

# Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



## American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

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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

Assistant Cantors – Donald Bodnar Jr. & Michele Tomko

Parish Council President: Tom Pingor

Vol. 5; No. 41

**Sunday, October 15, 2017**

## 19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (2<sup>ND</sup> LUKAN SUNDAY)

Service of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

Resurrection Tone: 2

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 84-86 / Red Book: 99-102

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Robert & Trona Paganico's** 48<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary (10-18-'17), offered by Children & Grandchildren.

Wedding Anniversary Prayers intoned for: **Robert & Trona Paganico** on their 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Matrimony (Oct. 18, 2017).

Birthday prayers intoned for: **Sarah Merritt** (Oct. 14), **Breanna Merritt** (Oct. 16) and **Jacob Pido** (Oct. 22), offered by Gaylene Merritt.

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**WEDNESDAY, (Oct. 18)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Andrew Zak**, offered by Father Michael & Pani Deborah Zak.

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**Sunday, October 22, 2017**

## 20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (3<sup>RD</sup> LUKAN SUNDAY)

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Resurrection Tone: 3

Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

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

**Luke 6:31-36 –**

**6:31** – This “Golden Rule” is a minimum of Christian virtue, as it places man’s desire for goodness (“the natural law of self-love,” – St. Cyril of Alexandria) as a basic standard of how to treat others. It is but the first step on the path to the perfection of virtue; this perfection is found in verse 36, where God’s mercy, rather than man’s desire, is the standard.

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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/acroddiocese> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews> You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

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**THE STRUGGLE TOWARD HOLINESS**  
**By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering**

We may attempt to change bad habits that dominate our lives, but we cannot do battle with the passions unless we surrender ourselves in humility to God, for such change can come about only by God’s grace. Struggle as we may, our flesh will resist until the moment we seek help from the Lord of mercy, who is quick to hear our plea for help.

When we invite Christ into our hearts, it is important that we keep His commandments and follow His example. To expect Christ to change our behavior without us making an effort of our own is to invite failure. The Christian life is one of ascetic struggle – and not just in regard to keeping the fasts and standing in prayerful vigil. If we are to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, we must put the message of the Gospels into practice.

If there is someone we don’t like, we must put on Christ, interacting with that person as though we did love him, for by being obedient to Christ, we will find that we can, indeed, love him. If we find ourselves being jealous of another person, say a co-worker who has received a promotion, we must congratulate her and offer our support. Even if others are telling us we should have been the one who received the promotion, we embrace the decision of office management as though it came from God and as an opportunity to grow in humility.

It is easy to compartmentalize our Christian faith, reserving the “spiritual” for times spent in church. However, it is in the day-to-day, mundane moments when we must put into action what we’ve received during the services, knowing that Christ is providing us the means by which we can attain the sanctification that makes us one with Him.

If we think our journey into the heart should be easy, we are fooling ourselves.

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**LOVING ONE’S ENEMIES**

The idea of not doing to others what we would not wish them to do to us was familiar to Jesus’ Jewish contemporaries, and was part of rabbinical teaching. But Jesus goes beyond this negative precept and requires us to treat others as we would like to be treated by them. However, this new commandment, this positive commandment, risks being misunderstood by us. We might be led into doing good to others in the hope that they would respond by doing good to us, and that there would be some sort of reciprocity between our attitude and theirs. This is why Jesus immediately insists on the principle of fairness. Our love must be freely given and go out to those from whom we expect nothing in return. The climax of today’s gospel is the saying: “Be therefore merciful as your Father also is merciful”. To be merciful as the Father is merciful does not mean that our mercy could ever reach to the unlimited space of divine mercy; but, that in our own small measure, we should be inspired by the same feelings as the Father; it is from the ocean of the Father’s mercy that the minute drops of water which are our acts of mercy must come, and it is into this ocean that they must finally flow. We are not able to perform the merciful acts of the Father, but we can share in His spirit of mercy. A first sign of this spirit is never to think of a man as utterly lost. “Love you your enemies... hoping for nothing again”, today’s gospel tells us. This is not a humanitarian and superficial optimism: after all, a man is never entirely bad; he can change. And another thought can inspire our attitude: if God never ceases to do good to a sinner, if He is always ready to open His arms to him, who am I to dare to be stricter than God? Even in the greatest sinner, the most hardened criminal, the “image of God” is still present. What is important is to know how the “image of God” in me can meet the “image of God” in my enemy – or in a wrong-doer.

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**SAVE THE DATES: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 FOR THE FOOD FESTIVAL!**

We desire all parishioners to sign their names to the papers in the auditorium highlighting the designated areas of the Festival, where they can be good stewards of giving their time, talents, and treasures toward this annual fund-raising activity of the parish. In regards to the Food Festival Basket Raffle, Pani Debbie is receiving Basket Donations for the 2-day affair. You can donate a whole Basket or items to use in making up a Basket or cash towards purchasing items. Also, we remind all of our parishioners and the many talented bakers within the congregation to contribute baked goods and pastries of their choice to furnish the Bake Sale area with a variety of irresistible desserts that patrons will not be able to pass up. And, insure that your name is listed in the colorful Food Festival Program Booklet as a Patron for \$5.00 or Booster for \$2.00. Sue Miller will be happy to receive your monetary contribution.

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**HAVE YOUR NAME APPEAR IN THE ACRY ANNUAL, OUR DIOCESAN YEAR BOOK, AS A PATRON (\$6), BOOSTER (\$3), OR MEMORIAL LISTING (\$6)!**

This informative journal represents the activities of the past year and important calendar and contact information for you in the coming year. By supporting this publication, you enable the National ACRY to reach out to those in need. Please submit your monetary gifts toward this Yearly issue that should occupy a space in your home library. See Cathy Pawlik!

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**OFFER YOUR CULINARY SKILLS THIS WEEK IN MAKING THE DELECTABLE HOLUPKI FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S FALL FOOD FESTIVAL!**

We are seeking volunteers within our parish to assist us in making the Stuffed Cabbage (holupki) for the Festival. Stewards will gather in the auditorium on Tuesday at 6 P.M. to make these Slavic delicacies. Please join us for this labor of love for the Church and enjoy the fellowship that is ever present!

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**ST. JOHN'S EAST PITTSBURGH ETHNIC FOOD FEST – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>, FROM 11 A.M. UNTIL 5 P.M.!**

The St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in East Pittsburgh (211 Cable Avenue) will hold their Annual Ethnic Food Fest on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am until 5 pm. There will be Stuffed Cabbage (holupki); Kraut or Potato Pirohi; Haluski (cabbage and noodles); Kolbasi and Baked Goods for purchase. Beautiful Raffle Baskets chances will also be available. Eat in or Carry-out: call in advance that day to have your order ready for you at 412-829-2261.

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**SPECIAL PARISH MEETING – TODAY AT 11:15 A.M. IN THE CHURCH HALL!**

St. Nicholas Church will hold a Special Parish Meeting on Sunday, October 15 after the Divine Liturgy at approximately 11:15 A.M. All church members are encouraged to attend this important meeting. The meeting should last about 15-20 minutes. Thank You, Thomas Pingor, Church President.

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**ACRY TIDBIT:** Lots O' Luck Calendars are here; they are \$25.00. Please see Carol Dunn if you would like to make a purchase. Thank You!

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**YOUNG ADULT (AGES 18-35) RETREAT AT CAMP NAZARETH, OCT. 27-29, 2017!**

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh and the American Carpatho-Russian Diocese are pleased to announce their second co-sponsored Young Adult Retreat entitled "Trusting the Process". The Retreat will take place Friday, October 27 – Sunday, October 29 at Camp Nazareth, located in Mercer, PA. The weekend event will feature Keynote addresses given by Mr. Jacob Saylor, the Pastoral Assistant at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Scottsdale, AZ. Mr. Saylor has worked extensively in the field of Orthodox Youth and Young Adult Ministry and will offer a unique perspective on the cosmic process of salvation. The weekend event will be filled with learning, fun, fellowship, worship, and time for reflection and rejuvenation! This retreat promises a spiritually uplifting experience! Visit either pittsburgh.goarch.org or acrod.org for more information and to register for the Retreat. If you ever struggle with "staying on track", or if you ever feel like you don't know where you're headed in your life, then don't miss out on this unique retreat! It will give you some great insight and tools to help you navigate even the roughest times. Register today!!

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**THE CHURCH SCHOOL THANKS OUR BELOVED PARISHIONERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS PLEDGES TO OUR PARISH'S PARTICIPANTS AT THE 7K WALK FOR MISSIONS LAST SUNDAY IN SOUTH PARK!**

Clarence Vital, Jaylen Lacko, Jaylen's cousin: Mitchell Lacko, Pani Deborah and Fr. Michael took part in the Walk for Missions and are grateful to our St. Nicholas congregation and their considerate donations for the benefit of the Orthodox Church's missionary efforts to the Mayan population in the country of Guatemala. Thank you for heeding the Lord's Great Commandment to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people throughout the world.

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**DAILY VITAMINS (Good for a humble heart)! Take 1 a day:**  
You have nothing better than this soul; you have nothing of greater worth than this immortal soul.

- St. Nectarios of Aegina