

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

Homestead, PA 15120

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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. 8; No. 4

Sunday, January 26, 2020

32nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AND SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13;

Resurrection Tone: 7

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 99-101, 150 / Red Book: 114-117, 169-170

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, the priest, **+Reverend Father Michael Shuster.**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+John Lasobik**, offered by Dorothy Kapolka and Eleanor Konar.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Michael & +Margaret Baka**, offered by Margaret Ann Dietrich and Michael Baka (Daughter & Son).

Sunday, February 2, 2020

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-16;

Resurrection Tone: 8

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

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

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: **Fr. Deacon Marc's Birthday**, offered by Alison & Anastasia.

Matthew 4:12-17–

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.

4:16 – **Darkness** means ungodliness. Here it represents the Gentiles' unawareness of God and the Jews being under the shadow of the Old Covenant. To sit in darkness means to be overcome by spiritual ignorance. **The great light** is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

4:17 – Christ's first word, like that of John the Baptist, is "**Repent.**" Repentance, which accompanies faith, is a total about-face. The word in Greek literally means to change one's mind, or more generally, to turn around. Repentance is a radical change of one's spirit, mind, thought, and heart, a complete reorientation of the whole of one's life. It is the necessary first step in **the way of the Lord**. It is accompanied by the confession of sins and the act of baptism, and is followed by a life filled with fruits worthy of this change. **The kingdom of heaven** is present wherever Christ is.

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 WILDERNESS JOURNAL
365 Days with the PHILOKALIA
Angela Doll Carlson

DAY 22

Sometimes thoughts are cut off, and sometimes they do the cutting off. Evil thoughts cut off good thoughts, and in turn are cut off by good thoughts. The Holy Spirit therefore notes to which thought we give priority and condemns or approves us accordingly.

Evagrios the Solitary, "Texts on Discrimination," p. 42

TRAFFIC

THERE IS A CONSTANT STREAM of traffic in my head. Thoughts, never seem to stop at lights when they ought to, they do not wait patiently for other thoughts to pull through the intersection. Thoughts weave in and around and through other thoughts. They collide. They yell curses at each other out their windows.

The idea of stillness in this busy brain seems impossible. There is so much to consider, to worry about, to debate. Thinking is necessary, like having a car in a place with no good public transportation or well-paved pedestrian walkways.

But if we're to travel this way, in a head full of thoughts, I imagine the act of prayer, the act of stillness ought to function as a sort of traffic cop.

Slow down. Stop here. Wait for your turn.

And then, in allowing that stillness to direct the busy brain, perhaps we have time finally to take a look around. We see leaves on the trees beginning to bud. We see children crossing the road, walking home from school. We see the faces of people in the cars around us. All of us busy. All of us worried. All of us ready for some break in the gridlock.

PREPARATION FOR THE BLESSING OF HOMES! The sanctification of residences will be conducted from Monday to Friday each week during the afternoon hours of 1-5 P.M. and the evening hours 7-9 P.M. If you have a preference for an afternoon or evening visit, please notify Fr. Michael. Your priest shall begin blessing homes of parishioners living in the Munhall and West Mifflin areas, proceeding to the city of Pittsburgh and concluding in outlying areas (north, south, east and west).

"SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND! Junior A.C.R.Y. members and Church School students are staging a "Canned Goods' Drive" to feed the needy in our local community in partnership with the International Orthodox Christian Charities organization. We are all called to be "Good Samaritans" and neighbors to all humanity. Please donate non-perishable food items and canned goods; bring the supplies to the stage area of the auditorium. And drop a dollar or two in the soup pots that some of our young people shall be holding to receive monetary gifts that will be submitted to IOCC. Let's make an impact on humanity more important than any professional football game played on that Lord's Day! Join our team in this "Souper Bowl of Caring", assuring a clear-cut victory to the donors!

FREE COMPUTER CLASSES IN HOMESTEAD! If you're applying for a job – or doing almost anything – in 2020, you need basic computer skills. (No, Facebook and texting aren't enough!) Mon Valley Initiative offers free, self-paced computer classes covering keyboard and web basics, sending and managing email,

creating files, using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel and Power Point), using the Internet to search and apply for jobs, and other skills. Classes are held three days per week (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings) at 305 E. Eight Avenue (corner of Ann Street) in Homestead. MVI's office is accessible from the 61C, 53F, 56E, 59A, 59U and 61F buses. To enroll or get more information, call Deb at 412-464-4000, ext. 4001.

SAINT NICHOLAS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION SHALL MEET ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST AT 2 P.M. IN THE STAGE AREA OF THE AUDITORIUM. All members are encouraged to attend this session in preparation for the Annual Cemetery Meeting on Sunday, February 9th.

ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY – ANNUAL MEETING RESCHEDULED – 1ST NOTICE! The St. Nicholas Cemetery Association will hold its 2020 Annual Cemetery Association Meeting on Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 11:45 A.M. All Cemetery Association members and parishioners of St. Nicholas are encouraged to attend.

HEALTH KIT DRIVE AND ASSEMBLY – FEBRUARY 8, 2020 FROM 11:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M. AT HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN MT. LEBANON! Youth Volunteers and Monetary Donations Needed! Kit assembly will take place during the International Soup Sampling to benefit IOCC. The Orthodox church is located at 123 Gilkeson Road (Mt. Lebanon), Pittsburgh, PA 15228. All Orthodox Youth Groups are asked to participate. Students, please bring you volunteer forms for school credit. Our goal is to assemble one thousand health kits. Donations are needed to purchase bulk health kit supplies. To donate please make checks payable to “Holy Cross Agape Fund” with “IOCC Health Kit Project” in the memo, and mail to Nick Terezis, c/o IOCC, 306 Marberry Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15215. Please contact Deno at 412-833-8771 or dmpappas22@gmail.com to coordinate your youth group attendance.

SEND AN ICONIC CHURCH WALL CALENDAR TO ANY OF OUR PARISH COLLEGE STUDENTS! Not only will the young scholars be able to follow the liturgical cycle of the ecclesiastical year, but also have a color depiction of a beautiful icon hanging in their dorm room. Inquire of the names of parishioners continuing their academic studies at higher institutions of learning, and their current addresses. The students are certain to appreciate your gift from a member of the church family!

THE SENIOR ACRY THANKS YOU FOR PURCHASING A LOTS OF LUCK CALENDAR!

INTERNATIONAL SOUP SAMPLING TO BENEFIT IOCC ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020 FROM 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M. AT HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN MT. LEBANON! Experience tastes from around the world! Sample five homemade soups for \$10, and take your favorite quart home for a \$10 donation. The Greek Orthodox parish is located at: 123 Gilkeson Road, (Mt. Lebanon), Pittsburgh, PA 15228. Register at ioccc.org/pittsburgh. For questions or to pre-order soup (by January 25), contact Marianne at 412-668-0420 or marianne.carmack@gmail.com. Youth groups & children's ministries from all jurisdictions will assemble health kits. All area youth are invited! Donations are needed to purchase bulk health kit supplies. To sponsor kits, call Nick Terezis at 740-282-5198.

EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED! We are looking to become more connected as a parish by sending out important announcements, updates, death and sickness notices, and other pertinent information via email. Our high school Sunday School class has volunteered to collect these email addresses. If you have not already provided your email address, we invite you to do so. Email addresses can be submitted by writing it on the sheet in the vestibule, giving it to any high school Sunday School student, or by emailing Bob Bartko at RABartko@gmail.com. Thank you for your participation!

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYER FOR THE SICK: Ann Marie Kline and Eleanor Konar, who are residents of Arrowwood at Southwestern Assisted Living Facility, located at 512 Lewis Run Road in Pittsburgh, PA. Visit them or send a prayerful card expressing your love and petitions of good intentions for their health and well-being. Remember, this is one of our bodily acts of mercy.

HELP SPREAD THE GOSPEL AS PART OF AN ORTHODOX MISSION TEAM! We believe that God is doing some amazing things in the world. This year Orthodox Mission Teams will travel to **Alaska, Albania, Columbia, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia and Kenya** to share the love of Christ with others. By God's design, each of us must be engaged in spreading the Gospel. This is part of our identity as Orthodox Christians. Everyone has skills to offer and you can be a witness around the world (Acts 1:8) so that others may come to know Christ and deepen their relationship with Him. Through OCMC Teams, there are opportunities for you to participate in this amazing work of spreading our Orthodox faith around the world. Information on ways you can be involved in changing lives can be found by calling: **904-829-5132 ext 142**. Apply today. Orthodox Christian Mission Center.

TAKE AS MUCH BLESSED WATER AS YOU DESIRE FROM THE SANCTIFIED LIQUID CONTAINERS IN THE CHURCH PROPER! Holy Water Bottles are on sale in the Gift Shop of the auditorium. Please remember when disregarding old blessed H2O to pour the liquid around indoor or outdoor plants, shrubs, trees, even on the outdoor lawn or greenery. Never ever spill the holy water down the kitchen sink or down any sink in the residence.

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