

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

E-mail Address: stnic@stnichomestead.org

E-mail Address: 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. 18

Sunday, May 7, 2017

4TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Matins of the Resurrection: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00

Apostolic Reading: Acts 9:32-42

Resurrection Tone: 3

Gospel: John 5:1-15

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87-89; 202-203 / Red Book: 102-105; 225-226

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: In memory of +**Mary Toboz**, +**Ann Ulevich**, & +**Betty Cikoski**, offered by Butch Toboz.

Birthday petitions intoned for: **Agnes Kane** on her birthday (5/4) and for: **Donny Bodnar** (5/6).

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

Duncan, offered by Evelyn & Cynthia Dzvonic & Timothy Kane.

No kneeling in church or at home for prayer until Pentecost.

WEDNESDAY, (MAY 10)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy at Mid-Pentecost.

7:00 P.M. Service of Saint Nectarios with the Anointing of the Sick, in body and soul.

SATURDAY, (MAY 13)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Ann Hresan**, offered by herself.

7:00 P.M. Vespers.

Sunday, MAY 14, 2017

5TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN & MOTHER'S DAY

Paschal Hours: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 11:19-30

Resurrection Tone: 4

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90-92; 205-206 / Red Book: 105-107; 228-229

Special Petitions intoned for the health of all Mothers & Women of the Parish and a

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +all of the Deceased Mothers of St. Nicholas Church before the end of the Liturgy.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Ann Timko**, offered by the Parishioners of Saint Nicholas parish of Homestead, PA.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Anna & John Holinscak**, offered by Ann Bunting.

Mother's Day Luncheon, sponsored by the Men's Club, served to all worshipers in the parish auditorium following the Divine Liturgy. Free-will offering in effect.

John 5:1-15 This healing is the third sign in John's Gospel and exemplifies the divine power to restore a person to wholeness. The Fathers teach this **feast** is the Old Testament Pentecost which celebrates the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai. The references to the Law of Moses later in this chapter confirm this interpretation.

5:2-4 – This double-basin **pool**, believed to have curative powers, has been discovered about 100 yards north of the temple area, near the **Sheep Gate**. The **water** for this high-ground pool came from underground springs and was used to wash down the sacrificial lambs before they were slain.

The pool functions as a type of Christian baptism. Under the old covenant, **a great multitude** (v. 3) waited to enter the water for physical healing after **an angel** touched it (v. 4). The waters were special in that they were a way of indirectly participating in the animal sacrifices of the temple, since the animals were washed in the same water. Yet the grace was limited to the **first** person to enter. Under the new covenant, baptism is given to all nations as a direct participation in Christ's own sacrificial death (Rom. 6:3-6) without the mediation of angels. Baptism thus grants healing of the soul and the promise of eternal resurrection of the body, and its grace is inexhaustible.

5:5 – According to St. John Chrysostom, Jesus singled out the **man** who had waited **thirty-eight years** in order to teach us to have perseverance, and as a judgment against those who lose hope or patience in much lesser troubles lasting a far shorter time.

5:6-7 – The Lord's question is relevant for many reasons. (1) It made public the fact that **the sick man** kept his faith even in a situation that was seemingly hopeless, for how could a paralytic ever be the first into the water? (2) The Lord draws attention away from the water and toward the need we have for a **man** to help us. This is fulfilled in Christ Himself, who became Man to heal all. (3) Not everyone who is ill actually desires healing. Sadly, some may prefer to remain infirm in order to have license to complain, to avoid responsibility for their lives, or to continue exciting the pity of others.

5:10-12 – Although the Law itself does not specifically forbid the carrying of burdens on **the Sabbath**, this is prohibited in Jeremiah 17:23 and explicitly forbidden in rabbinical teachings. That Christ is Lord over the Sabbath is made clear by His command (v. 8) and by the man's obedience (v. 9). As is often the case in John's Gospel, the term **Jews** here refers to the leaders and not to the people in general. Notice the malice of these leaders, for they focus solely on the Sabbath violation, asking the man, "**Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed'?**" but ignoring altogether the miraculous healing.

5:14 – That the man was found **in the temple** shows his great faith, for he had gone there directly to thank God for his cure rather than departing to someone's home or to the marketplace.

Sin no more: While there is a general connection between sin and suffering (Romans 6:23), this connection is not always one-to-one, for the innocent often suffer, and the guilty are often spared earthly sufferings. Nevertheless, sometimes our sins lead directly to our own suffering in this world; according to St. John Chrysostom, this was the case with this paralytic. Christ's warning here, however, is that the sins that destroy the soul lead to a far **worse** result than an affliction of the body. The only hope is to flee from sin altogether.

5:15 – **The man** does not report Jesus to the leaders of **the Jews** in a malicious way, but as a witness to Christ's goodness. For ever though these leaders were only interested in the violation of the Sabbath (v. 12), the healed man emphasizes that **it was Jesus who had made him well**, saying nothing about carrying his bed.

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>

SPIRITUAL PAIN CONTROL OR SPIRITUAL HEALING?

By Abbot Tryphon in his book "The Morning Offering"

Since the Church is a hospital for the soul, it is important that we take full advantage of all the resources she offers us for healing. Frequent confession, where we bare our sins before God with a priest as the witness, is an important beginning to the healing process. Receiving the Holy Mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood on a regular basis gives us the grace needed for the healing of our souls, freeing us from the bondage that comes from the sin that has weighed us down.

Keeping to a regular prayer rule given to us by our priest, confessor, or spiritual father or mother also contributes to the healing process. Reading spiritually uplifting books as well as the lives of the saints also greatly furthers the transformation that can be ours if we take our faith seriously. The fasting rules of the Church are also designed to help us become whole, promoting the healing process that began when we first make a commitment to live in Christ.

If we fail to follow these time-tested spiritual practices that are meant to bring about healing of body and soul, we will not find the healing that is available to us. Instead, we will find ourselves treating the Church as though she were simply a pharmacy, where we get a quick fix for the pain and sin that keeps us from becoming whole and find ourselves with short-term results that only mask the sin and sickness that rule our lives

It is up to us to decide whether we allow the Church to be a hospital that brings about the cure or simply use the Church as a pharmacy so we can mask our pain and sin. The choice is ours.

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 11th Drawing. See Cathy Pawlik.

CAMP NAZARETH SUMMER CAMP 2017! OUR YOUNG PEOPLE MUST REGISTER THIS WEEK TO ATTEND SUMMER CAMP THIS YEAR!

The time for Summer Camp is Rapidly Approaching!!! The clock is ticking!! Register now!!! Register Online at – campnazareth.org "\$20 Early Bird Discount Per Child!!! Register & pay by May 15, 2017. Parents of our campers must come to the office to receive the Scholarship Code for this year. St. Nicholas Church will not pay the registration fees for any of our young people of age desiring to go to Camp Nazareth this summer after the May 15 deadline. Online Registration **MUST** be complete and submitted by May 15.

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

ITALIAN FEAST AND BASKET RAFFLE AT ST. JOHN'S IN NORTHSIDE PITTSBURGH ON SATURDAY, MAY 20TH!

St. John the Baptist Church (2688 California Ave., Pgh, PA 15212) will have their Annual Dinner & Raffle on Saturday, May 20th. 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/412-766-4691) are requested by May 17th. Go and enjoy a wonderful Italian feast, some Sinatra, and fellowship with your sister parish!

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH CALENDAR PARTY IN RANKIN ON SUNDAY, MAY 21ST!

Tickets are \$18 per Adult; see Cheryl Tomko to secure the ducats and ask her for more details regarding this fun activity.

The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA) will host their next "Orthodoxy on Tap" on Sunday, May 21 at 6:30 P.M. The meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. at the Sharp Edge Beer Emporium in Shadyside. Guest Speaker will be Father Stephen Loposky, the director of Camp Nazareth in Mercer, Pa. All young adults ages 21-39 are welcome.

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)