 11) of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by wife, Mildred & Sons.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servants, **+Anna Oross** and **+Michael Oross**, offered by Mary, Helen and John (Children).

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Evelyn Tihey**, offered by Robin & Chuck Gilchrist.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11... 7:00 P.M. Service of Saint Nectarios, with the Anointing of the sick, in body and soul.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14... 11:00 A.M.-12 Noon: Hearing of Confessions during the Nativity Fast.

Sunday, December 15, 2019

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (ELEVENTH OF LUKE)

Chanting of the Nativity Canon: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19;

Resurrection Tone: 1;

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

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

Luke 13:10-17 –

Luke 6:7 – According to certain traditions that **the scribes and Pharisees** had built up around the Law, healing was considered work, and thus was not permissible **on the Sabbath**. They believed they served God by zealously keeping these peripheral traditions, but this legalism made them insensitive to God's mercy.

Luke 13:16 – Think of it: The Fathers see this command as directing us to a spiritual meaning for the **eighteen years**. As the Greek expression is literally translated "ten and eight years," both St. Ambrose and Theophylact see ten as representing the Ten Commandments and eight

as representing grace, for the day of Resurrection is often called the “eighth day.” Thus humanity is lifted up by faith in Christ, who fulfills both law and grace.

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

THE WILDERNESS JOURNAL
365 Days with the PHILOKALIA
By: Angela Doll Carlson
Day 332

We should pay close attention to maintaining inward awareness during confession, so that our conscience will not deceive itself into believing that the confession it has made to God is adequate, for though we may not be aware that we have done anything wrong, the judgement of God is far more severe than our conscience.

“On Spiritual Knowledge and Discrimination,” p. 295
LEFT UNSAID

I SPILL WORDS OUT ON THE table. I dump them there, sort through with care and thought. “This, I’ll take,” I say aloud. “This, I’ll leave here.” I parse the phrases, tell the truth but tell it slant, as Emily Dickinson might say. I don’t imagine she thought of confession when she wrote that poem, but sometimes it fits.

I throw around a few vulnerable words, slide them into the phrases gently, hoping they don’t open any gaping wounds, hoping they don’t tear me up so much that I cannot get out all that I have rehearsed. I place those vulnerable words in there, even so, knowing that they are powerful: greedy, envious, fearful, hurting, lonely, cruel, indifferent.

I place those words believing that I am being truthful, letting God determine what is what, but they turn out to be little land-mines every time, I speak them. My heart explodes. The tears come. It takes me a long time to get the rest out, and by then, it’s no longer the rehearsed confession, no longer the small offering I carefully crafted. There is now nothing left unsaid.

SIGN-UP FOR THE APPETIZING ST. NICHOLAS DAY BRUNCH ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH! In honor of our parish’s Patron Saint, we’re planning a scrumptious breakfast-lunch repast, “fit for a Wonder-Worker” on Sunday, Dec. 15th following the Divine Liturgy. In order for us to prepare adequately the buffet-style meal, we need all faithful who desire to partake of the brunch to sign their names on the designated list in the auditorium, downstairs. And make certain that all of the children of St. Nick’s are in church on that Lord’s Day, since the Bishop of Myra will be in town, delivering bags of treats to all the youngsters.

WHO DOESN’T WANT TO RECEIVE A CHRISTMAS PRESENT OF HOMEMADE HOLIDAY COOKIES AT THE NATIVITY FEAST? The Mothers and Daughters Guild of St. Nicholas Church will be making homemade cookie trays for the Christmas Holiday. The scrumptious pastries will be mouth-watering to look at and beautifully packaged for gift giving. The price is \$18 per tray. See any of the Mothers and Daughters Guild members for more information.

THE NEXT ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH BOARD MEETING! The Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Board Session is scheduled for Monday, December 30th at 7:00 P.M. Auditors will meet at 6:30 P.M. and all parishioners have the privilege to attend the meeting.

TREAT THE WHOLE FAMILY TO THE ST. NICHOLAS CHARITY DINNER TODAY AT THE EDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB AT 5:00 P.M.!

Sponsored by our Pittsburgh Deanery, the scrumptious holiday buffet-style repast will benefit our Christ the Saviour Seminary in Johnstown, PA. Plan to bring all members of your household to the Nativity meal and meet our Seminarians from the theological school in the "Friendly City." Deanery faithful are also encouraged to donate a "St. Nicholas Day Gift" that will among the many Christmas Presents that will be raffled-off during the affair. Purchase your tickets today from the church office financial officers. The cost is: \$35 for Adults, \$10 for Teens 13-16 yrs. of age, and Free for Children 12 yrs. of age and under.

2020 CHURCH CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE AUDITORIUM! All parishioners are invited to pick up the liturgical guide and calendars for their home use. To afford the opportunity of all faithful members to secure the new calendars, we kindly request that parishioners take just (1) date guide for their residence at this time. And, when you are at the Savolskis – Wasik – Glenn Funeral Home on Main Street in Munhall, thank Supervisor Michael Perovich and his administrative staff for once again sponsoring the calendars for St. Nicholas Church of Homestead, PA.

COME HELP US MAKE PIROHI FOR THE NATIVITY FAST SEASON ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH AT 6 P.M. IN THE PARISH HALL!

Primarily to benefit the faithful of St. Nicholas, this date is the one and only evening this month that we will be preparing the Slavic delicacy. Join our talented culinary workers for a wonderful assembly of dedicated stewards, managing their time, talents and treasures for the sake of Christ's Bride (The Church). The fellowship and refreshments are pleasing, as well!

THE FEAST DAYS AND HOLIDAYS ARE IN OUR MIDST; PREPARE FOR THOSE SPECIAL FAMILY DINNERS BY ACQUIRING THE RADA CUTLERY SILVERWARE!

Browse through the colorful catalogues in the church auditorium and place an order for the attractive, proudly made in the USA silverware. Support our Mothers & Daughters Guild and its fund-raising efforts. The last date for any order for Christmas gifts is **Dec. 8 – for pickup on Dec. 22**. Orders can be handed in any Sunday after the Liturgy – the sooner the better; pick up a catalog for some interesting ideas other than just knives. See Florence or Mary Lu in the auditorium. Thank You!

2020 A.C.R.Y. LOTS-O-LUCK CALENDARS! The calendars are available for your purchase. They are \$25.00 each and make wonderful gifts for Christmas. See Carol Dunn! Also, congratulations to the Newly Elected Sr. ACRY Officers: John Fedornock – Vice President; Michele Hubert – Financial Secretary; Lucy Tomtko – Recording Secretary; Carole Dunn, Andrea Zober – Auditors; Sergeant of Arms – Alisha Zak. President – Cathy Pawlik.

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST BY CONFESSING YOUR SINS ON THE SATURDAYS DURING THE NATIVITY FAST FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON!

Acquire the grace of Almighty God in the Holy Mystery of Penance during this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Your Pastor shall welcome you to this life-saving sacrament and offer prudent council to aid you in your spiritual warfare against the unseen principalities who are ever so ready to tempt us to sin (miss the mark) and not seek first the Kingdom of God. Feed your immortal soul during this time of fasting!

ZOE FOR LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING ON SATURDAY, DEC. 14TH AT 1 P.M. IN THE BISHOP JOHN R. MARTIN SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING!

A session for those interested in establishing a Zoe for Life! Pittsburgh Chapter, will take place on Saturday, December 14th at 1:00 P.M. in the large classroom on the first floor of the Sunday School building. Commit yourself to the work of this Holy Ministry. Coffee and refreshments will be available.

ADVENT RETREAT ENTITLED "SPIRITUAL GROWTH & THE BODY OF CHRIST WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019 AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH IN NEW KENSINGTON, PA FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.!

The parish is located at 150 Elmtree Road in New Kensington, PA 15068. The event will open with a prayer service at 10:00 A.M., followed by a light continental breakfast. The presentation is from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. This event is free and does not require a reservation. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. Archpriest Thomas Soroka shall serve as the Retreat Master.

MEN'S CLUB PARTY AT DUKES!

The St. Nicholas Men's Club will be hosting their annual Christmas Party during their January meeting on Monday, January 13th at 8:00 P.M. at Dukes on 8th Avenue in Homestead. The Men's Club would like to extend an invitation to all the men in our church who would like to consider joining our organization as we celebrate Russian New Year's Eve. Food and drinks will be provided by the club. If you are interested or need more details, please check with a Men's Club member. Please consider joining us for the evening! Thanks, Brian.