

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, May 31, 2020

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36; Resurrection Tone: 6; Gospel: John 17:1-13

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 96-98, 211-212 / Red Book: 111-114, 235-236

Monday, (June 1)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Jenny** and +**John Pingor**, offered by the Family, and for the deceased: +**Mary Rudosky**, offered by Rose Marie Roscoe (Daughter).

Wednesday, (June 3)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**John** and +**Mary Rusnak**, offered by Margaret Rusnak.

Saturday, (June 6)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the 5th All-Souls' Day of the year, when a Panachida shall be conducted and the Reading of the Parish Diptychs (List of the departed loved ones) will be intoned.

Sunday, June 7, 2020

PENTECOST-TRINITY SUNDAY AND THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WITH SPECIAL KNEELING PRAYERS INTONED (FAST-FREE WEEK)

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 2:1-11; Resurrection Tone: ; Gospel: John 7:37-52, 8:12

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 213-216 / Red Book: 237-239

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: **Pentecost Sunday**, offered by the Senior A.C.R.Y. Chapter #11.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Pentecost Sunday**, offered by the Senior A.C.R.Y. Chapter #11.

Birthday Prayers for: **Trona Paganico** (June 6), offered by Michael & Kira Fischer & Girls.

Wedding Anniversary Prayers intoned for: **Michael & Kira Fischer** on their 17th Anniversary of Holy Matrimony (June 7), offered by the Paganico Family and Michael & Kira Fischer and Girls
Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Michael Nicholas Yenchek**, offered by Michael Yenchek & Family.

John 17:1-13 – Christ's prayer is often called the High Priestly Prayer, as it contains the basic elements of prayer a priest offers to God when a sacrifice is about to be made: glorification (vv. 3-5, 25), remembrance of God's works (vv. 2, 6-8, 22, 23), intercession on behalf of others (vv. 9, 11, 15, 20, 21, 24), and a declaration of the offering itself (vv. 1, 5).

The passage that includes vv. 1-13 is read on the Seventh Sunday of Pascha (Easter), a day remembering the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council (Nicea 1) in AD 325. At this council the heresy of Arianism was condemned. This heresy taught that the Son of God was created by the Father and that there was a time when the Son of God did not exist. We find our Lord's

words here being witness to His divinity and to His filial relationship with the Father. This testimony is sufficient in itself to dismiss Arianism.

The hour has come signifies Christ is Lord over time. “He voluntarily willed to ascend the Cross in the flesh” (hymn of Orthodoxy Sunday). **Glorify** refers to the redemption of all creation that will be accomplished through the Cross and **Resurrection** – the purpose for which Christ was sent into the world. In this redemption, the Father and the Son are glorified. This is why the Cross, which is a sign of death, is glorified in the Church as “life-giving” and the “weapon of peace.”

17:3 – The knowledge of **the only true God** is far more than intellectual understanding. It is participation in His divine life and in communion with Him. Thus, **eternal life**, is an ongoing, loving knowledge of God in Christ and the Holy Spirit.

17:4 – Christ’s **work** can never be separated from who He is. This verse is a statement each believer can make at the end of life, no matter how long or short that life may be.

17:6 – **The men whom You have given Me** are the apostles. They are the ones through whom God’s word comes to us. This handing down of God’s word to successive generations is called apostolic tradition.

Isaiah prophesied that in the days of the Messiah, the knowledge of the Name of God would be revealed (Is. 52:6). **Your name:** In the Old Testament times, the phrase “the Name” was reverently used as a substitute for God’s actual Name “Yahweh,” which was too sacred to pronounce. The fuller revelation of the Name was given to those who believe in Christ, for Christ **manifested** the Name not only by declaring the Father, but by being the very presence of God and sharing the Name with Him.

17:9 – Christ first prayed for Himself (vv. 1-5) and secondly **for them**, the apostles (vv. 6-19). Only then does He pray **for those whom You have given Me** – all who will come to believe in Him (vv. 20-26). Here **the world** is the portion of humanity in rebellion against God, those who prefer darkness to His light.

17:11 – **Holy Father** is echoed in the eucharistic prayer of Didache 10:2: “We give you thanks, Holy Father, for **Your holy name** which You have made to dwell in our hearts.”

17:12 – **The son of perdition** (“destruction”) is Judas Iscariot (6:70, 71). Old Testament prophecy alludes to Judas (Psalm 40:10; 108:2-13; Zec.11:12, 13), and Judas becomes a type for all who will fall away in the last days (See 2 Th. 2:3 where “son of perdition” refers to Antichrist)

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 YEAR OF GRACE OF THE LORD **By a Monk of the Eastern Church** **The Holy Fathers**

This Sunday commemorates the bishops who sat the Council of Nicaea, the first in date of the seven ecumenical councils. The councils, and, independently of each council considered by itself, the idea of council in itself, have a great importance for the Orthodox Church. But the Council of Nicaea holds a very special place in the history of Christian doctrine: for, in affirming the divinity of Christ, it laid the foundation for all subsequent definitions. The great temptation of ‘modern’ theology, since the sixteenth century, has been, if not a return to Arianism, at least a sliding towards a ‘humanist’ conception of the person of Jesus Christ, who is seen as a more or less divinized creature. The Nicene Creed, in proclaiming that our Lord is truly God, equal to the Father, safeguards the integral message of love and of divine gift: God so loved the world that he gave himself to us, and became man in the person of the unique Son. To change a single iota of the Nicene Creed is to diminish the grandeur and generosity of God’s gift, it is to alter the essence of Orthodox Christianity radically.

The commemoration of the Fathers of Nicaea, this Sunday, does not mean that the Church proclaims or honors the personal sanctity of each one of the bishops who took part. Rather, the Church pays homage today to the collective witness that the Assembly of Nicaea bore to a Christian truth: ‘Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He has purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch...’ Thus spoke St. Paul to the elders of the church at Ephesus.

This Sunday already belongs to the sphere of ideas connected with Pentecost rather than with the Ascension, for the universal Church believes that the Council of Nicaea, like the other ecumenical councils and the apostles themselves gathered at Jerusalem, taught under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. And the first verse of the epistle for today already orients our thoughts towards Pentecost: ‘For he (Paul) hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost’. To be with the apostles at Jerusalem, in spirit, at next Sunday’s great feast – is not this what we, too, desire and humbly ask for?

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 the financial leaders in the parish office.

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!

ALL-SOULS’ SATURDAY, PENTECOST SUNDAY, AND HOLY SPIRIT DAY services shall be conducted and celebrated on Saturday, June 6th at 9 A.M., Sunday, June 7th at 9 A.M. and Monday, June 8th at 9:30 A.M. Our church shall be open for the liturgical services with a maximum number (25) of faithful permitted to participate in the liturgical rites on Pentecost or “Green” Sunday, with the Special Kneeling Prayers.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2020: To all High School and College Graduates of 2020: Please notify Fr. Michael by Pentecost Sun. (June 7th) of your graduation info. High School Students: your High School, any academic and/or athletic awards, where you will attend in the Fall and your attended major in college (or undecided at this time). College Students, Graduate and Post-Graduate: your college/university, your field of study and degree you have earned. We will recognize our graduates on Sunday, June 28. God-willing, we will be able to do this in person. Please be in church that Sunday so that we can take a group photo.

FIRST CONFESSION CLASS SUNDAY AT 9:00 A.M. – POSTPONED UNTIL A LATER DATE! Children of our church school Mystery of Penance class shall confess their sins before the priest on Saturday at 11 A.M. in Saint Nicholas Church. And the following Lord’s Day they will come forward and receive the Body and Blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. It is a joyous occasion for the entire congregation to welcome these youths in the full sacramental life of the Church and rejoice in their attaining the age of reason and progress in their maturity level.

FATHER’S DAY IS JUNE 21ST THIS YEAR! Remember your beloved Father, Grand-Father, Great Grand-Father, God-Father, Step-Father in the special bulletins which will be published for the living and the +deceased fathers of the parish and of our parishioners. Submit their names to Fr. Michael by email or regular mail no later than Sunday, June 14.

PROVIDE A SCHOOL SUPPLIES-FILLED BACKPACK FOR A STUDENT IN THE DUQUESNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT THIS YEAR!

Working with FOCUS North America for a new season of Back to School Backpacks, the Orthodox Christian organization will reconfigure the program in a way that offers our parish members an opportunity to support classrooms, grades, or a school of students by sending backpacks filled with school supplies to our church from supply houses where quarantining of products and hands-on processes are not pressures that interfere with getting resources to the students they serve. George Matey and Jean Colantoni shall, once again, serve as our parish coordinators for this project, and we encourage all faithful members or families of St. Nicholas to donate \$25.00 to help the young children in a financially-depressed school district these “bags of materials” that will aid them in their pursuit of education. Please submit your monetary donation to the church financial officers and help our precious children in their early years of scholastic achievement.

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