

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

Assistant Cantors – Donald Bodnar Jr. & Michele Tomko

Parish Council President: Tom Pingor

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Sunday, October 29, 2017

21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (4TH LUKAN SUNDAY) & SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 (Sunday); Resurrection Tone: 4

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15 (Sunday)

Hebrews 13:7-16 (Fathers)

John 17:1-13 (Fathers)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90-92; 114-115 / Red Book: 105-107; 130-131

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Peter N. Palyok**, offered by Anna D. Palyok (Wife).

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Ann & +John Yurcisin** and **+Michael Banosky**, offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, the priest, **+Very Rev. Charles Sunderland**, founding pastor of St. Alexis Church crypt, Lafayette, IN.

NO DIVINE SERVICES SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK!

Father Michael will be on vacation this week, beginning Tuesday, Oct. 31 and shall return to Homestead on Monday, Nov. 6. In case of an emergency where an Orthodox priest is needed, please phone Father David Urban at (412) 225-4669 or Father Jonathan Tobias at (412) 824-0246.

Sunday, November 5, 2017

22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (5TH LUKAN SUNDAY)

Deacon's Service, with distribution of Holy Communion: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Resurrection Tone: 5

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 93-95 / Red Book: 108-110

Birthday prayers intoned for: **Noah Thorn** (11-8-'17), offered by Debbie Harris.

Pancakes & Sausage Breakfast, hosted by the Senior A.C.R.Y. Chapter #11, served in the parish auditorium following the Deacon's Service. A free-will offering shall be in effect for the repast.

Luke 8:5-15 – As the **sower** in this parable, Christ fulfills the prophecy in Isaiah 55:10-13. Note that while some might teach a person is permanently saved at the moment he professes faith – a view never held by the historic Church – the teaching of Jesus is clear that it is possible to **believe for a while** and then **fall away** (v. 13).

8:10 – **Mysteries** are not obscure intellectual concepts, but the presence of the Kingdom of God which cannot be defined. A person's unwillingness to understand Christ's parables is due to a rejection of His Kingdom. "If the blindness were natural, it would have been proper for God to open their eyes; but because it was a voluntary and self-chosen blindness, He does not overthrow

their free will.” Doing so would have been not only to “no advantage for them, but an even greater condemnation” (St. John Chrysostom).

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>

A GRATEFUL HEART IS FERTILE GROUND

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

When you strive to interact with members of your family, friends, co-workers, and all others with respect, humility, and dignity, you lay the groundwork for the abundance of grace needed to quicken your heart for the things of God. The soil is prepared for the planting of seeds that allow you to respond to God’s grace, for a grateful heart is fertile ground for the things of God.

When you open your heart to others with gratitude, the path is prepared for a relationship with Jesus Christ. And the indwelling of the Holy Spirit fills you with the power to live a life that is transformed by God’s grace. You are filled with heartfelt gratitude for all God’s gifts, and inner peace is yours.

The preparation for sowing the seeds of the love of God begins with responsive gratefulness. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you” (Romans 11:18). Any relationship with God must begin with a grateful heart and then be cultivated by kindness and goodwill toward others. When you are grateful, you respond toward God and others by enacting other virtues.

The cultivation of deepened appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for others quickens the soul to feel the inner need to freely and thankfully respond to God’s invitation to commune with Him.

THE SOWER

It is not enough for the word to fall ‘on good ground’. The reasons why the sowing did not bear fruit in the other instances show the conditions that are necessary for true spiritual life. We must not stand at the roadside within the range of passers-by; a certain withdrawal from the world, a certain silence, a certain contemplation (which vary in each case, but are necessary in all cases without exception) will protect what has been divinely sown. The ground on which the seed falls must have moisture in it, it must be frequently and regularly watered; this means that we must have constant and regular recourse to prayer and to other sources of grace, without depending on moments of emotion or ‘inspiration’. We must not lightly reject a fixed framework, such as timetables and rules of life: they may constitute a useless hindrance to the free flight of eagles, but most often they are a help to the children and cripples that we are. We must not allow the thorns, that is to say the attractions and distractions of the world, to suffocate the word: these are not only reprehensible passions, or earthly riches or ambitions; often entertainment which are not necessarily harmful in themselves (travels, parties, the theatre, novels, etc.) hinder an intimate relationship between God and us. The ‘good ground’ is a mixture of natural gifts and of grace (and grace can, moreover, make up for the deficiencies of nature). But, even where ‘good ground’ exists, no spiritual life is possible without daily and patient effort, without repressing certain things, without a certain regularity and stability, as much in material life as in mental life (the ‘roots’),

without meditation and examination of conscience (the terms may be modern, but the Desert Fathers practiced these things). In short, the seed of the word cannot grow in us without a certain asceticism. Asceticism is not in fashion: people prefer talking about mysticism. But no true mystical life exists without a serious ascetic foundation: the word of God will not take possession of our soul if we have not cultivated the ground and cut back the thorns.

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!

JUST A REMINDER THAT DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME WILL COME TO AN END ON SUNDAY, NOV. 5, 2017! This will have everyone in the United States setting their clocks **back** by one hour. This fall back will take place at 2:00 A.M. Eastern Time.

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

SIGN YOUR NAME TO THE LIST IN THE PARISH HALL AS PARTAKERS OF THE PANCAKES & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST NEXT SUNDAY (NOV. 5TH), FOLLOWING THE 9 A.M. DEACON'S SERVICE!

Hosted by the Senior A.C.R.Y. Chapter #11, the appetizing "Agape" meal will have a free-will offering in effect. Write your "John Hancock" on the designated paper downstairs in order to give our A.C.R.Y. an adequate number of diners to prepare for.

SECOND BANNS OF MARRIAGE ARE ANNOUNCED FOR: Alicia Obringer of our parish and Nicholas Kerber, who will be united as one in Christ in the Mystery of Holy Matrimony on Saturday, Nov. 11th at 3 P.M. in St. Nicholas Church. If anyone has a reason why this marriage should not take place, then, bring the objection to the attention of the Pastor: Father R. Michael Zak, immediately.

PITTSBURGH P.O.Y.A. WILL NEXT MEET ON SUNDAY, NOV. 12TH AT 6:30 P.M.! The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA) will meet for their next "Orthodoxy on Tap" on Sunday, November 12 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will again be held at the Sharp Edge Beer Emporium, South St. Clair Street, Shadyside. Special guest will be His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania who will speak on "Monastic Spirituality for Everyday Life".

HELP CREATE GIFT BASKETS FOR EACH CLASSROOM AT BARRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN HOMESTEAD BEFORE THANKSGIVING! 4 churches are involved with the Tutoring of 1st grade students at the school: Homestead United Presbyterian Church, Anne Ashley Methodist Church, Reformed Baptist Church and our St. Nicholas Orthodox Church. On the advice of one of the first grade teachers at Barrett (Beth Caterall), the following items would be most appreciated by the teachers: **Tissues** (need 28 boxes), **Clorox Wipes** (need 28), **Glue Sticks** (several in a package) (need 15), and **Vitamin C Drops** (need 15). The Tutors will assemble these baskets on the last day of Reading Club before Thanksgiving, which is Nov. 15. Please donate any of these items, and place the supplies on the table of the stage area in the auditorium. Teachers and students of Barrett Elementary are grateful to you!

EXHIBIT THE GENEROSITY OF ST. NICHOLAS BY ATTENDING THE CHARITY DINNER ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, BENEFITING CHRIST THE SAVIOUR SEMINARY!

Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Deanery, the holiday feast will take place at the Edgewood Country Club, located at 100 Churchill Drive in Pittsburgh, PA. Doors open at 2:30 P.M.; Dinner is at 3:00 P.M. and ticket prices are \$30.00 for Adults; \$10.00 for Children under 12 years of age. See Jean Colantoni to secure your ducats. Our theological students from the Seminary in Johnstown will be at the country club (and perhaps, His Grace, Bishop Gregory may be in attendance, as well!). A gala St. Nicholas Day raffle drawing shall be held after the repast. Please consider donating a holiday gift for this prize drawing. And, inform Father Zak as to what Nativity present you will be offering.

FALL YOUTH ENCOUNTER TO TAKE PLACE AT CAMP NAZARETH NOVEMBER 10-12, 2017! The Encounter is sponsored by the National Jr. ACRY and is open to youth ages 8-18. All Diocesan youth are invited and do not have to be a member of the Jr. ACRY to attend. The encounter will begin with arrival and registration on Friday, Nov. 10th from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. and will conclude on Sunday, Nov. 12 at Noon following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at 9:00 A.M. and Brunch. Parents are invited to the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. To register, e-mail Rachel Pribish at rachelprib@gmail.com by Wed., Nov. 1st. Include name of participant, age and any food allergies. Download and mail completed registration forms

(Camper Registration and Media Release Form) and a check made out to "National Jr. ACRY" for \$90 by Wednesday, Nov. 1st to: Rachel Pribish, 668 S. Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

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