

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



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American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

Homestead, PA 15120

Rectory Office Phone: (412) 461-3264

Church Office & Auditorium: (412) 461-9437

Web Site: www.stnichomestead.org

E-mail Address: stnic@stnichomestead.org

E-mail Address: frmzak@gmail.com

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

Sunday, July 24, 2016

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Third Hour Service: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10

Tone: 4

Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90-92 / Red Book: 105-107

Birthday prayers intoned for **Michael Dzvonic** (July 28), offered by Shelly & Sean Bishop.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Florence Koscik**, offered by daughter, Beverly Packy.

Tuesday, (July 26)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Mary Kindya** on the 40th day of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Andrew, Lucy, Kelly Ann Tomko & Allison Kindya, and for the deceased +**John R. Kindya** (11 years departed this life), offered by Andrew, Lucy, Kelly Ann & Allison Kindya.

Thursday, (July 28)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Andrew** & +**Mary Drabant**, offered by Mary Drabant.

Saturday, (July 30)... 7:00 P.M. Vespers (Confessions may be heard before or after the service).

Sunday, July 31, 2016

6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Romans 12:6-14 (Sunday)

Tone: 5

Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8 (Sunday)

Hebrews 13:7-16 (Fathers)

John 17:1-13 (Fathers)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 93-95; 164 / Red Book: 108-110; 185-186

Birthday prayers intoned for **Eva Bishop** on her 2nd birthday (8/5), offered by Michael Dzvonic.

Matthew 8:28-9:1

8:28-34 – The demons, recognizing Jesus as the **Son of God**, are surprised that their power is being terminated **before the time** of the last judgment. Though the malice of the demons is great, they can do nothing against the will of God, and thus can only enter the **swine** at Christ's command. The immediate destruction of the **herd** shows that the men had been protected by God's care; otherwise, they would have perished under the demonic influence. Further, it reinforces that swineherding was not lawful for the Jews, and shows the incomparable value of human beings, whose salvation is worth every sacrifice.

9:1 – Jesus' **own city** is Capernaum (4:13).

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.

PUTTING OFF THE OLD SELF

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

As we struggle to make spiritual progress, we do battle with the old self. We work against old habits that have kept us stuck and prevented the change we so desire in our quest for communion with God. Our sins and passions have become familiar to us, almost like old friends, and laziness has set in. We may have become comfortable with the way we are, and change may seem like too much work.

We must confront spiritual laxity and sinful habits with a renewed commitment to live as children of God. But this struggle comes with a price tag: it requires real work on our part. The Kingdom of heaven must be taken by storm, but this struggle do not require us to battle on our own, for the Holy Spirit empowers us with the grace sufficient to win the battle over the old self. In Christ we become new creatures, and the old self is put aside.

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>

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

What was it that Jesus came to do to those demons and to those men in today's gospel? He came to free those men from the demons who were possessing them – and for the demons His coming is torment. Blessed Theophylact says in his commentary on this passage: "See the true nature of the demons. It is torment for them when they cannot harm men." In this we see the true nature of our foe.

We are reminded in this text of the battle we must wage every second of every day. It is not a battle against humans. It is not a battle, St. Paul says, against flesh and blood, but against spiritual powers and principalities, against the demons, against spiritual foes. These spiritual foes find joy when they destroy us. They consider it torment when they cannot bring harm to our souls and our bodies.

St. John Chrysostom says about this account, "Look at what the demons did when they were cast out of the men." They entered into the swine, and caused the swine to run violently down to their own death. St. John says that is what the demons want to do to each one of us. They want to cause us to run violently down to our own death. He says, "Do not be deceived. You have many foes. Just because you can't see them with your natural eyes does not mean they are not there. Just because you are not aware of them every second of every day does not mean they do not follow you around, because they do. They huddle around you." What they seek is to enter you so that they may cause you to rush violently to your own death.

This is the nature of our spiritual struggle. In 1 Peter 5:8, St. Peter says that our adversary the devil "walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." If we are going to fight the spiritual war, if we are going to live out this Christian life, then we must be aware every second of every day that the demons are there, and that they are looking for just one opening, just one second when we are not paying attention, one look that is not carefully guarded, one thought that we do not bring immediately to the Cross of Christ, one movement of anger, jealousy, or envy in our heart. The demons look for opportunities to destroy us.

If you study the lives of the saints you will learn so much about the evil one. Then you apply it to your own life, and you'll say, "Aha, you did that to St. Simeon, and he beat you. That trick got kicked out of the arsenal in AD 330. I'm not going to start it again now." We have to pay attention.

Most importantly, we beat Satan and the demons with the name of Jesus. It's a wonderful image of Satan and the demons in this Gospel passage, where the demons flex their muscles and scream at Jesus, "What have we to do with You? Have You come to torment us before the time?" And Jesus looks at them and says, "Go." And the demons flee. He doesn't argue with them – He doesn't have to. He just says, "Be gone." And they turn their backs and flee as fast as they can.

The name of Jesus is more powerful than any demon. The name of Jesus strikes fear into the heart of Satan and all his minions. That is why the name of Jesus is to be on our lips with every breath. If we center our thoughts on the name of Jesus, then Satan will not get us with any other thoughts. That's why the Fathers say that we descend with our mind into our heart, and we guard our mind with our heart, because the name of Jesus is our protection: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." When Jesus says, "Go," the demons flee.

OUR CONDOLENCES & DEEPEST SYMPATHY ARE EXTENDED TO THE ARENDAS & SHUPINKA FAMILIES!

Two of our beloved parishioners, +Alexander Arendas and +Joseph Shupinka fell asleep in the Lord last Sunday and the funeral service was conducted for each of these departed servants of the Lord. We pray that Ann Arendas and her beloved family and the Shupinka family members are comforted by the words of the resurrected Christ and that the memory of +Alexander and +Joseph is eternal in the mind of Almighty God. May they be numbered among the righteous souls of the Church Triumphant!

CAMPERSHIP DONORS TO DATE: Helen & Michael Beres: \$300; Thomas Pingor: \$300; Dave & Andrea Urban: \$300; Joan Ribovich: \$100; Trona Paganico: \$100; Pani Debbie Zak: \$150; Sue Semancik: \$300; Mothers' & Daughters' Guild: \$300; Senior A.C.R.Y. Chapter: \$300; Proceeds from Candy for Campers: \$161 (\$1 per bar); Helen Revak: \$100; Ruth Krenicky: \$100; Donald Bodnar: \$100; Junior A.C.R.Y. Chapter: \$500. The children of our parish have participated in the First Diocesan Camping Session this past week, and many of them will stay an additional week or two. The fee for a Diocesan camper has been increased to \$300 this year. May all parishioners donate towards the Campership Fund this year,

PURCHASE A GOOD SUPPLY OF DUCATS TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE OF 4 TICKETS TO THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS VS. PITTSBURGH STEELERS FOOTBALL GAME ON OCT. 2, 2016 AT 8 P.M.!

See any of our Sr. ACRY members for the \$10 raffle tickets and support the organization as it prepares to host next year's Convention in Homestead. The lucky individual holding the winning ticket will also receive a parking pass and hotel lodging at the Marriott Pittsburgh Airport. The Drawing Date is Sunday, Sept. 18, 2016. The 2nd Prize is \$500.00, with the Drawing on Monday, Sept. 19. And the 3rd Prize is \$250.00, with the Drawing on Tuesday, Sept. 20. This exciting fund-raising project is based on the PA lottery 1st Evening Pick 3. All unclaimed prizes are the property of Homestead's Sr. ACRY Chapter #11.

ANNUAL FALL FOOD FESTIVAL – OCTOBER 21-22, 2016! The Church Board is seeking one or two persons to volunteer as chairperson or co-chairpersons of the Annual Fall Food Festival, to be held on Friday & Saturday, Oct. 21 & 22. This fund-raiser is an important activity to generate much needed funds for the church. If you are interested, please communicate your interest to a parish officer as soon as possible. Also, if you would like to be a member of the Fall Food Festival Committee, please inform the parish board members as well. Thank you, Tom Pingor, Church President.

ASSIST JOHN FEDORNOCK IN HIS EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT MAINTAINING OUR CHURCH CEMETERY! Hello, my name is John Fedornock of troop 230 in Harrison City. For my Eagle Scout project, I am painting the fence and entry gate, as well as the brush around the fence, at our church cemetery. I am asking for donations in financial support, and later will be seeking your time and labors as well, as I attempt to complete my project. On a Saturday (tbd) we will be looking for volunteers to help with painting. Students will be able to earn service hours for school as well. Please see me for more information or if you would like to make a donation. Thank you for your support in this worthwhile project.

MARK DOWN ON YOUR CALENDARS THE DATE OF THIS YEAR'S CHURCH PICNIC: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER, 18, 2016!

Last year's summer outing was such an enjoyable affair that we'll be returning to the same facility: West Mifflin Park on Bettis Road, Shelter #1. We are confident that one or two of our faithful members will assume the chairpersons' position for this fun-filled event. Our church president, Thomas Pingor and the dedicated parish officers offer their full support and cooperation. Inform any of them of your willingness to spearhead this wonderful activity that manifests the fellowship and love amidst our church family.

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