

# 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. 14

**Sunday, April 5, 2020**

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: SUNDAY OF SAINT MARY OF EGYPT

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

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14; Resurrection Tone: 1 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81-83, 185-186 / Red Book: 95-99, 207-208

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, mother +**Anna Janicko**, offered by daughters, Mary Janicko and Helen Revak.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servants, +**George Semancik**, offered by Sheila & John Hrapchak.

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**Tuesday, (April 7)...** 7:00 P.M. Vespers Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Mother of God.

**Wednesday, (April 8)...** 9:00 A.M. Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Anna Kerilla**, offered by herself.

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

**Friday, (April 10)...** 9:00 A.M. Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Anna Rosgonyi**, offered by herself.

7:00 P.M. Akathist Hymn to the Most Holy Mother of God.

**Saturday, (April 11)...** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday.

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**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

**Blessing of Willows & Palms**

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

7:00 P.M. **Bridegroom Matins.**

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**Mark 10:32-45 –**

**10:32-34** – Christ's repeated predictions of His Passion were intended to encourage and strengthen the disciples for the terrifying events they would face. This also confirms that Christ was going to His death of His own will and choosing.

**Matthew 20:20-23** – This quest for temporal power and glory is unfitting for a disciple and shows an earthly misunderstanding of the Kingdom of God. Matthew reports that **the mother**

of Zebedee's sons requested this honor, but John's and James' own involvement is revealed by the plural **you** in v. 22, and in Mark 10:35.

Christ calls His Crucifixion a **cup** and His death a **baptism**. The Cross is a cup because He drank it willingly (Heb. 12:2). His death is baptism, for He was completely immersed in it, yet it cleansed the world (Rom. 6:3-6). Christ's prophecy of John and James participating in the same cup and baptism shows the life of persecution and martyrdom they would lead after Pentecost.

Christ declaring that the places of honor in the Kingdom are not His **to give** does not mean that He lacks authority. Rather, it means that they are not His to give arbitrarily. Instead, He will give them to those for whom God has prepared them. Note also that with regard to sitting as equals on the right hand and left hand of Christ in His Kingdom, St. John Chrysostom teaches that no one could possibly occupy such a position. With regard to the highest places of honor that can be given to man, the icons of the Church universally depict the Virgin Mary (the most blessed among women – Luke 1:28) and John the Baptist (the greatest born of women – 11:11) holding these places.

**Mark 10:45** – The phrase **for many** is an Aramaic expression meaning “for all.”

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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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## ST. MARY OF EGYPT

Rev. Fr. Vasilije Vranic, St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, Washington, D.C.

**Through you, the divine likeness was securely preserved, O Mother Mary, for you did carry the cross and follow Christ.** - Apolytikion of the Saint

A Russian folktale speaks about a cobbler who received a message from God that He would visit him on Christmas Day. The cobbler diligently prepared for the divine visit, but that entire day, only several people in need came by his house. The day passed by, and God did not come. When the cobbler complained that he had been deceived, God replied to him that He indeed had visited the man several times – in the form of all those people in need.

We Christians very often pass by people in need thinking that they would spend the money we give them in unacceptable manner. Yet we forget that every person, no matter how undeserving of our attention and our charity, is an opportunity to serve God. Christ said that whenever we serve our neighbor, we serve God: “As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me” (Matt. 25:40).

The fifth Sunday of Lent is a pertinent moment to remember that God provides us with opportunities to serve Him by serving others, no matter who or what they are. Was not St. Mary of Egypt in the first part of her life a sinful person undeserving of one's attention? Yet through her repentance and subsequent dedication of her life to God, did she not become one of the greatest saints of the Christian Church?

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**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...** “In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the Muslim Caliph Al-Hakim decreed the closure of all Churches in Egypt for nine years. It was a time of great distress for all Christians. One day, the Caliph was walking through the streets where Christians resided and he heard their voices praising and praying in each house. Then he said, ‘Open their churches again and let them pray as they please. I wished to close a Church in every street. But today I discovered that when I made this decree, a church was opened in every home.’”

The Lent we are given, when we fill it with self-sacrifice and repentance, brings us to the Pascha we need. The Joy of the life-giving Pascha of Christ is quickly coming, make preparations! Begin by making your home a sanctuary to God. Clean it often, dedicate a space of it to prayer, and make our services a habit. Do your baking, your cooking, fill your time with preparation. These days are trying for everyone; continue to pray for one another – those you know and those you do not know. Fr. Michael is here to listen if you need to speak with him. Make a call, send a note.

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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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**ALL LITURGICAL SERVICES WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE CLERGY & CANTORS ONLY AT ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH THROUGH APRIL 12TH AND PERHAPS LONGER, BUT OUR SACRED TEMPLE WILL BE OPEN ON SUNDAYS AND OTHER DAYS OF THE WEEK FOR LIMITED PERIODS OF TIME!**

Faithful members can come to Saint Nicholas for private prayer, lighting a candle, receiving the church bulletin, offering their Sunday envelopes and monetary gifts to the parish and securing additional spiritual literature made available to all parishioners. For our beloved senior citizens 65 years of age and older, those of us who are currently experiencing any type of sickness or illness or complications of a present ailment, please, stay at home and safe within your confines. For those of you who do come please remember to apply safe social distancing. We will be reaching out to our Parish family in the following weeks by email, facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/stnichomestead/>) and our [church website](#). Please stay in touch with each other.

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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 Palm Sunday, April 12, 2020!

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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 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.

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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!

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)

