

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, August 27, 2017

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & FOREFEAST OF THE DORMTION

Matins: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Resurrection Tone: 3

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87-89 / Red Book: 102-105

Bulletin Sponsor: **Anna Bartko's** 7th Birthday, offered by the Family.

Birthday prayers extended to **Adam Zak** on his birthday (Aug. 28) offered by the Zak Families.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Members of St. Nicholas Rosary Society**, offered by the Rosary Society.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Anna Palchik**, Mother, offered by daughters: Mary Ann Grossett & Agnes Kane.

7:00 P.M. Great Vespers on the Feast of the

Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God, with the Blessing of bread, wheat, wine & oil.

MONDAY, (August 28)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God, with the Blessing of Flowers & Fragrant Herbs.

FRIDAY, (September 1)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**William Pingor**, offered by Pamela Kimbrell, daughter; +**Anna Vranai**, offered by Mary (Daughter); +**Rose Evancho**, offered by Martha Adams.

Sunday, September 3, 2017

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service of the 3rd Hour: 8:20 A.M.

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Resurrection Tone: 4

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90-92 / Red Book: 105-107

Bulletin Sponsor: **National A.C.R.Y. Conventions**, offered by St. Nick's Sr. & Jr. ACRY Chapters.

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: **National A.C.R.Y. Conventions**, offered by St. Nick's Sr. & Jr. ACRY Chapters.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **National A.C.R.Y. Conventions**, offered by St. Nick's Sr. & Jr. ACRY Chapters.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants: deceased +**Members of the National A.C.R.Y. Organization**.

Matthew 19:16-26 –

19:16, 17 – This man does not come to test Jesus, but to seek advice from one he considers no more than a **good Teacher**. Christ’s response (v. 17) does not deny that He is God, but is designed to lead the rich man to this knowledge.

19:20 – Formal observance of commandments does not make one righteous before God. This man had an earnest desire for eternal life and sensed that he still lacked something; thus, he continues to press Jesus for the answer.

19:21 – **To be perfect**, one must willingly sacrifice all and **follow** Christ. Nothing is gained unless this sacrifice is given freely. The specifics of how one follows Christ will be different for each person. Because wealth had such a grip on this rich man, his only hope was to **sell** and **give** away all his possessions. St. John Chrysostom tells us that giving away possessions is the least of Christ’s instructions here; following Him in all things is a far greater and more difficult calling.

19:23-26 – Various interpretations have been suggested for the impossible image of a **camel** going through **the eye of a needle**: e.g., that the word was not camel, but “rope”; or that the eye of a needle was a city gate through which a camel might barely squeeze if it were first unloaded of all its baggage, symbolizing wealth. Even the Talmud uses the expression “for an elephant to go through the eye of a needle.” Whatever the phrase refers to, it displays the impossibility of salvation for those who are attached to riches. This is clearly evidenced by the disciples’ response, “**Who then can be saved?**” Yet by God’s grace, even what is **impossible** to man can come to pass.

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 BATTLE WITH “SUCCESS”

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

Life is a constant battle with the material world. If you understand the tension that takes place on the spiritual level between what is transitory and what is eternal, you are better prepared for this spiritual warfare.

Many years ago I had given myself over to the acquisition of things. My position placed me in a field where most everyone around me, both colleagues and friends, judged success by what we owned, who we knew, where we vacationed, the car we drove, the clothes we wore, the restaurants we frequented.

With this as the basis of our collective lives, I’d become ever more aware that most of us were not very happy. Divorce was rampant, subtle sabotage of the careers of colleagues were not uncommon, infidelity was the norm, and bank accounts were never full enough. Success seemed like a dead end with a signpost that had misdirected all of us.

Having all the possessions, the money, the friendships, and the respect left me empty. My days became battlegrounds in a futile attempt at fulfillment and happiness. The things I’d taught would bring happiness were not working. All my education and connections were not able to direct me to anything that made me feel like my life was worth the struggle.

My turning point was when I finally realized that the roadblock to that evasive happiness was my state of spiritual bankruptcy. My life had been given to me as a time

of preparation for eternity, and I was squandering it by concentrating on the transitory. When you abandon yourself to God, you find freedom, and victory is yours. Your life becomes His. Your struggles are His. Freedom is your trophy.

THE RICH RULER

The gospel for the twelfth Sunday after Pentecost tells us of a rich and powerful man – ‘a ruler’ – who asked Jesus what was needed to inherit eternal life. Jesus reminds him of the commandments. “All of these have I kept from my youth up...” He lacks one thing; Jesus tells him: to sell all his goods and distribute them to the poor. “And come, follow me...” But the man goes sorrowfully away, “for he was very rich.” And Jesus says that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Sometimes it is material wealth which stops a man from entering the kingdom but there are possessions other than money. Beauty, intelligence, perhaps some disordered human affection or bad habit: these, just as much, can be hindrances which Jesus tells us to free ourselves of before following Him. What are the earthly goods which hold and hinder me, personally, from following Jesus? How can I put these possessions to the service of the poor, and thus liberate my will? The gospel for this Sunday faces each one of us with this question. It is a good question to consider at the time of Christmas, at the time when Jesus comes to us in complete poverty, possessing nothing.

BISHOP GREGORY’S 5TH EPISCOPAL ANNIVERSARY – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH IN

JOHNSTOWN, PA! We are happy to hear that the Diocese will honor His Grace, Bishop Gregory on the 5th anniversary of his ordination to the Episcopate. The evening event will take place on Monday, November 27th in Johnstown, PA. Please mark this date on your calendar. Complete information will be provided at a later time.

APPRECIATIVE WORDS FROM ONE OF OUR BELOVED FAITHFUL OF ST. NICHOLAS: My sincere appreciation to our parishioners who remembered me during my recent surgery and recuperation – sending cards and praying for me and for all kindnesses. Sue Semancik.

SAVE THE DATES: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017 FOR THE ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

PICNIC – Susan Miller will be handling the Chinese Auction again this year for the picnic. She will be accepting any donations, starting today following the Divine Liturgy. Volunteer your talents to serve on the picnic committee and assist Jessica Krchmar, Chairperson for this event; **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 FOR THE FOOD FESTIVAL!**

PLEASE RETURN THE GLASS CANDLES FOR RECYCLING PURPOSES! Our parish of St. Nicholas has gone to using the glass 6-7 day candles for liturgical use in the church and at home. If you buy one to light in your home-church residence, please bring back the empty glass container after the wax has all melted. Eastern Oil Company recycles the glass bottles, and our church gets credit on its next order to the Bridgeville, PA-based company.

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. The deadline to order tickets is Sept. 1, 2017.

NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS GREEK ORTHODOX MONASTERY DINNER BANQUET ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 9TH AT ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL IN PITTSBURGH AT 4

P.M.! With the Blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Savas, Gerontissa Theophano & her Sisterhood warmly welcome you to: The 4th Annual Dinner Banquet in Memory of Gerontissa Taxiarchia. New Caterer! This year’s event catered by George Loutsion. 3:00 P.M. Vesper Service. RSVP Online Now: 2017DinnerBanquet.eventbrite.com RSVP Deadline: September 1, 2017. Fish and Chicken entrees: \$100 per ticket. The Monastery is located at: 121 St. Elias Lane, Saxonburg, PA. Phone: (724) 352-3999

PITTSBURGH ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULTS WILL BE MEET ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 10 AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE SHARP EDGE BEER EMPORIUM IN SHADYSIDE!

Bishop Thomas of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese is scheduled to be the guest speaker on Sunday, September 10. Young adults (ages 21-39) are invited to attend these “Orthodoxy on Tap” encounters.

COME, HELP US MAKE PIROHI ON TUESDAY, AUG. 29TH, AT 6 ‘O CLOCK! It is time to get ready for our fall food festival. Lend us your culinary talents for an evening of fun and work. Let’s make October’s

festival one of the best we have ever had! With your help, we can do it! Let Jean Colantoni know if you are willing to give us a helping hand. Phone her at (412) 491-7090.

BRING VASES OF FLOWERS AND FRAGRANT HERBS FOR BLESSING AT MONDAY'S LITURGY!

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