

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, March 15, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: SUNDAY OF SAINT GREGORY PALAMAS

3rd Hour: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-14, 2:1-3; Resurrection Tone: 6 Gospel: Mark: 2:1-12

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 96-98, 181-182 / Red Book: 111-114, 203-204

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of +**Elizabeth Lakatos**, offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Joann Bodnar** on the 2nd Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord (March 10), offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Elizabeth Lakatos** on the 60th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

Pittsburgh Deanery Sunday Mission and Lenten Vespers Service at St. John the Baptist Church in Ambridge, PA. 2:30 P.M. Hearing of Confessions; Vespers at 3 P.M. with Seminarian Dan Katz of Christ the Saviour Seminary in Johnstown, PA, delivering the Lenten Homily. A Lenten repast shall be served in the parish hall, afterwards, with a free-will offering in effect.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18... 7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (3-hr. fast of food or drink before partaking of Holy Communion.

FRIDAY, March 20... 7:00 P.M. Service to the Holy Cross.

SATURDAY, March 21... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Third All-Souls' Saturday of the year, with a Panachida service and Reading of the Parish Diptychs (names of the deceased souls).

Sunday, March 22, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: SUNDAY OF THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6; Resurrection Tone: 7 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 99-101, 182-183 / Red Book: 114-117, 204-205

Pittsburgh Deanery Sunday Mission and Lenten Vespers Service at St. John the Baptist Church in East Pittsburgh, PA. 2:30 P.M. Hearing of Confessions; Vespers at 3 P.M. with Very Rev. Nik Ferencz delivering the Lenten Homily. A Lenten repast shall be served in the parish hall, afterwards, with a free-will offering in effect.

Mark 2:1-12 – Note one purpose of Christ's coming into the world is to **forgive sins** (v. 10), freeing humanity from its bondage. Forgiving sins is a greater power than physical healing for,

as the scribes correctly note, **God alone** can forgive sins (v. 7). Thus, the **easier** task (v. 9) is to grant physical healing. Though Christ is fully God and holds the authority to forgive, He condescends to those gathered and heals this man in order to draw people to God, whom they glorified.

Matt. 9:2-8 – As shown by the healing of the **paralytic**, faith is an indispensable condition for salvation. Faith is collective as well as personal, for the faith of the paralytic’s friends helped in his healing (v. 2). Three signs of Jesus’ divinity are shown: (1) He knows the secrets of hearts. According to St. Cyprian, God’s judgment will not be merely of outward appearances, but will penetrate much deeper into the heart of man: He sees the heart and mind of every person, and He will judge not only our deeds, but even our words and thoughts. (2) He forgives sins, a power which belongs to God alone; and (3) He heals by the power of His word.

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>

ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

V. Rev. Fr. Theodore Boback Jr. of St. Andrew Orthodox Church, Baltimore, MD

“Prayer changes from entreaty to thanksgiving and meditation on the divine truths of faith fills the heart with... hope.”

- St. Gregory Palamas, Philokalia, vol. 4

The second Sunday of the Great Fast, which commemorates St. Gregory Palamas, is also referred to as the second triumph of Orthodoxy because of Gregory’s defense of the faith and his understanding of prayer. Prayer is conversation with God, nourishment for the soul. Our private prayer life at home and our corporate prayer life in Church intensify during Lent.

This Sunday’s Gospel tells of four men who cared for their friend and lowered him through a roof to see Christ. Our Lord, seeing their faith, responds, “Your sins are forgiven.” Their effort is an example: we too are given strength by God to help those in need.

Combined with fasting, prayer, and forgiveness is our almsgiving, offered to those in need through our Church and its organizations. International Orthodox Christian Charities foster within society the words of our Lord to love God and neighbor – taking care of the least of the brethren, bringing light where there is darkness. During various disasters in our nation and elsewhere, for over 27 years, IOCC has provided the requisite aid for many in times of need.

On our Lenten journey, let us love God, serve Him with our time, talents, and resources, and give thanks and glory to Him in all things. He is the conqueror and the victor. Let us rejoice in His holy Pascha!

STEWARDSHIP & FELLOWSHIP ABOUND AS WE MAKE PIROHI ON TUESDAYS (MARCH 10TH, MARCH 17, MARCH 24 AND MARCH 31) FOR THE GREAT FAST, BEGINNING AT 6 P.M. EVERY WEEK! Offer your time, talents and treasures for this profitable venture of St. Nicholas Church, as the appeal for this delectable Slavic delicacy is paramount during the penitential season.

MEMBERS OF ST. NICHOLAS: JOIN OUR CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN DEPOSITING YOUR TREASURES IN THE COIN BOXES TO BENEFIT THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER!

The self-denial banks are available for adult parishioners in the vestibule of the church and downstairs in the auditorium. The icon on the front of the O.C.M.C. Coin Box reminds us of Christ's command to make disciples of all nations. The sacrificial money that you graciously collect will be used to help Orthodox Christians who serve as missionaries, volunteer for Mission Teams and support the mission of the Church to take the Gospel to people around the world. Please return the self-denial banks to the church office in the parish hall on Palm Sunday, April 12, 2020!

AS YOU HAVE DONATED IN THE PAST, PLEASE CONTRIBUTE IN THE PRESENT FOR THE REPLATING IN GOLD AND SILVER OF THE LITURGICAL VESSELS OF OUR CHURCH!

Three chalices and three Communion spoons used at every Sunday Divine Liturgy for the partaking of the Holy Eucharist were recently re-plated in gold and silver at the Frank Mance Plating Service on Penn Avenue in Pittsburgh, PA. When the liturgical vessels of the church needed a refinishing in the past, generous parishioners offered monetary gifts for this service. We humbly implore our faithful members to, once again, contribute their finances to maintain these sacred articles. Since the final cost for the plating service amounted to nearly \$1500.00, any sum of money is certainly appreciated by the "People of God." Pass on your donation to any of the financial leaders in the parish office downstairs.

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!

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELED.

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 hall with faithful members of the Orthodox Christian parish. Tickets for the breakfast cost only: \$5.00 for those 9 years old and older. Children younger than nine are free. See Lucy Tomko to purchase a ducat.

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!

PLACE A HEALTHY ORDER FOR EASTER CANDY THIS YEAR! The Mothers and Daughters Guild shall be selling Sarris Candy for Pascha. Speak with Jean Colantoni for more information.

AN APPRECIATIVE MEMBER OF ST. NICHOLAS IS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND CONCERN!

Ann Marie Kline wishes to thank the kind parishioners of St. Nicholas for all the best wishes and sentimental cards for a speedy recovery, following her illness. She is also very thankful for the many prayers you have offered on her behalf.

4th ANNUAL DESIGNER PURSE BASH – IT'S SPRING & TIME FOR A NEW DESIGNER PURSE ON MAY 2, 2020! DOORS OPEN AT 4 P.M. – TICKETS ON SALE AND ONLY 250 TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR THIS EVENT! Buffet served at 4:30 P.M. / Tickets \$30 & includes 4 chances & buffet meal. Grand Prize is a Tory Burch, valued at \$498 & \$200 cash. Other prizes include: Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Coach, & more! Proceeds benefit St. Nicholas Orthodox Church and ACRY Chapter #11. **Buy your ticket; help sell tickets... Make it an SOLD OUT event!**

WANTED!!! We need donations of baskets to raffle at our Church Purse Bash on Saturday, May 2. We try to have (10) baskets. If you can't donate a whole basket, please contribute towards helping us assemble a themed basket. Please contact Pani Debbie Zak with any questions concerning this subject.

COME TO CONFESSION DURING THIS GREAT PENITENTIAL SEASON OF LENT! Your Pastor will hear confessions before and after any of the weekday Lenten services and the All-Souls' Saturdays during the Fast. Don't wait or delay the Mystery of Holy Penance until Great & Holy Week, when you can receive the Grace of Almighty God right now for spiritual renewal and edification.