

# Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



## 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](http://www.stnichomestead.org)

E-mail Address: [stnic@stnichomestead.org](mailto:stnic@stnichomestead.org)

E-mail Address: [frmzak@gmail.com](mailto: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

Vol. 5; No. 8

**Sunday, February 26, 2017**

## SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE AND SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00

Epistle: Romans 13:11b-14:4

Tone: 3

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87-89; 178-179 / Red Book: 102-105; 200-201

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Mary Frances Skero**, on the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by husband, Andrew Skero.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Robert Peter Pingor**, offered by wife, Dorothy Pingor, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**1:00 P.M. Vespers on Cheesefare (Forgiveness) Sunday**

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**Monday, (Feb. 27)...** Beginning of the Great Fast: Clean Monday (Strict Fast).

9:00 A.M. Panachida for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Peter Mochnach**, offered by Albert & Jackie Maurer.

**7:00 P.M. Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete.**

**Tuesday, (Feb. 28)...** 9:00 A.M. Panachida for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Elizabeth & +John Janosko**, offered by Florence Vehec (daughter).

**Wednesday, (March 1)...** 7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (3-hr. fast of food or drink before partaking of Holy Communion).

**Friday, (March 3)...** 7:00 P.M. Akathist Hymn to the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Saturday, (March 4)...** 7:00 P.M. Vespers (Triumph of Orthodoxy).

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**Sunday, March 5, 2017**

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY**

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-40; 12:1-2a

Tone: 4

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90-92; 179-180 / Red Book: 105-107; 201-203

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of **+Mildred Sukal**, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, son, **+Darrell Grossett**, offered by Mother, Mary Ann Grossett.

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

**4:30 P.M. Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at All Saints' Greek Orthodox Church in Canonsburg, PA – His Grace, Bishop DANIEL of the Ukrainian Orthodox Diocese will preside – Lenten refreshments served afterwards in the parish hall.**

**Matthew 6:14-21 –**

**6:14, 15 –** Jesus insists on mutual forgiveness between people as a precondition of God's forgiveness. Those who do not **forgive** are not forgiven – period. This teaching is repeated in the parable of the unforgiving servant (18:21-35), which concludes with the same teaching. To not forgive others is to willfully flee from the forgiveness of God for ourselves.

**6:16-18 –** Keeping a **sad countenance** to show off one's fasting is mere external display. Jesus rejects such hypocrisy. For the one who fasts, the compassion of God outshines the physical discomfort. During the fasting seasons of the Church, the hymns call the faithful to **wash and anoint** their faces (thus, there is no "Ash Wednesday" in the Orthodox Church). Fasting is for spiritual growth, and the glory of God, not to be seen by those around us.

Fasting also is not merely abstinence from food, but consists of self-denial in all areas of life in order to escape the control of the passions. On the eve of Great Lent, we sing, "Let us abstain from passions as we abstain from food." St. John Chrysostom writes, "What good is it if we abstain from eating birds and fish, but bite and devour our brothers?"

**6:19-21 –** By attaching themselves to **treasures on earth**, people cut themselves off from heavenly treasures. They become slaves to earthly things rather than free in Christ. The heart of discipleship lies in (1) disentangling ourselves from the chains of earthly things, and (2) attaching ourselves to God, the true **treasure** (21).

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**RECTOR 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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## FORGIVENESS IS THE CURE

### The Morning Offering by Abbot Tryphon

Our Lord Jesus Christ told us: "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37). In the Our Father, the very prayer Christ gave to His disciples after they asked Him to teach them to pray, we say the words, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." These strong words make it clear that we are to forgive others if we expect God to forgive us.

St. Tikhon of Zadonsk, in his book Journey to Heaven says: "Do we forgive our neighbors their trespasses? God also forgives us in His mercy. Do we refuse to forgive? God also will refuse to forgive us. As we treat our neighbor, so also does God treat us. The forgiveness, then, of your sins or unforgiveness, and hence also your salvation or destruction, depend on you yourself, man. For without forgiveness of sins there is no salvation."

Throughout His ministry, Christ emphasized the need for us to be willing to forgive others, for if we expect to be forgiven, we must nurture a forgiving heart. If we hold grudges and remember wrongs, we poison our souls, and love has no place in us.

Elder Samson of Russia said, "The drunkard, the fornicator, the proud – he will receive God's mercy. But he who does not want to forgive, to excuse, to justify

consciously intentionally... That person closes himself to eternal life before God, and even more so in the present life. He is turned away and not heard."

As we are quick to forgive our neighbors, so God also forgives us in His great and loving mercy. If we refuse to forgive, God too will refuse to forgive us. Our salvation depends on our willingness to forgive others, for without forgiveness of sins, there is no salvation.

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**PURCHASE ANY OF THE CANDLES THAT WERE BLESSED ON THE FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD!** Speak with Robert Ruschak to learn of the prices of the various waxed tapers that were sanctified at the end of the feastday Liturgy and are available for purchase in the gift store, downstairs.

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**I.R.S. STATEMENTS ARE READY TO BE PICKED UP DOWNSTAIRS AT THE CHURCH OFFICE!** Parishioners can stop over at the church office this morning during the coffee social to pick up these financial papers.

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**A SEARCH FOR CHURCH TREASURER!**

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church is currently seeking a parishioner in good standing for the very important position of Treasurer. If you believe you have the qualifications and experience to fulfill the requirements of this office and have the desire and willingness to serve our church in this capacity, please see our church Council President, Thomas Pingor, immediately for consideration. Thank You!

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**SUBMIT YOUR CANDY ORDER FOR PASCHA!** The Choir is sponsoring its annual Pascha fundraiser: Sarris Candy. Orders may be given to any choir member by February 26. Delivery date is expected for April 9. Your support is appreciated. Choir members: Please submit your Sarris Master Order Sheet to Andrea Babbie by the March 1<sup>st</sup> rehearsal.

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**WIN A WEEK'S STAY AT CAMP NAZARETH DURING THE DIOCESAN SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAM!**

The Junior A.C.R.Y. members of our parish are selling raffle tickets to award a young person of your choice a free week at our Diocesan Youth Center near Mercer, PA during the Deaneries camping sessions in the months of July & August, this year. Purchase a ducat for \$10 each or 3 tickets for \$20 and increase your odds of winning this fantastic prize to reward a child "the time of his or her life" in an environment where youths become "friends, forever"!

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**INFORM MICHELE TOMKO AND SIGN-UP FOR A.E.D. TRAINING!** 8-10 of our parishioners have already expressed an interest in this medical course of procedures. Sign your name to the designated list in the parish hall and notify Michele Tomko of your interest in participating in these nurse-directed sessions.

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**COME, HELP US MAKE PIROHI ON TUESDAY, MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup> AT 6 P.M. IN THE PARISH HALL!** See Jean Colantoni during today's coffee social or call 412-491-7090 and let her know if you are able to help.

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**"NAVIGATING LIFE USING YOUR SPIRITUAL COMPASS!"** The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh and the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese are pleased to announce a co-sponsored retreat for College Students and Young Adults ages 18-35. The Retreat will be held at Camp Nazareth and Conference Center in Mercer, PA from March 17-19, 2017 and will feature keynote addresses by Very Rev. Dr. Edward Pehanich and Mr. Nick Lionas. The weekend event will be filled with learning, fun, fellowship, worship, and time for reflection and rejuvenation! Visit either [pittsburgh.goarch.org](http://pittsburgh.goarch.org) or [acrod.org](http://acrod.org) for more information and to register for the Retreat. His Grace, Bishop Gregory will be in attendance at this spiritual gathering. If you ever struggle with "staying on track", or if you ever feel like you don't know where you're headed in your life, then don't miss out on this unique encounter! It will give you some great insight and tools to help you navigate even the roughest times. Register today and phone Father Stephen Loposky, Camp Administrator (724-662-4840) for available scholarships to cover the cost.

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**APPRECIATIVE WORDS OF A FORMER CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR!** "I want to THANK the officers and parishioners of St. Nicholas Church for their kindness and well wishes on my retirement from church service. I appreciate the gift, cake and the wonderful comments from everyone. St. Nicholas Church will always be an integral part of my spiritual life. I also want to THANK my "church family" for everything you continue to share with me." SUE (SEMANCIK)

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**CENTRAL REGION DIOCESAN LENTEN RETREAT – SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017 (9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.) AT ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH, 903 ANN STREET, HOMESTEAD, PA!** Schedule: 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy – All Souls' Saturday; 11:00 A.M. Coffee Social; 12:00 Noon – First Session; 1:30 P.M. Lunch; 2:30 P.M. Second Session; 4 P.M. Vespers. (Includes Continental Breakfast and Light Lunch) Cost: Free Will Offering. Registration Deadline: March 18, 2016. Cathy Pawlik, 10 J Longfellow Drive, Munhall, PA. 15120. [cmpawlik@verizon.net](mailto:cmpawlik@verizon.net) (412) 461-2110 or (412) 889-6702 (Cell Phone). Sponsored by the National A.C.R.Y., this Encounter provides tremendous spiritual benefits to those who participate, even if only for a day. Our youths are asked to attend, since a great program has been planned for them.

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**WHEN LIGHTING A CANDLE IN CHURCH!** The Church Board would like to remind everyone to be reverent when lighting a candle in the sandbox at the back of the nave. It is customary to say a prayer when engaged in this spiritual action. At no time should children be playing with the sandbox or with the wax tapers. We recommend parents to supervise younger children at this liturgical site.  
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