

# Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



## American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

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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. 27

**Sunday, June 28, 2020**

## 3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AND "GRADUATE SUNDAY"

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

Epistle: Romans 5:1-10;

Resurrection Tone: 2;

Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 84-86 / Red Book: 99-102

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of Reader, Choir Director & Cantor, +**Andrew Talarovich**, offered by Friends.

Birthday prayers intoned for: **Dacia Paganico**, offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servants, +**Andy Talarovich**, offered by Friends.

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**Monday, (June 29)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Fred & +Mary Bonach**, offered by the Family.

**Tuesday, (June 30)...** 9:00 A.M. Service to the Holy Mother of God (Tentative).

**Wednesday, (July 1)...** 9:00 A.M. Service to the Holy Cross (Tentative).

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**Sunday, July 5, 2020**

## 4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Service of the Third Hour: 8:20 A.M.**

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

Epistle: Romans 6:18-23;

Resurrection Tone: 3;

Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87-89 / Red Book: 102-105

Birthday prayers intoned for: **Kaitlyn Thorn & Kylie Fischer**, offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**John & +Mary Kindya**, +**Joseph & +Mary Pacolt**, and +**Donald & +Eleanor Kindya**, offered by Andrew & Lucy Tomko.

**Matthew 6:22-33 –**

**6:22, 23 –** The mind (Greek, "nous") is the spiritual **eye** of the soul; it illuminates the inner man and governs the will. Keeping the mind wholesome and pure is fundamental to the Christian life.

**6:24 –** As slaves serving **two masters**, people attempt to maintain an attachment to both earthly and heavenly things. But this is impossible, since both demand full allegiance. Jesus calls **mammon** ("riches") a master not because wealth is evil by nature, but because of the control it has over people.

**6:25-27 –** Jesus is warning against anxiety, not against thoughtful planning. Our physical well-being is directly dependent on God, and only indirectly on **food, drink, and clothing**. Anxiety over earthly things demonstrates a lack of faith in God's care.

**6:32** – Because the **Gentiles** served pagan idols, they remained consumed by dependence on earthly **things**. Those who follow God can be freed from this dependence.

**6:33** – **The kingdom of God** is the central theme of Jesus’ teaching, and **His righteousness** is the subject of the Sermon on the Mount. Calling us to be free from anxiety about earthly things, Jesus directs us to look to heaven, secure in the faith that God will provide needed earthly blessings.

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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/acroddioocese> Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/acrodnews> You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddioocese>

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

**“... do not worry about your life,”**

The Gospels for the last two Sundays have shown us that, in order to follow Jesus, earthly preoccupations must be abandoned. We may ask: ‘But how shall we live?’ The gospel for the third Sunday after Pentecost puts us on guard against this anxiety. Jesus tells us that we must unify our inner life. “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.”

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” The words of today’s Good News must be understood with discernment. There are men whom our Lord calls to follow Him in absolute poverty. The majority of men have family and social responsibilities, and have to face them through work. As far as earthly goods are concerned, our Lord does not condemn the prudence which is called for by both justice and charity, but He does condemn greed and anxious care which indicate a lack of faith. Let both him whose special vocation it is to strip himself of everything, and him whose duty is to care for the material welfare of his family, be confident: the Father will not abandon them, but they must – the one and the other – seek, before all else, the kingdom of God and its righteousness in their own consciences and round about them. These are the two main ideas – first of all, the search for the kingdom of God, and then trust in the Father’s goodness for life’s necessities – to take away with us this morning from the church in which we heard the gospel read.

Concerning the epistle lesson for this Lord’s Day, justification by faith (and not by our personal merits) is a principle we must never lose sight of. This justification must always make itself known through a patient and active charity. ‘We glory in tribulations also... because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.’ Faith that justifies is not a final result. It is a starting point, the root of good works.

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**ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY – CEMETERY TURNAROUND!** At the 2020 Annual Cemetery Association Meeting in January 2020, the membership approved a motion to install an 80’ diameter turnaround at the end of the existing roadway and repair the roadway from the grotto to the new turnaround. This was a much-needed venture. The cost of this project was \$22k. After a few delays related to the Coronavirus situation, the turnaround paving project has been completed. If you are interested in helping, please donate to our cemetery. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated. Thank You! Tom Pingor.

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**CAMPERS: REGISTER FOR THE VIRTUAL DIOCESAN CAMPING WEEK OF THE PITTSBURGH DEANERY BY THE END OF JUNE; JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> IS THE DEADLINE!** Our parish shall, once again, finance your registration fees. Once you register online at the Diocesan Website, pamphlets concerning your week-long activities (July 26-August 1) will be mailed to you, plus, a commemorative Camp Nazareth tee-

shirt. The code for St. Nicholas Church campers is: **Homestead 30**. Use this code in place of any monetary stipend submitted. And, notify your Pastor, or the Church Treasurer, Cheryl Tomko of your participation this year.

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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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**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.

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**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 (48) "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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**OUR PARISH'S DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS AND GRADUATES FOR THE YEAR 2020 OF OUR LORD**

**DEACON MARC WISNOSKY – Earned the Bachelor of Theology Degree from Christ the Saviour Seminary in May of this year.**

**RACHAEL HUBERT – Graduate of Steel Valley High School. Steel Valley Varsity Marching Band for 4 – yrs. Concert Band and Color Guard Captain. Member of the Drama Club, History Club, French Club, Students Against Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.) and Dance Club. Rachael will be attending West Virginia University, majoring in Biochemistry/Pre-med.**

**JAYLAN LACKO – Graduate of West Mifflin High School. National Honor Society, Member of the Yearbook Club, a consistent Honor Roll student, and current President of St. Nicholas Church Junior A.C.R.Y. Chapter.**

**NATASHA RAJAKOVICH – Graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelors' Science Degree in Psychology. She is presently employed as a Youth Counselor in Greensburg.**

**JOHN FEDORNOCK – Earned an Associate's Degree in Architectural Design from Westmoreland Community College in the fall semester of 2019. He is currently employed at The Kitchen Gallery, serving as an Architectural Case Worker.**