

# 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. 15

**Sunday, April 12, 2020**

## **PALM SUNDAY (TRIUMPHAL ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM)**

**Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.**

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9;

Resurrection Tone:

Gospel: John 12:1-18

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 188-192 / Red Book: 210-214

Bulletin Sponsor: **Dave Urban's** Birthday, offered by the Family.

**Blessing of Willows and Palms. Fasting from meat products this entire Holy Week.**

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**Monday, (April 13)...** Great and Holy Monday. 7:00 P.M. Bridegroom Matins.

**Tuesday, (April 14)...** Great and Holy Tuesday. 7:00 P.M. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy (3-hr. fast of food or drink before partaking of Holy Communion).

**Wednesday, (April 15)...** Great and Holy Wednesday. 7:00 P.M. Mystery of Holy Unction Service.

**Thursday, (April 16)...** Great and Holy Thursday. 7:00 P.M. Vespers-Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.

**Friday, (April 17)...** Great and Holy Friday (Strict Fast day when no meat or dairy products are to be eaten). 7:00 P.M. Vespers of Great Friday with indoor procession and placing of the Holy Shroud of Jesus Christ into the Tomb.

**Saturday, (April 18)...** Great and Holy Saturday (Strict Fast day when no meat or dairy products are to be eaten). 9:30 A.M. Vespers- Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.

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**Sunday, April 19, 2020**

## **GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA – THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR**

**7:00 A.M. Son-rise Resurrection Matins.**

**9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy with the Reading of the Gospel in various languages.**

Apostolic Reading: Acts 1:1-8;

Resurrection Tone:

Gospel: John 1:1-17

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 193-196 / Red Book: 215-219

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of **+Wendy Pingor**, offered by the Family.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of the departed members of the **+Harris Family**, offered by Trona & Family.

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**John 12:1-18 –**

**John 12:1** – This **Passover** is the third mentioned in John and is the setting for the last week of Christ's earthly ministry, which is narrated in careful detail. **Jesus** had already been glorified

through His signs and words; it remained for Him to be glorified through His death and Resurrection.

**12:3-8** – The other disciples said the same thing **Judas** said (v. 5), but with a very different motive. Judas spoke from greed, while the others spoke from the virtue of charity. That Jesus put a **thief** in charge of the money shows that by every means He attempted to save Judas. He fulfilled Judas' lust for money; He allowed Judas to exercise apostolic authority; He washed Judas' feet with the other disciples, and He allowed him to partake at the table of the Mystical Supper (13:26). Yet Judas could never overcome his greed.

**Matt. 21:1-11** – Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem is celebrated by the Church on Palm Sunday. By Christ's time, Jewish nationalism had led to the expectation of a political Messiah to deliver them from Roman control and to reestablish David's kingdom. In humility, Jesus shows that He has not come to establish an earthly kingdom. He does not ride on a horse nor in a chariot, but on a **donkey** – a sign of humility and peace (Zec. 9:9). This entrance into the Holy City declares the establishment of the Kingdom of God. It is also a promise of Christ's final entrance into the heavenly Jerusalem with all believers and of His accepting the New Jerusalem as His pure Bride (Rev. 21:2)

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

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## PALM SUNDAY

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholae, Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas.  
Liaison to the IOOC from the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America

**Come, all the faithful, let us worship the holy Resurrection of Christ; for behold, through the Cross, joy has come into all the world.**

- Prayer after the Sunday Matins Gospel

The final Sunday before Resurrection marks Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem: we have nearly reached the end of the Lenten journey.

We enter Holy Week as our Lord entered the holy city; we see the Cross before us, a somber yet hopeful sign. As we follow Christ's final days in the Holy Week services, we move ever closer both to His death and to His Resurrection. Because Christ gives so generously of Himself – on the Cross and in the Eucharist – we dare to offer ourselves to His service.

As we continue our journey during Holy Week and beyond, may we imitate first the One who emptied Himself! May we find assurance in His victory over death, placing in Him the hope of our salvation!

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**BLESSING, BUT NO DISTRIBUTION OF PALMS OR PUSSY WILLOWS! In adherence to the April 3<sup>rd</sup> Statement of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America Executive Committee concerning Holy Week and Pascha (Easter), St. Nicholas Church is implementing the following recommendation: 2. None of the traditional materials offerings are to be distributed to the faithful in any**

way, including palms and/or pussy willows, flowers, candles, and eggs, etc. Thank you for your understanding and compliance to this recommendation during this period of crisis.

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**SPR50 IS UNDER WAY!!!** Church School Families have been given the materials for the new diocesan Family Prayer initiative, **Scripture – Prayer – Family 50** minutes a month. Commitment cards are asked to be returned as soon as possible. For those who do not have children at home and would like to participate as well, details may be found at the special section of our Diocesan website: [www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50](http://www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50). KEEP religious education alive in your home. Your children are depending on you to help them learn the Faith (and maybe you can learn with them). For some very helpful lessons on Orthodox education at home, please go to [www.goarch.org/-/religious-education-at-home](http://www.goarch.org/-/religious-education-at-home). The kids are home from school, so instead of sitting in front of a video screen (tv, computer, phone, etc.) give them something fun to occupy their time. They learn from what they see and do, if they see a life in the Church is important to you, they will follow. They cannot go where they are not led.

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**AND, THE NEXT EDITION OF SPF50 WILL COME OUT ON PASCHA, APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>!** It will be a digital edition. If you didn't start with us on March 1, consider joining now. Make a commitment to reading Scripture and Praying together with your family. Visit the Diocesan Website at [acrod.org](http://acrod.org) and look for the SPF50 section or go directly to the SPF50 web page at <https://www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50> to find more about SPF50 and how to help your family read Scripture and Prayer together at home.

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**NEW GUIDELINES ARE IN PLACE TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19!** Divine Services will continue to be celebrated at Saint Nicholas Church by a maximum of five people. The Sanctuary, Nave, Vestibule and upper-church are closed to all parishioners. Faithful are kindly asked to pray in their homes where all Divine Services will be streamed on ZOOM & Facebook Live for your attention, participation and spiritual edification.

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**WE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF THE RESPONSE OF THE MEN'S CLUB TO ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH IN THE MIDST OF THE VIRUS PANDEMIC AFFECTING ALL HUMANITY ON THIS EARTH!** We express our deep gratitude and extreme thankfulness to the Saint Nicholas Men's Club for making a special donation of \$1,000.00 to the church in the name of a Coronavirus Relief Donation, helping to supplement the continued envelope donations of beloved parishioners. This monetary gift is especially needful at this time when all liturgical services are being celebrated in a closed church setting and social distancing is being implemented and practiced by all. The Men's Club is also making a donation to St. Michael's Church in McKeesport. A general Pascha contribution is being submitted by this distinguished group of men, as well. May all our beloved parishioners and various organizations view this generosity of the "People of God" and do likewise into their individual stewardship and communal-group financial obligations to our "House of Worship."

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**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 Pascha, Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

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**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 replated 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.

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**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](mailto:RABartko@gmail.com). Thank you for your participation!

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**AN EXQUISITE MEMORIAL LITURGICAL GIFT TO THE CHURCH IN MEMORY OF GOD'S DEPARTED SERVANT, +FRANCES ZATORSKY!** The elegant-looking converted 3-bar Altar Cross, as seen on the offering table in the name is a pleasing addition to our sacred temple and it was graciously donated to St. Nicholas Church in loving memory of the recently-deceased steward of the Lord, +Frannie Zatorsky by her beloved family. We thank "Franny's" considerate relatives and pray that the Lord God grant her a blessed repose in Paradise. May her memory be eternal in the mind of Almighty God!

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**Self-isolation and social distancing may have become common expressions of our current dysfunction, but they have healing and the restoration of community as their goals.**

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