

# 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

Vol. 5; No. 20

**Sunday, May 14, 2017**

## 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN & FIRST CONFESSION SUNDAY

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 16:16-34      Resurrection Tone: 5      Gospel: John 9:1-38

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 93-95; 206-207 / Red Book: 108-110; 229-231

Birthday petitions intoned for: **Luca Paganico & Kira Fischer** (May 24), offered by Trona & Family, and for: **Rose Jordanoff**, celebrating her birthday today, offered by Tracy Hvasta & Mary Ann Vasil.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+George & +Mary Godish**, and **+Margaret Godish**, offered by Mary Godish.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Anthony Ribic**, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by David & Judie Ribic.

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

**Samantha Ditmore has made her 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Confession in St. Nicholas Church and partakes of Christ's Body & Blood in Holy Communion. May the Risen Lord grant her many years of good health, peace and happiness!**

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**WEDNESDAY, (MAY 24)...** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Saints Cyril & Methodius, Equals-to-the-Apostles and Teachers of the Slavs.

7:00 P.M. Great Vespers on the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord, with the Blessing of bread, wheat, wine & oil.

**THURSDAY, (MAY 25)...** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord.

**SATURDAY, (MAY 27)...** 11:00 A.M. Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation & Holy Communion administered to **Nathaniel Salio**, son of Scott & Sarah Salio of our parish.

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**Sunday, MAY 28, 2017**

## 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 20:16-18a; 28-38      Resurrection Tone: 6      Gospel: John 17:1-13

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 96-98; 211-212 / Red Book: 111-114; 235-236

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants: **+George Pacolt, +Helen Maurer, +Olga Simmers & +Maria Zini**, offered by Andrew & Lucy Tomko.

**John 9:1-38** – This healing is the sixth sign in John's Gospel. Of all the miracle stories in the Bible, this is the only one in which the person was **blind from birth**. The blind man is symbolic

of all humanity: all need illumination by Christ, the Light of the world. This sign is an illustration of baptism, which is also called “holy illumination.” As Pascha is the traditional day to receive catechumens into the Church, the lessons following Pascha reflect a baptismal theology. Thus, this passage is read on the sixth Sunday of Pascha.

**9:3** – The Savior rejects the assumption (common in the ancient world) that all troubles and maladies are necessarily the consequence of person sin or even the sins of one’s **parents**. Though suffering can be the direct result of personal sin, this is certainly not always the case. In this instance, the man’s blindness provided the occasion for **the works of God to be revealed**; it was not related directly to the man’s personal sins.

**9:4** – The **work** that people do consists of faith (6:29), good deeds (5:29), and repentance (12:40). **The night** that comes refers both to the time after a person’s death and to the age to come, when there is no longer an opportunity to express faith. On that day there will not be faith, but all will submit, whether willingly or unwillingly (St. John Chrysostom).

**9:5** – The unprecedented healing of the man born blind confirms Christ’s claim that He is **the light of the world**.

**9:6** – St. Irenaeus sees in this mixture of **clay** and **saliva** a type of the creation of humanity from the earth (Gen. 2:7). Christ reveals His divinity by restoring part of creation using the same material with which He created humanity in the beginning.

**9:7** – **The pool of Siloam** was on the outskirts of Jerusalem, a considerable distance from the temple. From this pool water was taken for the rites connected with the Feast of Tabernacles. Siloam, **translated, Sent**, symbolizes Christ, the One sent by the Father (5:36; 20:21). Just as the healing of the blind man confirmed Christ’s claim to be the light of the world (8:12), so also, His making use of the pool of Siloam confirms that He is the true purification of the temple and those who worship in it.

**9:16** – Just as **the Pharisees** had ignored the healing of the paralytic and focused only on the perceived violation of **the Sabbath** (5:10-16), here many of them cannot see the glory of **God** through their own prejudices.

**9:24** – With Jesus not present, the Pharisees call Him **a sinner**, but earlier when He asked them face-to-face, “Which of you convicts Me of sin?” (8:46), they evaded the question. **Give God the glory!** was an oath formula used before giving testimony. Nevertheless, the healed man will indeed give God glory (v. 38). The more he is pressed, the more fervent his faith becomes, while the Pharisees lapse into deeper darkness.

**9:25** – This healed man becomes a model of Christian witness. Many people do not bear witness to Christ because they fear they will be asked questions they cannot answer. This man’s answer to people much more educated than he provides the solution: he admits what he does **not know**, but follows up with what he does know. The formula, “That I don’t know, but what I do know is this,” is foundational to witnessing one’s faith to others.

**9:26-38** – Having opened the blind man’s eyes, the Lord also opens his heart and illumines his spirit. The man moves from knowing almost nothing about Christ (v. 25), through the conclusion that Jesus could not possibly be a sinner (v. 31), through confessing that Jesus must be **from God** (33), to finally seeing Him as the divine **Son of God** and worshipping Him (v. 38). The Pharisees again cannot refute this man’s logic nor the truth of what he reveals, and thus they resort to personal insult (v. 34).

**9:32** – The unprecedented nature of opening **the eyes of one who born blind** is a confirmation of Christ’s divinity. This was one of the signs of the coming Messiah (Is. 35:5; 42:7) and a prerogative belonging solely to God (Psalm 145:8).

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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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**WITHOUT GOD, WE CAN DO NOTHING**

**By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering**

If we are to be true to our calling as the children of God, we must live in imitation of Christ. We must imitate His meekness and humility. We must love others just as He did. We must be willing to be transformed and made whole, that others can see in us the light of Christ. To do this, we must pray and fast, seeking the help only Christ can give us. That which is impossible with us is possible with the help of Christ. Only Christ can ignite our soul with the love of God, but we must cooperate by making our hearts open to Him.

We must not allow ourselves to be complacent in our journey into the heart of God. Our Christian faith demands that we take heaven violently, storming heaven as it were. Only when we are ruthless toward ourselves and quick to condemn ourselves as the worst of sinners will we truly be flooded with the grace we need to be transformed and made whole. Like the Holy Apostle Paul, we must see ourselves as the worst of sinners and any good we do as Christ working in us.

Just as we light lamps and candles before holy icons, symbolizing the light of Christ, so too must we struggle each and every day to let the light of Christ shine forth in us. If we live our Christian faith with little effort, the light will dim, and neither the angels in heaven nor those who come in contact with us will notice in us anything different from an unbeliever. We are, as Christians, called to be holy people, living "not of this world" but ever in the Kingdom that is to come.

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**ENJOY THE CHINESE AUCTION AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN EAST PITTSBURGH, TODAY,**

**STARTING AROUND 11:30 A.M.!** Tickets are \$5 and will get you 25 auction ducats, a slice of cake and beverage. There will be a number of delectable food items for sale. There are always great items to bid tickets on, lots of good food, and great fellowship and fun!

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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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**TO ALL FAITHFUL MOTHERS & DAUGHTERS GUILD MEMBERS:** We will be having our next meeting on Sunday, May 28, 2017 after the Divine Liturgy. We will be discussing and planning for lunch bags for the homeless, which will be in mid-June. We also will be planning for the Father's Day Lunch on Sunday, June 18, 2017. Please try to attend if you are able. As always, we need as much input as possible. Thanks

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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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**WIN A FREE HOTEL ROOM FOR THIS YEAR'S ACRY CONVENTION!** The Senior ACRY is raffling off the prize of a 3-night stay at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott, sight of this year's convention during the Labor Day weekend. Please see John Fedornock for ducats and buy plenty of chances to increase your odds.

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**ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY – MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES, STARTING AT 9:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>!**

Fr. Michael will celebrate the Panachida service for all the departed clergy, laity, and veterans of St. Nicholas parish at the Grotto, beginning at 9:30 A.M. on Memorial Day (May 29<sup>th</sup>). Then, your priest will conduct abbreviated services of repose and bless individual graves upon request.

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**CARPATHO RUSYN FLAG SALE!** St. John's Church of North Side Pittsburgh is getting a discount on purchasing Carpatho-Rusyn Flags. The cost is only \$25 per flag. If you would be interested in securing one, please email or Fr. Dave Urban by Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> ([fr.sleepless@gmail.com](mailto:fr.sleepless@gmail.com)) / 412-766-4691.

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**ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH CALENDAR PARTY IN RANKIN ON SUNDAY, JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>!** Doors open at 12:30 P.M. and Luncheon is at 1:00 P.M. Tickets are \$18 per Adult and can be secured from Cheryl Tomko for this fun-time activity where everyone wins.

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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.

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