

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

Homestead, PA 15120

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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

Weekday Cantors – Donald Bodnar Jr. & Michele Tomko

Parish Council President: Tom Pingor

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Sunday, December 11, 2016

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-7

Tone: 8

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 102-104 / Red Book: 117-119

Bulletin Sponsor: **Noah Thorn's** 18th Birthday, offered by God-parents, Michael Fischer & Debbie Harris.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **+Mildred Sukal's** 9th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, and **+Michael Tomko's** 47th Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+John Koreny** (Husband), offered by Mildred Koreny.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Michael Tomko**, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Andrew Tomko**, offered by Ann Tomko & Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Mary Juba & +Marlene Flaherty**, offered by Ed, Lucia & Nick Ferchak.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Florence Holubz & +Dolores Zak**, offered by Fr. Michael & Pani Deborah Zak.

Wednesday, (Dec. 14)... 7:00 P.M. Moleben (Prayer) Service of Saint Nectarios, with the anointing of the sick, in body and soul.

Saturday, (Dec. 17)... 11:00 A.M. – 12 Noon: Hearing of Confessions.

Sunday, December 18, 2016

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19

Tone: 1

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81-83 / Red Book: 95-99

Holy Day Flowers' Sponsor: **Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonder-worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia**, offered by Cheryl & Sue.

7:00 P.M. Vespers on the Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonder-worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, with the Blessing of bread, wheat, wine & oil.

Luke 13:10-17

Luke 6:7 – According to certain traditions that **the scribes and Pharisees** had built up around the Law, healing was considered work, and thus was not permissible **on the Sabbath**. They

believed they served God by zealously keeping these peripheral traditions, but this legalism made them insensitive to God's mercy.

13:16 – Think of it: The Fathers see this command as directing us to a spiritual meaning for the **eighteen years**. As the Greek expression if literally translated “ten and eight years,” both St. Ambrose and Theophylact see ten as representing the Ten Commandments and eight as representing grace, for the day of Resurrection is often called the “eighth day.” Thus humanity is lifted up by faith in Christ, Who fulfills both law and grace.

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.

The Healing on the Sabbath Day

A woman who has been bowed down with an infirmity for eighteen years is healed on the Sabbath day by Jesus, in a synagogue where He is preaching. The ruler of the synagogue gives vent to his indignation at the day of rest being violated by this work of mercy. Jesus, to the shame of His adversaries and the joy of the people, answers that, if no one thinks anything of loosening his ox or his donkey to take it to water on the Sabbath, then there is much stronger reason to release a daughter of Abraham on this day. Most of us strongly approve of this lesson from the gospel for this Sunday after Pentecost; in principle, we are absolutely in agreement with the free attitude of Jesus towards the Sabbath, and are very ready to accuse the hypocrisy and legalism of the Pharisees and to take a stand against them. But, in fact, it often happens that we imitate them. We are easily shocked by any good work which is not done “according to the rules” – that is, what we ourselves consider to be the indispensable rules. If a person or a group whose beliefs differ from ours, or who belong to a political party of which we disapprove, or that we judge to be morally inferior, achieve some results that are objectively good, but that we did not expect to come from that side, our first instinctive reaction (which is often concealed) is one of skepticism, of resentment or bitterness. Church people are especially prone to the temptation to denigrate and condemn all that is not of “their” orthodoxy. Let his gospel teach us, therefore, to become humble enough, amenable enough to all light from above to admit – with joy and gratitude – the good that can be done through other channels than those which, rightly or wrongly, we consider “proper.” May God make us able, when faced by any “healing on the Sabbath,” to feel what the people who surrounded Jesus felt: “... all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.”

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>

THE NATIVITY FAST (ADVENT)

With the Advent Fast (aka Philip's Fast, Apostles' Fast, Christmas Fast) in our midst, I offer the following for you to contemplate in order for all of us to prepare ourselves adequately for the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

What Should I be Doing?

- } (1) **Pray.** Find time each morning and each evening to pray. If you do not follow a “prayer rule,” speak with Father and he will help you.
- } (2) **Read Scripture.** A useful exercise during the Nativity Fast is to choose a Gospel (Mark is a good choice), and read one chapter each day. But read the

chapter aloud and slowly. Then sit in silence for a few minutes and reflect on any words or images that grabbed your attention.

- } (3) **Fast.** Observe the Church's fasting rules. Our faith is physical, not just spiritual. And fasting helps us to develop awareness of God's presence and of our dependence upon God for all things.
- } (4) **Get in the game!** Go to church faithfully, offer a personal confession, pray for others, visit the sick, volunteer your time, give sacrificially from what you have, make an attempt to heal broken relationships, decide to get the help you need.

Taken from the "Lighthouse", a monthly newsletter
Of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church, Southbury, CT

PURCHASE THE STUFFED CABBAGE FOR THE NATIVITY FEAST IN THE PARISH HALL THIS MORNING, WHILE BUYING THE HALUSKI, POTATO & BEAN SOUPS, PLAIN & RAISIN BREADS DURING ADVENT! These delicious Lenten foods, along with the frozen Holupki, can be bought today in the auditorium from Flo Davis. We graciously thank her and her crew of hard-working men & women of the church for preparing these "comfort foods" that we can partake of during this fasting season and on the Feast day of our Lord's Nativity.

TO ACCOMMODATE ALL OF OUR WORSHIPERS, A CONSIDERATE LAY PERSON HAS DONATED THE CHAIR-LIFT FOR GOD'S HOUSE OF PRAYER! We are so pleased as a parish to have an anonymous donor contribute \$10,000. toward the installation of a chair-lift to enable faithful members experiencing difficulty in walking up and down the stairs of church to use this means of transportation. We are extremely grateful for the generosity manifested by this charitable person(s) and pray that the Lord grant these "People of God" with "every good and perfect gift from above." The chair-lift still has to be serviced and shall be operative in a very short period of time.

SIGN YOUR NAMES ON THE LIST IN THE HALL TO PARTAKE OF THE SCRUMPTIOUS ST. NICHOLAS DAY BRUNCH THAT WE ALL WILL ENJOY NEXT SUNDAY (DEC. 18TH) FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY! An appetizing repast is being planned that will feature sausage patties, French-toast casserole, applesauce, fruits and hot & cold beverages. A free-will offering shall be in effect and we kindly ask all faithful to sign their names on the paper downstairs if they plan to partake of this wonderful meal. We are anticipating the visit of a special guest, Saint Nicholas the Wonder-worker and Bishop of Myra who will charitably favor our children of the church with bags of candies and other goodies. Thus, it important that all of our young people are brought to church services next Sunday, dine in the hall and welcome our Patron Saint to Homestead and receive his personal blessing as well.

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT! Christ the Saviour Seminary is in need of a vehicle. The inquiry is made within our congregation if there is a parishioner willing to make a donation of a reliable used vehicle – any make, any year, preferably an SUV if possible, or an all-wheel drive vehicle that is necessary for the Johnstown area. The Seminary community is grateful for your attention to this matter. Sincerely,
Protopresbyter Frank P. Miloro.

COME AND SEE WHAT'S NEW AT THE BOOKSTORE... All occasions and Nativity cards, children's books and gifts, icons, jewelry, nesting dolls, books and more! Special orders can be made with a nominal deposit... **Reserve** a couple of the newly published **Keeping the Feasts at Home: In the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Tradition.** The book is a spiritual and educational full-color reference for all to share the faith and traditions of our Diocese... Toddler Toy Box... for infants and toddlers too young for Sunday School. Please donate gently used infant/toddler toys to the bookstore. The toys will be available during Coffee Social/Sunday School.

GIVE TO THE ICON FUND, TODAY! We humbly seek the monetary gifts of additional faithful members to finance the additional artwork, such the Christian symbols, Scriptural verses, and crosses in the nave.

ST. NICHOLAS MEDOVNIKI COOKIE SALE! St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 903 Ann Street, Homestead, PA 15120. Senior A.C.R.Y. Chapter #11. \$2.00 each; \$10.00/half dozen. Cookies will be individually wrapped with a special treat from St. Nicholas himself! Please contact Aaron Zak with orders: aaronzak@gmail.com or 724-910-9719. Pre-orders should be placed by Friday, December 9th. Cookies will be available for pickup starting Saturday, December 17th.

THE YEAR IS COMING TO AN END, SOON; ARE YOU CHURCH DUES FOR 2016 PAID IN FULL? Less than a month remains in this present calendar year. Are your financial obligations to the parish still incomplete? If you have any questions regarding this matter, speak with Susan Semancik or Cheryl Tomko.

YOU MAY WISH TO GET IN CONTACT WITH THIS GODLY WOMAN! The current address of Olga Grimes is: 14500 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Apt. 256, Scottsdale, Arizona 85260. She would appreciate a call as well. Her cell phone number is: 412-512-0747.

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)