

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. 29

Sunday, July 23, 2017

7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Birthday prayers extended to **Stephen Fucsko, Jr.** (July 23) and **Carol Fucsko** (July 27), offered by their Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Peter Mochnach, +Helen Mochnach, +Charles Gilchrist, Sr., & +Mary Lou Gilchrist**, offered by Chuck & Robin Gilchrist.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+John, +Margaret & +Johnny Harris**, on the 10th Anniversary of their falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Deborah Harris.

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7

Resurrection Tone: 6

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 96-98 / Red Book: 111-114

TUESDAY, (July 25)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Andrew & +Mary Drabant**, offered by Mary Drabant.

SATURDAY, (July 22)... 7:00 P.M. Vespers

Sunday, July 30, 2017

8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Resurrection Tone: 7

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

Hebrews 13:7-16 (Fathers)

John 17:1-13 (Fathers)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 99-101, 164 / Red Book: 114-117, 185-186

Matthew 9:27-35 –

9:27-33 – According to Isaiah, the messianic age is signified when “the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall hear” (Is. 35:5). These healings are a sign that Jesus is the awaited Messiah, as is the use of the title **Son of David** by the **blind men**, which expresses their faith in this truth.

9:34 – To cast out demons **by the ruler of demons** is impossible, for the aim of the devil is to consolidate power, not destroy it. Further, Jesus cleansed lepers, raised the dead, and remitted sins – works demons could not perform.

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>

“THE BLIND MEN AND THE DEAF MAN

It is again Jesus as a healer who is shown to us by the gospel for the seventh Sunday after Pentecost. Our Lord opens the eyes of two blind men and He gives speech to a dumb man possessed by the devil. Many details of this episode – especially the question that Jesus asks the blind men, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” – deserve our attention. All the same, we will concentrate on the nature of the two miracles. Blindness and dumbness: these are both also great spiritual infirmities. The man who is spiritually blind does not see the Light of the World. He moves about in darkened space. Not only does he not see the divine reflection, but he does not know how to see men – for it is only possible to see men properly by the Light from above; too often, our own imagination, when it is not purified and illumined by God, makes us see other men as monstrously deformed. And he who is spiritually dumb cannot speak to other men; real dialogue, the exchange of the supreme values a “you” and an “I”, is inaccessible to him; he is condemned to a continual and sterile monologue, for, basically, he seeks only himself, in an egotistical way. All the more reason for him not to be able to tell others what comes from God. He cannot even speak to God; prayer bothers and annoys him. He who does not receive the Word made flesh is deprived of all words; he who does not receive the Light of the World is deprived of all light. Let us pray: “O my Saviour, open my eyes and free my speech.”

AVOIDING THIS PRESENT DARKNESS

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

Those who embrace the enjoyment of partying and entertainment, in an attempt to get a break from the hardships and struggles that make great souls, fail to embrace the essential element that makes their life journey salvific. They avoid the service of love God requires of us in enduring those difficulties that unite us to the love of Christ, and they sacrifice Paradise itself.

The Lord promised us the yoke would be easy and the burden light if we but unite ourselves to Him (Matt. 11:30). Christ opens the door to Paradise and fills our hearts with His divine love, and we become new creatures. But if we do not have Christ, even our fasting, virtue, labor, and prayer will have been meaningless.

When we turn to Christ and let His embrace lift us out of the stagnation of this present world, rather than entertaining ourselves, we gain everything. Eternity will be ours, and love will fill the void that is this present darkness.

PURCHASE TUPPERWARE SUPPLIES THIS MONTH AND PERMIT OUR CHURCH TO REAP 40% OF THE PROCEEDS!

Andrea Zober will be doing the Tupperware Fund Raiser for the month of July. She will have flyers and brochures available in the parish hall, starting in this month. The fund raiser line earns 40% for the church and 10% from the full line. Andrea Zober (Phone: 412-461-6215). Visit her at

www.andreahandiandi.com Tupperware – Products that last a lifetime!

FR. MICHAEL WILL BE AT CAMP NAZARETH DURING THE PITTSBURGH DEANERY CAMPING SESSION!

Your pastor shall depart for Mercer, PA on Tuesday afternoon and return to Homestead on Friday evening. In case of an emergency where a priest is needed, please contact Fr. Jonathan Tobias at (412) 824-0246 or Fr. David Urban at (412) 225-4669.

KEEP OUR YOUNG CHILDREN CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH BY SENDING THEM TO CAMP NAZARETH THIS SUMMER!

Our Pittsburgh Deanery Diocesan Camping Week at “our home, away from home” is scheduled for July 23-29. Offer a campership to our young people of age, “who are the present

leaders of our parish,” and enable them to live for a week or two or three their Orthodox Christian faith amongst their peers who share their sacred beliefs and become “friends forever.” Submit whatever financial gift that you can sacrificially offer and permit our precious youths to experience “the time of their young lives” in an environment where “you’ll find God everywhere.” Our Sunday School children will always remember the generosity of the “People of God.” Since the beginning of January of this year through Sunday, June 19th, Camperships have been generously offered by the ACRY (\$315), Men’s Club (\$315), Mothers & Daughter Guild (\$315), Tom Pingor (\$300), M/M Dave Urban (\$600), M/M Steve Fucsko (\$50), Trona Paganico (\$100), Helen Revak (\$150), Cheryl Tomko (\$200), Joan Ribovich (\$100), Andrea Labik (\$315), and Candy for Campers Sale (\$110). Have your name appear on this distinguished list in this year proclaimed by His All-Holiness, Bartholomew I as the “Year of Protection of the Sacredness of Childhood.” Nowhere will our young people be as safe than at Camp Nazareth!

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE AT THE ORTHODOX MONASTERY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION IN

ELLWOOD CITY, PA ON AUG. 5 AND 6! Saturday Vigil will begin at 5:00 P.M. On Sunday, Aug. 6, the Hierarchical Liturgy is at 9:30 A.M. A picnic lunch will be served at noon. A Speakers’ Program at 2:00 will include a Dramatic Monologue by Archpriest Daniel Ressetar and Oratorical Presentations by teens. Then, the Sacrament of Holy Unction will follow at 3:00, with closing Vespers at 6:00.

GARAGE SALE AT ST. JOHN’S CHURCH IN NORTH SIDE PITTSBURGH –FRIDAY (AUGUST 25) AND SATURDAY (AUGUST 26) FROM 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M. EACH DAY!

Save the date! St. John the Baptist (2688 California Ave., Pgh., PA 15212) will have their Annual Garage Sale. 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 21st.

SCIENCE AND NATURE CAMP @ CAMP NAZARETH – SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 TO SATURDAY,

AUGUST 12! Camp Nazareth is pleased to announce its FIRST EVER Science and Nature Camp. Camp participants will learn all about Astronomy, Biology, Earth Science, Geology, Meteorology and SO MUCH MORE! Presentations and activities will be given and led by the Carnegie Science Center, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Jennings Environmental Center, as well as local high school teachers and college professors. Participants will have the opportunity to use telescopes, microscopes, and water quality management technology as well as explore the trails, waterfalls, streams and geography of the Camp. Special emphasis will be placed on appreciating the beauty of nature and the wonder of the fields of science they will study. The Science and Nature Camp is a resident (sleepaway) Camp for ages 8-18. It will take place on the 289 beautiful acres of Camp Nazareth property, located at 339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA. Visit campnazareth.org to register for the Science and Nature Camp. Email campnazareth@acrod.org or call 724-662-4840 for more information. Learn more... In addition to the Science and Nature program, participants will enjoy the many amenities Camp Nazareth has to offer including a Junior Olympic-size swimming pool, the new High and Low Ropes Course, including a 750 foot Zip Line, climate-controlled cabins, sports fields and basketball courts, a large Rec. Room, a volleyball court and more.

REGISTER FOR THE ACRY CONVENTION, HELD DURING THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND (SEPT. 1-4, 2017!

Registration for the ACRY Convention, hosted by the St. Nicholas ACRY on Labor Day Weekend, is now open. We have secured a rate of \$99/night at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriot in Robinson. Meal packages and individual meal tickets are available to those wishing to attend the event. The agenda includes a Dinner Cruise on the Gateway Clipper Saturday Night, Sunday Brunch at the hotel and the Grand Banquet Sunday night. We are also looking for Patrons, Boosters, and Memorial listings for the Commemorative Booklet. Please see Cathy Pawlik for more information and to register. We also welcome you to visit the ACRY website at ACRY.org for all registration materials. Alisha (Myers) Zak.

SAVE THE DATES: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017 FOR THE ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH PICNIC; FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 FOR THE FOOD FESTIVAL IN THE PARISH AUDITORIUM!

ST. MICHAEL’S ORTHODOX CHURCH 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN WOOD, PA ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 23, 2017!

As part of their celebration, they will have a 100 Year Anniversary Banquet the RW&BT Vol. Fire Co. Hall in Robertsdale following The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy being celebrated at St. Michael’s in Wood, beginning at 10:00 A.M. Attached to this bulletin is the form to order tickets for the Banquet. The deadline to order tickets is Sept. 1, 2017. The faithful of St. Michael’s pray that we are able to be present to celebrate such an incredible milestone with them. Faithful of St. Michael’s Orthodox Church.

OPPORTUNITIES ON FALL SHORT-TERM MISSION TEAMS STILL EXIST!

There are still open opportunities on three OCMC medical mission teams to Guatemala and Indonesia and youth outreach teams that will be traveling to Ghana and Kenya in the fall. If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining these vita efforts of the Church, please contact Andy Lekos by phone at 904-829-5132x140, or by

e-mail at teams@ocmc.org. Teams serve in the mission field for approximately two weeks and are a great way to impact the lives of people who are in great need around the world.

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)