

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

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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, April 9, 2017

PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY: TRIUMPHAL ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Service of the Third Hour with the Blessing of Palms & Pussy willow branches: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 188-192 / Red Book: 210-214

Bulletin Sponsor: **Proto-deacon Michael Sochka's** Birthday, offered by Elizabeth & Leslie.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Nick Thorn's** 21st Birthday, offered by God-parents: Kira Fischer & Luca Paganico.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Ann Timko**, offered by the Grandchildren.

Great and Holy Passion Week Begins at Sunset (Faithful abstain from meat products).

7:00 P.M. Bride Groom Matins

GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY, (APRIL 10)... 9:00 A.M. Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Anna Rosgonyi**, offered by herself.

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

GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY, (APRIL 11)... 7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (3-hr. fast of food or drink before partaking of Holy Communion).

GREAT AND HOLY Wednesday, (April 12)... 7:00 P.M. Mystery of the Holy Unction Service, with the Anointing of the sick, in body & soul.

GREAT AND HOLY Thursday, (April 13)... 9:30 A.M. Vespers-Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. 7:00 P.M. Matins of Great and Holy Friday with the Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels.

GREAT AND HOLY Friday, (Strict Fast) April 14... 7:30 P.M. Vespers and Procession with the Holy Shroud of Jesus Christ and placing it in the Tomb.

GREAT AND HOLY Saturday, (Strict Fast) April 15... 9:30 A.M. Vespers-Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. 8:00 P.M. Resurrection Matins, Outdoor Procession (weather permitting) and Blessing of Paschal Foods in the parish auditorium, afterwards.

Sunday, April 16, 2017

PASCHA: THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M. with the Reading of the Gospel in various languages.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 1:1-9

Gospel: John 1:1-17

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 193-196 / Red Book: 215-219

Paschal “Agape” Fellowship Social held in the parish hall following the Divine Liturgy.

John 12:1-18 –

12:1 – This **Passover** is the third mentioned in John and is the setting for the last week of Christ’s earthly ministry, which is narrated in careful detail. **Jesus** had already been glorified through His signs and words; it remained for Him to be glorified through His death and Resurrection.

12:3-8 – The other disciples said the same thing **Judas** said (v. 5), but with a very different motive. Judas spoke from greed, while the others spoke from the virtue of charity. That Jesus put a **thief** in charge of the money shows by every means He attempted to save Judas: He fulfilled Judas’ lust for money; He allowed Judas to exercise apostolic authority (6:11); He washed Judas’ feet with the other disciples (13:5); and He allowed him to partake at the table of the Mystical Supper (13:26). Yet Judas could never overcome his greed.

12:12-18 –

Matthew 21:1-11 – Christ’s Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem is celebrated by the Church on Palm Sunday. By Christ’s time, Jewish nationalism had led to the expectation of a political Messiah to deliver them from Roman control and to reestablish David’s kingdom. In humility, Jesus shows that He has not come to establish an earthly kingdom. He does not ride on a horse or in a chariot, but on a **donkey** – a sign of humility and peace (Zec. 9:9). This entrance into the Holy City declares the establishment of the Kingdom of God. It is also a promise of Christ’s final entrance into the heavenly Jerusalem with all believers and of His accepting the New Jerusalem as His pure Bride (Rev. 21:2).

21:2 – St. Matthew reports a **colt** as well as a **donkey**. The Fathers see the two animals as representing the faithful Jews and the Gentiles who are brought together in the Kingdom. At Vespers of Palm Sunday, we sing, “Your riding on a foal prefigured how the untamed and uninstructed Gentiles would pass from unbelief to faith.”

21:8 – The people who **spread their clothes** before Jesus did so as paying reverence to a King. It is spiritually interpreted as our need to lay down our flesh, and indeed our very lives, for Christ.

21:9 – This cry comes from Psalm 117:25, 26, which was associated with messianic expectation. It was recited daily for six days during the Feast of Tabernacles, and seven times on the seventh day as branches were waived. **Hosanna** means, “Save, we pray!”

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/acroddiocese> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews> You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

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”!

A.E.D. TRAINING WILL BEGIN ON THE LAST SATURDAY OF THIS MONTH! 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. Training is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2017 in the auditorium from 10 A.M. until 2 P.M.

PURCHASE A CAMP NAZARETH "FAMILY DAY" RAFFLE TICKET OR TWO TODAY AND ENABLE THE DIOCESAN APOSTOLATE TO PLAN A TERRIFIC SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAM FOR OUR CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS THIS SUMMER! The cost of the ducat is still, only \$20 and the Grand Prize of \$10,000 will be awarded the fortunate ticket-holder at the June 11th Drawing. See Cathy Pawlik.

WHEN DISCARDING OLD PALM & PUSSY WILLOW BRANCHES... Please burn these liturgical articles since they were blessed. You may bring these objects to the parish hall and place in the designated container. Some of our male parishioners have fire pits at their residences and will gladly transport the branches to their homes for disposition.

"THE LORD IS NEAR!" DEMONSTRATE YOUR LOVE FOR CHRIST BY PARTICIPATING IN ALL THE LITURGICAL SERVICES SCHEDULED FOR THIS GREAT & HOLY WEEK OF THE YEAR! We now stand at the threshold of Passion Week, the most solemn week of the year, and the most important thing for us to realize is that our salvation is at hand. Today's holy epistle lesson on this Flowery Sunday sets the theme for Great & Holy Week. The Holy Apostle Paul tells us: "Rejoice in the Lord always! The Lord is near!" (Philippians 4:4-5) "The hour has come, and it is time for everything to be accomplished (our salvation)." (John 12:23). The Lord is near, and He has come to secure redemption for the entire human race. This is the most important thing that we must know. Indeed it is the only thing that really counts. The Church presents Christ to us as the "Bridegroom". Jesus comes to redeem His bride – the Church. And who is this Church but the people of God – us! The Bridegroom Jesus thus comes to secure salvation for us – His bride – and to bring us into His bridal chamber – the "New Jerusalem", the "Holy Zion", the "New Life" with Him in eternity. The beautiful and eloquent services of Passion Week help us to deepen our spiritual insight. It is through our participation in the liturgical worship services that we most concretely can demonstrate our love for Jesus Christ and the saving acts that He now goes to perform in our behalf.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE DRIVE! The Church Board is seeking new members to participate on the By-Laws Committee. As presented at the Annual Church Meeting in February, we intend to evaluate and update our parish by-laws to ensure that they are in line with the new Diocesan By-Laws, passed at the SOBOR last fall (2016). If you are interested in being a member of the By-Laws committee, please communicate your interest to a church board member as soon as possible. Thank you! Tom Pingor.

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.

NEWS FROM THE ST. NICHOLAS BOOKSTORE! Lenten and Paschal devotionals, icons and gifts are available for all ages. New books for children have arrived. At the sales' table, special items are greatly reduced and are priced as marked. Volunteers are always welcomed at the bookstore. See Cheryl or Stephanie for details. Stop by today! Thank you to all who supplied the play area with furniture and toys – especially to Anna and Kataryna for their donations. Remember, the play area is closed during the Divine Liturgy and other services, but open during socials. Thank You, Stephanie Kennedy.

HURRY AND BUY THE DESIGNER PURSE BASH TICKETS AND AID OUR A.C.R.Y. CHAPTER IN HOSTING THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL CONVENTION! This exciting fund-raising activity shall take place on Saturday, May 6th in the spacious auditorium of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Homestead, PA. Doors open at 3:00 P.M. and an appetizing buffet-style meal will begin at 4:00 P.M. Starting at 4:40 P.M., exquisite and expensive satchels, shoulder bags, and totes will be won by lucky ticket-holders at every 20-minute interlude, climaxing in the 7:30 P.M. awarding of the Grand Prize: Coach Hobo Bag (\$575 value) + \$150 Cash. Tickets are \$35.00 each and only 250 ducats are available. Your ticket offers you 4 chances to win the designer purses, plus, food and beverages. Ticket must be presented at the door to receive

entry into the auditorium. **Winner need not be present!** Tickets are voided after 30 days of the event and unclaimed prizes become property of ACRY Chapter #11. See Jessica Krchmar or Alisha Zak for tickets.

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