

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. 8; No. 8

Sunday, February 23, 2020

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT AND MEAT-FARE SUNDAY

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2;

Resurrection Tone: 3

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87-89, 177-178 / Red Book: 102-105, 199-200

Altar Flowers' Sponsor (Saturday, Feb. 22) In honor of **Bill & Jen Dunn**, offered by Larry & Carol Dunn.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of **+Joseph & +Marie Maurer**, offered by Albert & Jacqueline Mauer.

Birthday Prayers intoned for **Tracy Hvasta** (2/24/'20), offered by Mary Ann Vasil (mother) and Ernie J. (Brother).

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Mary Frances Skero**, on the 9th Anniversary (March 1) of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by husband, Andrew Skero.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Peter Mochnach**, offered by Albert & Jackie Mauer.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Elizabeth & +John Janosko**, offered by Florence Vehec (Daughter).

Sunday, March 1, 2020

SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS AND CHEESE-FARE SUNDAY

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4;

Resurrection Tone: 4

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90-92, 178-179 / Red Book: 105-107, 200-201

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: In memory of **+Edward Pingor**, offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Ann Timko**, on her Birthday remembrance (3/1/'20), offered by the Family.

11:00 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. Pre-Lenten Brunch Buffet, hosted by the Men's Club, for all the faithful worshipers of St. Nicholas after the Divine Liturgy. Free-will offering in effect.

12:30 P.M. FOREGIVENESS SUNDAY VESPERS, and the personal asking of all parishioners of forgiveness in word, deed and thought as the Great Fast commences!

Matthew 25:31-46 – Here is the majestic climax of the discourse, which is not simply a parable, but a prophecy of the universal judgment that will indeed come. Since the Cross is now near to Him, Jesus raises the hearer to the sight of the glory of the Son of Man on His judgment seat and the whole world before Him.

The standard of judgment is uncalculated mercy toward others. The works produced by faith are emphasized, for saving faith always produces righteous works. What we do reflects

our true inner state. **The least** (v. 40) refers to all the poor and needy. The needs described in this parable include both physical and spiritual needs. Thus, the **hungry or thirsty** (v. 44) are not only those who need food and drink, but also those who hunger and thirst for the hope of the gospel.

25:32 – Christ uses **sheep** to illustrate the righteous, for they follow His voice and are gentle and productive. **Goats** indicate the unrighteous, for they do not follow the shepherd and they walk along cliffs, which represent sin.

25:34 – **Inherit** is a term used with regard to son and daughters rather than strangers or servants, for the righteous become children of God by adoption (Gal. 4:4-7).

25:40 – To see Christ in everyone is the fulfillment of the great commandment to love your neighbor as yourself (22:39).

25:41 – That the **fire** was **prepared for the devil** shows that God did not create hell for man; rather, people choose this torment by their coldness of heart.

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
Angela Doll Carlson

DAY 49

Often when I have prayed I have asked for what I thought was good, and persisted in my petition, stupidly importuning the will of God, and not leaving it to Him to arrange things as He knows is best for me. But when I have obtained what I asked for, I have been very sorry that I did not ask for the will of God to be done, because the thing turned out to be as I had thought. What is good, except God? Then let us leave to Him everything that concerns us and all will be well. For He who is good is naturally also a giver of good gifts.

Evagrius the Solitary, "On Prayer," p. 60

GOOD GIFTS

EVERY NIGHT BEFORE BED MY oldest son rattles off a prayer he began saying when he was very young. He asks for God to protect us. He asks for everyone he knows to be healthy and happy. When he first started repeating this prayer, I tried to get him to aim a little wider, a little higher, I tried to steer him toward praying for God's will. He resisted. He questioned, "What is God's will? How can we know?" and I was at a loss. In that moment, I had no idea how to explain the concept of God's will," and so he persisted in his prayer, night after night.

My resistance to his prayer was in specificity. And the knowledge I have as an adult that people do get sick; people do have accidents; people do die. The world is dangerous and uncertain. I have suggested that we pray for the strength to handle whatever comes our way, regardless, and this is still good advice. I think. But there is more, something instinctive that he knew as a child, something I'd forgotten – the goodness of God.

Bad things happen. Difficult times come. We do need strength, and we can ask for strength, but we shouldn't forget that God is naturally good and that He is the giver of

good gifts. We can have this truth living in us. We can carry that into prayer too.

ON THIS SCOUT SUNDAY, WE INTONE MANY YEARS & MNOHAJA L'ITA! TO THE DISTINGUISHED SCOUTS OF ST. NICHOLAS:

Nick Ditmore – 6 years in cub scouts/boy scouts. Life Scout rank in Troop 1843 of Jefferson Hills. Nick has earned the Orthodox St. George award & Chi-Rho award; **Samantha Ditmore** – 6 years in girl scouts; Junior level girl scout in Troop 52324 of Liberty Boro. She has earned the Orthodox St. George award and is being presented with the Chi-Rho award today as she has recently finished her work on this honorable citation. **Ethan Turner** – is Bear Scout (3rd grade) Cub Scout in Pack #381. **Lillian Turner** – is a Daisy (1st Grade) Girl Scout in Troop #36333.

CAMP NAZARETH SUMMER JOB AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: *Counsellor, *Science and Nature Camp Counselor, *High/Low Ropes Course Facilitator, *Maintenance Worker/Groundskeeper, *Kitchen Worker, *Lifeguard. **To Apply:** See the Camp websites –campnazareth.org – for applications OR Call 724-662-4840 or email campnazareth@acrod.org for more information. Applications are due February 15, 2020.

DIocese TO BEGIN NEW FAMILY MINISTRY! Praying together and reading Scripture together are pillars of a Christ-centered Orthodox Christian family. While families may desire to have these activities in their home, they may not be sure how to start. SPF50 intends to help our families bridge that gap. SPF stands for “Scripture, Prayer, Family” and is designed to equip families to read the Scriptures and pray together at home. With the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory, the SPF50 team has produced the first installment of this ministry program which will be available beginning **Sunday, February 23, 2020**. Each issue will be available both in hard-copy and digital form. A section of the Diocesan website dedicated to SPF50 will also contain supplemental resources to help families get started and maintain participation. Quality time with our Lord is hard to come by. Quality time with your family is hard to come by. SPF50 intends to help families have both. Families with children: Receive your copies today!

CENTRAL REGION DIOCESAN LENTEN RETREAT – SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. AT ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH, 903 ANN STREET, HOMESTEAD, PA 15120!

SCHEDULE: 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy – All Souls Saturday; 11:00 A.M. Coffee Social; 12:00 noon – First Session of Metropolitan Gregory’s Lenten Address; 1:30 P.M. Lunch; 2:30 P.M. Second Session of the Retreatmaster, His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory; 4:00 P.M. Vespers. (Includes Continental Breakfast and Light Lunch). Cost: (Free-will Offering). Registration Deadline: March 21, 2020. Sponsored by the National A.C.R.Y. Our beloved Hierarch, Metropolitan Gregory is pleased that his schedule will allow him to participate in the Central Regional Retreat, and he looks forward to this opportunity to spend quality time with the clergy and faithful of the Diocese.

MARK ALSO ON YOUR CALENDAR, THE 70TH ANNUAL ACRY “COMMUNION BREAKFAST” ON SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH, FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY.

Invite your relatives and friends to worship in the Orthodox church on a Sunday during the Great & Holy Fast and partake of an appetizing repast in the auditorium with faithful members of the Orthodox Christian community in Homestead.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 3rd NOTICE!

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church will hold its 2020 Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 11:45 A.M. All parishioners are encouraged to attend this very important meeting.

SECOND ALL-SOULS’ SATURDAY OF THE YEAR IS ON MARCH 14! The Divine Liturgy for the departed souls of our parish, making up the Church Triumphant shall commence at 9 A.M. Make certain when you submit the special All-Souls Day envelope that it includes the names of the recently departed servants of God within your family so that their identity may be added to your Family’s listing in the register.

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!

PLAN TO PARTAKE OF THE PRE-LENTEN BRUNCH IN THE AUDITORIUM ON “FORGIVENESS SUNDAY” MARCH 1ST, BEFORE THE VESPERS SERVICE AT 12:30 P.M.!

An appetizing repast is being planned and hosted by the Men’s Club for all of our worshipers on the first Sunday in March, as we begin the holy and sacred season of the Great Fast. The Lenten meal will permit you to feed your body, before you replenish your soul for the second prayerful service, known as Forgiveness Sunday Vespers. Sign your name on the designated list downstairs as participants in the free-will offering brunch.

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)