

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, March 12, 2017

2ND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: SAINT GREGORY PALAMAS

Service of the Third Hour: 8:00 A.M.

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

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3

Tone: 5

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 93-95; 181-182 / Red Book: 108-110; 203-204

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of +**Edward Pingor** – 18th Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **His**

Eminence, +Metropolitan Nicholas on the 6th Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Ann Timko**, offered by Agnes Kane & Mary Ann Grossett.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Edward Pingor** on the 18th Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

3:00 P.M. Pittsburgh Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers at St. John the Baptist Church in East Pittsburgh, PA. Very Rev. Nicholas Ferencz will deliver the homily and a Lenten meal shall be served to all worshipers in the parish hall, afterwards.

Wednesday, (March 15)... 7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (3-hr. fast of food or drink before partaking of Holy Communion).

Friday, (March 17)... 7:00 P.M. Service to the Holy Cross.

Saturday, (March 18)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the 3rd All-Souls' Saturday of the year, with Panachida and the Reading of the Parish Diptychs (names of all the deceased).

12 Noon – 1 P.M. Hearing of Confessions.

Sunday, March 19, 2017

3rd SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

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

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Tone: 6

Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 96-98; 182-183 / Red Book: 111-114; 204-205

3:00 P.M. Pittsburgh Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers at St. John the Baptist Church in Ambridge, PA. Very Rev. Jonathan Tobias will deliver the homily and a Lenten meal shall be served to all worshipers in the parish hall, afterwards.

Mark 2:1-12 – As shown by the healing of the **paralytic**, faith is an indispensable condition for salvation. Faith is collective as well as personal, for the faith of the paralytic’s friends helped in his healing (v. 2). Three signs of Jesus’ divinity are shown: (1) He knows the secrets of hearts; (2) He forgives sins, a power which belongs to God alone; and (3) He heals by the power of His word. Note that one purpose of Christ’s coming into the world is to **forgive sins** (v.10), freeing humanity from its bondage. Forgiving sins is a greater power than physical healing, for, as the scribes correctly note, **God alone** can forgive sin (v. 7). Thus, the **easier** task (v. 1) is to grant physical healing. Though Christ is fully God and holds the authority to forgive, He condescends to those gathered and heals the man in order to draw people to God, whom they **glorified**.

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>

IKOS (Matins on the Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas)

You appeared on earth as an angelic messenger, proclaiming to the mortal human race the mysteries of God. Endowed with a human mind and flesh, and yet speaking with the voice of the bodiless powers, you have filled us with amazement, O saint inspired by God, and made us cry out to you:

- Hail, for through you the darkness is dispelled.**
- Hail, for through you the light has returned.**
- Hail, messenger of the uncreated Godhead.**
- Hail, reprove of created folly.**
- Hail, height impossible to climb that tell us of God’s nature.**
- Hail, depth hard to scan that speaks of His energy.**
- Hail, for you have denounced the opinion of evildoers.**
- Hail, torch that shows us the Sun.**
- Hail, cup filled with nectar.**
- Hail, for through you the truth has shone forth.**
- Hail, for through you falsehood has been plunged into darkness.**
- Hail, O preacher of grace!**

From the homilies of our father among the saints, Gregory Palamas (Hom. XXXV)

Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain where they were alone. There before them He was transfigured, His face shone like the sun.

Now. Now is the favorable time; this is the day of salvation, God’s new and eternal day, which is not measured by hours, which does not get longer or shorter, which is not interrupted by night, since it is the day of the Sun of Righteousness with whom there is no alteration nor shadow of change. Through this day, by the Father’s decree and the Holy Spirit’s cooperation, He benevolently shed His radiance on us and led us out of darkness into His wonderful light; and since He is the Sun that knows no setting, He will continue to shine upon us forever.

But because He is the Sun of Righteousness and of truth, He will not shine upon or be clearly recognized by those who admire falsehood or who are unrighteous in the way they address God or in their actions. He shows Himself, however, to those who act righteously and love the truth and believe in Him, and He gladdens them with His splendor. As Scripture says; Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright. And

so, prophesying, the Psalmist also sings to God: Tabor and Hermon will rejoice in Your Name, foretelling the joy which the transfiguration on the mountain would one day bring to those who witnessed it.

SENIOR A.C.R.Y. 67TH ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST ON SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2017 AFTER THE HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY! Tickets: \$8.00 for Adults; \$4.00 for Children ages 6-12 years; Free for kids 5 yrs. old & younger. Please see Carol Dunn to purchase your ticket. And thank you for your continued support to this parish organization!

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!

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"!

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.

COME, HELP US MAKE PIROHI ON TUESDAY, MARCH 14TH 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.

"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 or 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.

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. 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.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH FORMER PARISHIONER, OLGA GRIMES! She would love to hear from you and learn of the current activities going on at St. Nicholas Church in Homestead. Write to her in care of Barbara Gray, 6392 Camino Dela Costa, La Jolla, CA 92037.

SYRIAN RELIEF DINNER & PRAYER SERVICE – SUNDAY APRIL 2, 2017 / SERVICE: 4:00 – LENTEN DINNER: 5:00 AT ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL IN PITTSBURGH, PA! The church is located at 419 South Dithridge Street in Pittsburgh (Oakland) 15213. Tickets are \$50; Students (age 7 – 18) \$20; Children 6 and under free. Net proceeds will benefit IOCC's Syrian Relief Fund. Contributions are tax deductible. Children's room available. Tables for groups of 8-10 only. Purchase tickets by March 31 from Robert Ruschak, our parish IOCC representative.

APPRECIATIVE WORDS FROM A THANKFUL PARISHIONER! "A great big Thank-You to all who sent beautiful cards and called with well wishes, but most of all, for your prayers! Thank you and God Bless!
- Mary Ann (Vasil)

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! A variety of meaningful volunteer opportunities are available with Jefferson Hospital. Whether you would enjoy working directly with patients in the surgery center, volunteering in the Gift Shop or behind the scenes in an office, volunteering at Jefferson is a wonderful way to bring happiness into the lives of others. To learn more, contact Janet O'Brien at 412-469-5885

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)