

# 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

Vol. 5; No. 16

**Sunday, April 23, 2017**

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS - ANTIPASCHA

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00

Partaking of the blessed “Artos” Bread

Apostolic Reading: Acts 5:12-20

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 199-200 / Red Book: 221-223

Altar Candles’ sponsor: +**Wendy Pingor’s** 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

Birthday petitions intoned for: **Johnny Fedornock** (18<sup>th</sup> Birthday), today, **Nathaniel Fedornock’s** Birthday, (April 26<sup>th</sup>), offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God’s departed servant, +**Wendy Pingor** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God’s departed servants, +**Ann & +John Yurcisin**, offered by Children & Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God’s departed servant, +**Elizabeth Krompigel**, offered by Ann Bunting.

**No kneeling in church for prayer until Pentecost.**

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**TUESDAY, (APRIL 25)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God’s departed servants, +**Joseph Grimes** and +**Michael Spontak**, offered by Wife, Olga & Family, and Margaret Beczak.

**Saturday, (April 29)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God’s departed servants, +**Andrew & +Mary Hudak**, and +**Andrew Fedoris**, offered by Matilda Fedoris.

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**Sunday, April 30, 2017**

## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

Service of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 6:1-7      Resurrection Tone: 2      Gospel: Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 84-86; 200-201 / Red Book: 99-102; 223-224

Altar Flowers’ Sponsor: **Fr. Michael Zak’s** 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood, offered by: Aaron, Adam, Rebecca and Tabby Zak.

Altar Candles’ Sponsor: **Fr. Michael Zak’s** 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood, offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God’s departed servants, +**Andrew Tomko** on the 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, +**Raymond Brancho & +Eugene Brancho**, offered by Andrew, Ann & Lucy Tomko.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God’s departed servants, +**Margaret & +George Ladick**, offered by the Family.

**John 20:19-31 –**

**20:21-23 –** Christ commissions the disciples to continue His mission on earth, granting them **the Holy Spirit** (v. 21) and the authority to **forgive the sins** of others (v. 23). Through this direct consecration and through apostolic continuity, Christ’s own Priesthood is communicated to the bishops and presbyters of the Church.

**20:24-29 –** The doubt of **Thomas** is described in the Church hymns as “blessed,” for it was not a doubt of resistance to truth, but one that was desperately desired a truthful answer – a “doubt which gave birth to faith” when the answer was revealed. In hymns of the Church, Christ says to Thomas, “Your doubt will teach My Passion and Resurrection to all,” and we affirm that his doubt “brought the hearts of believers to knowledge.” The conversion of Thomas’ doubt into faith led him to the clearest confession of Christ’s divinity, addressing Jesus as **my Lord and my God** (v. 28).

**20:30 – Signs:** The **wedding in Cana** is the setting for the first of the seven **signs** (2:11) performed by Jesus in the Gospel of St. John. John uses the term signs to show that these miraculous actions point beyond themselves to the truth that the Kingdom of God has come among us in the Person of Jesus Christ. The seven signs are (1) changing water into wine (2:1-11); (2) curing the nobleman’s son (4:46-54); (3) healing the paralytic (5:1-15); (4) feeding the five thousand (6:1-14); (5) walking on water (6:15-21); (6) opening the eyes of a blind man (9:1-41); and (7) raising Lazarus from the dead (11:38-44).

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**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.**

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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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**DOUBT: THE ULTIMATE SICKNESS**

**By Abbot Tryphon in his book “The Morning Offering”**

On St. Thomas Sunday, the Church commemorates doubting Thomas. The Apostle Thomas, though he had been a disciple of Christ and had witnessed the Lord’s many miracles, still insisted he would not believe in the Resurrection unless he could place his hands in the wounds of his Lord. In his doubt, the apostle revealed our ultimate sickness: unbelief.

This world is a great hospital wherein we are prepared for the Kingdom that is to come. In this hospital, we find our medicine for the cure of our sickness within the life of the Church, which is the hospital of the soul.

In this world, there is no medicine for this sickness, for the only medicine that can heal us is Christ Himself. If we are unwilling to receive this medicine, we will never be healed, and we will never know the joys of the eternal Kingdom that is to come. Our doubt is usually based on our failure to avail ourselves of the medicine that is abundantly available within the life of the Church.

The Lord said that those who have not seen yet believe are blessed. This faith comes as a free gift from a God who so loves us that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. All we need to do is cooperate with God’s grace, and doubt will be gone. When we receive the Word of God into our hearts, we have touched His wounds. When we confess our sins and receive the Holy

Mysteries of His Body and Blood, we have thrust our hand into His side. Doubt has, at that moment, no place to reside in our heart. And like the Apostle Thomas, we believe. **THANK ANNA PYSHNIK FOR BAKING THE "ARTOS" LEAVENED BREAD!** The Artos symbolizes the physical presence of the resurrected Christ among the disciples. The significance of the artos is that it serves to remind all Christians of the events connected with the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. While still living on earth, the Lord called Himself the Bread of Life. After His Resurrection, more than once Jesus appeared to His disciples, ate before them and blessed their own food. For example, as evening fell on the first day of His Resurrection, He was recognized in Emmaus by two of His disciples as He blessed and broke bread (Luke 24:13-35). After Christ ascended into Heaven, when Our Lord's disciples sat down to an ordinary meal, they would leave a place at the head of the table empty for the invisibly present Lord and would lay bread on that place.

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**SPECIAL PARISH MEETING – TODAY!** St. Nicholas Church will hold a Special Parish Meeting on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> after the Divine Liturgy at approximately 11:15 A.M. All church members are encouraged to attend this important session. The meeting should last about 15-20 minutes.

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**A.E.D. TRAINING WILL BEGIN THIS COMING SATURDAY!** 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.

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**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!** This is the only diocesan-wide fundraiser for Camp Nazareth and it is a significant source of income for the Camp Program. 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 11<sup>th</sup> Drawing. See Cathy Pawlik.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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 6<sup>th</sup> 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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**ITALIAN FEAST AND BASKET RAFFLE AT ST. JOHN'S IN NORTHSIDE PITTSBURGH ON SATURDAY, MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>!** St. John the Baptist Church (2688 California Ave., Pgh, PA 15212) will have their Annual Dinner & Raffle on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Doors will open at 3 P.M., with dinner at 4 P.M. and the raffle of over 25 amazing baskets to follow. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for youths (6-17), or a \$50 Family Admission. Ticket price includes: Admission, 8 Basket Raffle Tickets, 2 Drink Coupons, and a homemade Italian Pasta Dinner with Appetizer, Salad Bar, and Dessert. (Extra Raffle tickets may also be purchased at the event). Reservations by email or phone (Orthodox [Pittsburgh1937@gmail.com](mailto:Pittsburgh1937@gmail.com)/412-766-4691) are requested by May 17<sup>th</sup>. Go and enjoy a wonderful Italian feast, some Sinatra, and fellowship with your sister parish!

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**SAVE THE DATES OF AUGUST 25 & 26 FROM 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M. EACH DAY FOR THE GARAGE SALE IN NORTHSIDE PITTSBURGH, PA!** St. John the Baptist (2688 California Ave., Pgh. PA) Orthodox Church will have their Annual Garage Sale on Friday & Saturday. The Ethnic Kitchen will be open for Eat-In or Take-Out. Tax-deductible clean donations for the garage sale will be accepted beginning on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

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PASCHAL REFLECTION: When we see Adam and Eve saved from the pit of Hades, we see ourselves.  
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