

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, January 15, 2017

30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Tone: 5

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 93-95; 142 / Red Book: 108-110; 162

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Chris Lacock's** 60th Birthday, offered by the Family.

Birthday prayers extended to God-Mother, **Joan Ribovich**, offered by Susan Miller (God-Daughter).

Wedding Anniversary prayers intoned for: **Janice & Donald Kerr** (Jan. 13), offered by Jeffrey Kerr and Evelyn Banosky.

Tuesday, (Jan. 17)... 9:30 A.M. Royal Hours on the Feast of Theophany of Our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Wednesday, (Jan. 18)... Eve of Theophany – Strict Fast Day (no meat or dairy products eaten).
5:00 P.M. Second Holy Night Supper is served in the parish auditorium.
7:00 P.M. Vigil Service for the Theophany of Our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ, with the Great Blessing of Water and Sanctification of the church interior and her members.

Thursday, (Jan. 19)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast for the Theophany of Our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Beginning of home blessings.

Friday, (Jan. 20)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Synaxis of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

Sunday, January 22, 2017

31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AND SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Tone: 6

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 96-98; 150 / Red Book: 111-114; 169-170

Bulletin Sponsor: **Nick Ditmore's** 11th Birthday, offered by the Family.

Mark 1:1-8

1:1 – Gospel (lit. “good news” or “good tidings”) refers not to Mark’s writings per se, but to the story of the life, death, and Resurrection of **Jesus Christ**, the good news of our salvation.

Beginning points to the opening events of Christ’s public ministry, namely the preparation by His forerunner, St. John the Baptist, and Christ’s encounter with him.

1:6 – John is **clothed** in a manner similar to that of Elijah (4 Kings 1:8), which helps to show that he fulfills the prophecy of Elijah’s return.

1:9, 10 – Jesus does not need purification. By making the purification of humanity His own, He would wash away humanity’s sin, grant regeneration, and reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Thus, His baptism was necessary for the fulfillment of God’s righteous plan of salvation. “Jesus enters the filthy, sinful waters of the world and when He comes out, brings up and purifies the entire world with Him.” (St. Gregory of Nyssa).

The **Spirit of God** hovered over the water at the first creation (Genesis 1:2). Now, the Holy Spirit comes in the form of a **dove** to anoint the Messiah, the Son of God, at the beginning of the new creation. Jesus does not become the Son of God this day; rather, He is revealed to all as the Son of God on this day. The Holy Spirit has always rested on Him. The feast day of Epiphany (a manifestation or revelation) or Theophany (a manifestation of God), celebrated on January 6/19, commemorates this day and points to the age to come.

This quotation is from Psalm 2:7, “You are My Son, / Today I have begotten You.” Note how the Baptism of Jesus reveals the great mystery of the Trinity: the Father speaks; the Holy Spirit descends; the Incarnate Son is baptized.

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>

AFTER MEETING CHRIST, WE HAVE A CHOICE

The Morning Offering by Abbot Tryphon

In the story of the Magi, three wise men, having seen a star in the east, travel to a desert cave, where they find the Child, laid in a manger by His Virgin Mother.

This encounter with the Messiah filled them with life-transforming grace; they were no longer the same. Although they had agreed to return by the same route and to report the whereabouts of the Child to King Herod, their encounter in the cave made them true believers, convincing them that the One they had beheld was truly the Son of God, the Messiah.

They knew they had two roads back to their own country. One would lead to destruction, and the other would lead to the Kingdom of God. The way to Herod would be the worldly path; if they had chosen it, that would have meant that having met the Christ, they had experienced no change in their hearts, and they remained of the world. The other way was the way of Christ, by which they could return to their own country as changed men. This narrow path to the Kingdom of God was revealed to them, for they had encountered the Saviour of the World.

We too face a choice of two paths having met Christ. One leads to destruction, and the other leads to the Kingdom. The first is the way of sinners, leading to Herod, while the other way leads to Christ, which allows us to return to our own country as changed people. Let us turn away from the path to Herod, ruler of an earthly power, and travel to the everlasting dwelling of our heavenly country.

PREPARATION FOR THE BLESSING OF HOMES, BEGINNING THIS THURSDAY (JANUARY 19)!

Before the Priest arrives at your home, here are a few reminders on how to prepare:

- + In the main room of the home, usually the kitchen or dining room, have placed on the table a white cloth, a candle and/an Icon or cross. You may place a small container of Holy Water on the table as well. (Note: Father will bring water with him.)
- + Turn off TVs, radios, computers, etc. so as to keep focused on the blessing service.

- + Please make sure that pets are heeled or restrained so as not to get underfoot while Father goes through the home.
- + If you have any items to be blessed (Icon, Cross, etc.), put them on the table where the blessing
- + When the Priest arrives, have everyone in the home gather around the table where the blessing takes place. Participation is important!
- + Invite friends or neighbors to participate and witness the beauty of this holy tradition.
- + If you need to discuss a personal matter with Father, this is the time to do so.

The sanctification of residences will be conducted from Monday to Saturday each week during the afternoon hours 1-5 and the evening hours 7-9. If you have a preference for an afternoon or evening visit, please notify Fr. Michael. Your priest shall begin blessing the homes of parishioners living in the Homestead, Munhall, and West Mifflin areas, proceeding within the city of Pittsburgh and concluding in outlying areas (north, south, east and west). Remember, the invitation to the priest to come and bless your home is an invitation to ask for the mercy of God upon the household. The sprinkling of the Holy Water is a sign of God's presence in home as an extension of His Holy House, the Church. It is a time to renew our commitment to God as we begin another year in His mercy and love for mankind.

SUPER BOWL LI (2017) BLOCK POOL! For the second year in a row, our parish will be conducting a Super Bowl Block Pool for SuperBowl LI (51) which will take place on February 5, 2017 between the AFC Champion and the NFC Champion. Each block will be offered at a price of \$25/block. Prizes will be awarded for the end of the 1st and 3rd Quarters at \$100; Half-Time prize is \$300; and the Final Score prize is \$1,000. Please stop by the church hall after Sunday services or contact Tom Pingor to purchase a block or two to support this fundraiser for our church. Thank you for your support! Thomas Pingor, C. Pres.

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. Proto. Frank Miloro.

COME AND SEE WHAT'S NEW AT THE BOOKSTORE... All occasions and Paschal 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 as 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 are individually wrapped with a special treat from St. Nicholas himself! Please contact Aaron Zak with orders: aaronzak@gmail.com or 724-910-9719. You can purchase these scrumptious honey pastries in the church hall this morning. See Pani Deborah Zak or any of the Senior ACRY members and secure a good supply of these wonderful Nativity treats for your family, friends and co-workers. They'll appreciate your charitable action in imitation of the holy and beloved hierarch and wonder-worker!

THEOPHANY EVE HOLY NIGHT SUPPER WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18TH AT 5 P.M. IN THE PARISH HALL!

As members of the church family we gather together in the auditorium of St. Nicholas to partake of the traditional "Holy Night Supper" consisting of Lenten foods (non-meat and non-dairy) in preparation for our attendance at the 7 P.M. Vigil Service on the Eve of Theophany and the Great Blessing & Distribution of Holy Water to the faithful. Please decide on what Lenten dish or drink you shall provide for the worshipers, and sign your name & food selection on the designated paper, located downstairs on the table near the church office. Dine in the company of friends that we share our precious Orthodox Christian Faith at this Second Holy Night Supper of the season.

ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY – ANNUAL MEETING – 1ST NOTICE! The St. Nicholas Cemetery Association will its 2017 Annual Cemetery Association Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 11:45 A.M. All Cemetery Association members and parishioners are encouraged to attend.

THE JANUARY MEN'S CLUB MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 23RD AT 7:30 P.M.! The officers for this organization will meet at 7 P.M. to discuss the budget for donations in this new year. Please inform the President, Brian Smoley, if you have any questions.

THE P.O.Y.A. (PITTSBURGH ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULTS) WILL HOLD THEIR NEXT "ORTHODOXY ON TAP" ON SUNDAY, FEB. 12 AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE SHARP EDGE BEER EMPORIUM ON S. ST.

CLAIR STREET IN SHADYSIDE! The featured speaker shall be His Eminence, Metropolitan Savas of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh. All young adults ages 21-40 are invited.

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