

# 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. 29

**Sunday, July 12, 2020**

## 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AND FEAST OF THE HOLY PRIME APOSTLES, PETER & PAUL

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10 (Sunday); Resurrection Tone: 4; Gospel: Matthew 8:28-34 (Sunday)

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:21-12:9 (Apostles);

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19 (Apostles)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90-92, 162-163 / Red Book: 105-107; 183-185

Birthday prayers intoned for: **Emilia Zak**, on her 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday (7/11), offered by the Zak Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Peter & +Helen Mochnach, +Charles & +Mary Lou Gilchrist, +Edward Martin Mochnach, and +Donna Marie Winter**, offered by Chuck & Robin Gilchrist and Albert & Jackie Maurer.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Helen Sukaly**, offered by St. Nicholas Church.

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**Tuesday, (July 14)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Michael & +Ann Puchy**, offered by the Family.

**Friday, (July 17)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Martha and +Joseph Lucas**, offered by Ernest P. Molchany, MD.

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**Sunday, July 19, 2020**

## 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Romans 12:6-14;

Resurrection Tone: 5;

Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 93-95 / Red Book: 108-110

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+George Pacolt, +Olga Simmers, +Helen Maurer, and +Ann & +Grace Ondrejckak**.

**Matthew 16:13-20 – “Who do you say that I am?”** (v. 15) is the greatest question a person can ever face, for it is the question that defines Christianity. Peter's correct answer to this question prevents the Christian faith from being seen as merely another philosophical system or path of spirituality, for it names Jesus as the one and only **Son of the Living God**. This position excludes all compromise with other religious systems. Peter's understanding cannot be achieved by human reason, but only by divine revelation through faith (1 Co. 12:3). **Christ** means “Anointed One,” and is equivalent to the Hebrews title “Messiah.”

Note that Christ first draws out erroneous opinions about Himself (vv. 13, 14). He does this to identify these incorrect ideas, as a person is better prepared to avoid false teachings when they are clearly identified.

**16:18 – Peter/rock** is a play on the word for “rock” in both Aramaic and Greek (petros/petra). This rock refers not to Peter per se. but to “the faith of his confession” (St. John Chrysostom).

The true Rock is Christ Himself (1 Co. 10:4), and the Church is built on the faithful confession of Christ.

**Gates of Hades:** powers of death. In the Old Testament, gates suggest a fortified city (Gen. 22:17; 24:60; Is. 14:31). By shattering its gates, Christ opens the stronghold of death to set free the souls of the righteous. So also, the Church shall not be stopped in her proclamation of salvation.

The term **church** is mentioned only twice in all the gospels, here and in 18:17. The Church is the true Israel and the Body of Christ; her citizenship is heavenly.

**16:19 Keys of the kingdom** refers to a special authority that will be given to both Peter and the other apostles after the resurrection. Peter was not a leader over the others, but among them. This truth was confirmed at the Council in Jerusalem (Acts 15) where the apostles and presbyters met as equals, and where Peter advised, but James presided. Papal claims in later centuries must not be confused with the New Testament witness regarding Peter, nor should the role of Peter be diminished in opposition to these claims.

Binding and loosing is a reference primarily to the authority “to absolve sins” (St. John Chrysostom), but it also includes all the teaching, sacramental, and administrative authority of the apostles. This authority was in turn transmitted to the bishops of the Church and continues in effect to this day.

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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**

### **The Gadarene Swine**

The whole herd of swine throws itself into the Lake of Galilee. The man who had been possessed is now healed, and sits at Jesus’ feet. But the Gadarene people, in fear, beg Christ to depart from them: is not the presence of Jesus Christ always a threat to our private life and our own affairs? Does it not require changes that are too hard for us?

We incline to look upon the unhappy end of the herd of swine as a “sign”: Jesus suggests that abandonment to the power of evil always leads to death and destruction which, in its last throes, is characterized by a certain fury.

Let us look at some secondary aspects of this episode. Jesus asks the possessed man: ‘What is your name?’ There is more in this than a simple question, for these words themselves already initiate therapy. Jesus wishes to bring the man, who had spoken as if he identified himself with the demon, back to awareness of his own identity. He wanted to restore to him a sense of his own personality and independence. Whenever a sinner is so sunk in habit that it seems as if he is driven by the power of evil, Jesus, above all, wants him to dissociate himself from these powers and to remember his own name – the name given him by God: ‘I have called you by your name; you are mine...’ (Isaiah 43:1). In the name, by which God calls us, is found our true liberty and our true vocation. The possessed man answers Jesus: ‘My name is Legion’,,, and the gospel explains, ‘because many devils were entered in him’,,, Perhaps the man had seen a Roman legion, that unrelenting force, which is both a multitude and a unity. In the same way, if we give in to sin, we become ‘legion’: our instincts, our mental images, all our psychic elements take on a chaotic independence; the will, weakened by each successive fall, is in no state to regain possession of them and to co-ordinate them; our whole personality becomes dissociated and disintegrates. God alone can gather these

broken fragments and mend them. ‘Unite my heart...’ we ask of Him in Psalm 86:11. Later, when the possessed man is healed, he begs Jesus to let him stay with Him; but Christ tells him to return to his house and to show what God has done for him. And the man returns ‘and published (witnessed) throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him’. The majority of Christians are not called to follow Jesus Christ in the literal sense of the word and to become traveling disciples; but they all have an ordinary apostleship to practice (witness) in their immediate and daily surroundings, in the circles of their family and their work. This apostleship does not consist of ‘preaching’, it consists rather of bearing personal witness, of sharing with others an authentic experience, of ‘declaring’ and ‘publishing’ what Jesus has done for them. Neither eloquence nor great intelligence are needed for this ministry. It is open to the humblest – for all it calls for is a spirit of sincerity and devotion.

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**ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY – CEMETERY TURNAROUND!** The Cemetery Association would like to thank all the parishioners who have already donated to the Cemetery Turnaround Project. We hope you have had an opportunity to visit the cemetery and view the new turnaround and roadway repairs beyond the grotto. It is our content to continue to maintain and make improvements so that everyone can be proud of our cemetery. Your continued donations and support would be greatly appreciated. Thank You! Tom Pingor, Cemetery Association President.

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**CAMPERS: REGISTER FOR THE VIRTUAL DIOCESAN CAMPING WEEK OF THE PITTSBURGH DEANERY NOW; THE DEADLINE IS PAST!** 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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**MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SISTER NYMPHODORA ON SATURDAY, JULY 25<sup>TH</sup> AT 12:00 NOON!** All are invited to a memorial service for the 40<sup>th</sup> day of the falling asleep of Sister Nymphodora, known to many as Eleanor Dussling, on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at the Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery, 121 St. Elias Lane, Saxonburg, PA 16056 at 12:00 noon. There will be a light luncheon after the memorial service. Please call (724) 352-3999 if you plan to attend.

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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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**PLEASE RETURN YOUR LENTEN SELF-DENIAL COIN BOX TO THE CHURCH IN ORDER FOR OUR PARISH TO SUBMIT A NOTABLE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION COMMISSION!** Perhaps the sacrificial bank is still in your home ready to be offered to the Orthodox Christian missionaries traveling to all parts of the earth empowered to spread the “True Faith” to all humanity.

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“God is a fire that warms and kindles the heart and inward parts. And so, if we feel in our hearts coldness, which is from the devil, - for the devil is cold – then let us call upon the Lord, and He will come and warm our hearts with perfect love not only for Him, but for our neighbor as well. And from the presence of warmth the coldness of the hater of good will be driven away.” - St. Seraphim of Sarov

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