

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

Assistant Cantors – Donald Bodnar Jr. & Michele Tomko

Parish Council President: Tom Pingor

Vol. 6; No.

Sunday, January 14, 2018

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY AND FEASTDAYS OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND ST. BASIL THE GREAT

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

Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Colossians 2:8-12 (Feast); Resurrection Tone: 7 Gospel: Luke 2:20-21; 40-52 (Feast)
2 Timothy 4:5-8 (Sunday before) Mark: 1:1-8 (Sunday before)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 99, 140-142 / Red Book: 114, 160-162

Wedding Anniversary Prayers intoned for: **Don & Janice Kerr** on their 56th Anniversary (Jan. 13) of Holy Matrimony.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Ann Timko** on the 1st Anniversary (1/4/'17) of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Trona & Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Michael Sukaly**, offered by +George Sukal and +Mildred.

TUESDAY, JAN. 16... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Barbara Coe**, offered by husband, Harry and daughter, Cyndi.

THURSDAY, JAN. 18... 7:00 P.M. Vigil Service for the Theophany of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. (Strict Fast) 2nd Holy Night Supper served in the parish hall at 5:00 P.M. Blessing & Distribution of Waters and Sanctification of the interior of the church.

FRIDAY, JAN. 19... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of **Theophany**, and the start of home blessings.

SATURDAY, JAN. 20... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Synaxis of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John.

Sunday, January 21, 2018

31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AND SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Resurrection Tone: 6

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 96, 150 / Red Book: 111-114, 160-162

Bulletin Sponsor: **Nick Ditmore's** 12th Birthday, offered by the Family.

Luke 2:20-21; 40-52 -

2:20 – The **shepherds** are also images of the bishops and presbyters of the Church, who proclaim Christ to the world. St. Ambrose writes that Mary's own faith was strengthened by the news from the shepherds, and he asks, "If Mary herself learns from the shepherds, why do so many refuse to learn from the presbyters of the Church?"

2:21 – Because Christ has come to perfectly fulfill the Law, He receives **circumcision** under the Law. Circumcision was a sign of Israel’s covenant with God and the means by which a male became a member of God’s community (Gen. 17:10-14; Lv. 12:3). In the Orthodox Church, it is ancient tradition to **name** a child **eight days** after birth, with a special blessing.

2:40 – That Jesus **grew and became strong in spirit** does not imply that He was lacking divine perfection at any time. Rather, it indicates that in emptying Himself and assuming human nature (Php. 2:7), He freely subjected Himself to human development and expression.

2:41 – Pilgrimages to **Jerusalem** on holy days like **Passover** were customary for Jews; often entire clans or villages would travel together.

2:46 – In appearing to be lost for **three days**, Christ prefigures His rest in the tomb.

2:48 – Joseph is honored with the title **father** for his care and upbringing of his adopted **Son**. This title further prefigures our adoption by God, whom by grace we call “Father” (Gal. 4:4-7).

2:49-51 – Christ’s eternal generation from the Father is divine, while His maternal ancestry is human. Accordingly, Jesus was first obedient to the will of His Father, and then is willingly **subject to** His mother and father.

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>

RESOLVE TO EXERCISE VIRTUE

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

When we make New Year’s resolutions, we pledge ourselves to positive change in the coming months. We decide we’re going to lose weight, and we set a loss of a certain amount as our goal for the coming year. We promise ourselves we’ll be more frugal in our spending and set aside more of our income for savings. Our children will be more central in our weekly allotment of time, with family time coming before personal recreation. The yard work will not be put off in the coming months, and that major kitchen remodel will actually be put on the front burner.

A better plan would be to pledge ourselves to exercise virtue during the coming year. Doing this means disposing ourselves to do good habitually and firmly. We pledge ourselves not only to perform good acts, but also to give the best of ourselves to others. Virtuous people tend toward the good with all their sensory and spiritual powers and also pursue the good, choosing to do it through concrete actions.

CHRIST IS AMONGST US...AND HAPPY NEW YEAR! As we look forward to a new year, we may find ourselves looking back on 2017 over the blessings and sorrows that came into our lives. Remember that God has been with us every step of the way no matter the season. Make 2018 a year of being present with Him, looking neither into the future or into the past, but simply being here now.

JANUARY 14 (Julian New Year) – On this Lord’s Day, let us greet St. Basil this morning with a prayer, ask for his blessing and print out these words of his, read them every day this week and say 2018 is going to be about Christ. Period.

“Let your demeanor, your dress, your walking, your sitting down, the nature of your food, the quality of your being, your house and what it contains, aim at simplicity.

And let your speech, your singing, your manner with your neighbor, let these things also be in accord with humility rather than vanity.

In your words let there be no empty pretense, in your singing no excess sweetness, in conversation be not ponderous or overbearing.

In everything refrain from seeking to appear important.

Be a help to your friends, kind to the ones with whom you live, gentle to your servant, patient with those who are troublesome, loving towards the lowly, comforting those in trouble, visiting those in affliction, never despising anyone, gracious in friendship, cheerful in answering others, courteous, approachable to everyone, never speaking your own praises, not getting others to speak of them, never taking part in unbecoming conversations, and concealing where you may whatever gifts you possess.”

+Basil the Great

THE CHOIR IS APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS! The Choir is grateful for the generous donations given by parishioners and friends during the season of Christ's Nativity. We appreciate your loyal support and wish you a healthy & prosperous New Year. Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever! Sincerely, Members of the St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Choir.

OUR GOD-LOVING PARISHIONERS PERFORMED AN AMAZING FEAT IN CLEANING THE CHURCH INTERIOR AND DECORATING OUR HOLY TEMPLE FOR THE NATIVITY CELEBRATION IN RECORD TIME! Manifesting their love for the "Body of Christ" (the Church), our conscientious faithful committed themselves to two enormous tasks prior to Christmas on January 7th. St. Nicholas members thoroughly cleaned the interior of our House of Worship and skillfully decorated the nave for the Nativity celebration. Relying on the artistic talents of Donny Bodnor and the tireless efforts of our men, women and children, the congregation did a magnificent job in readying our sacred place of worship for the Birth of Jesus Christ. We implore the "Prince of Peace" to bestow upon His stewards of St. Nicholas "with every good and perfect gift from above!"

SIGN YOUR NAME TO THE "SECOND HOLY NIGHT SUPPER" LISTING IN THE AUDITORIUM! We encourage all members of St. Nicholas to gather as a church family for the strict fast meal on the Eve of Theophany (Jan. 18) at 5:00 P.M. in the parish hall. Decide what Lenten dish of food or beverage that you'll be offering for this "Holy Night Supper," prior to the Vigil of Theophany service, when the Great Blessing of Waters shall take place and the Sanctification of the entire interior of the church proper. Please write your name and the Lenten food dish or beverage that you will be sharing with the "Body of Christ" (parishioners of St. Nicholas of Homestead, PA).

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHOX CHURCH – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING! St. Nicholas Orthodox Church will hold its monthly Board Meeting on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. Auditors will meet at 6:30 P.M. All parishioners are welcome to attend these monthly board meetings and, although only board members can vote, anyone can participate and express their opinion. Thank you! Tom Pingor, Church President.

ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY – ANNUAL MEETING – 1ST NOTICE - The St. Nicholas Cemetery Association will hold its 2018 Annual Cemetery Association Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 11:45 A.M. All Cemetery Association members and any parishioners are encouraged to attend.

TWO DIOCESAN CLERGY BOOKS ARE OFFERED AT HALF-PRICE FROM THE SEMINARY BOOKSTORE! Lives of the Seventy Apostles (Fr. Leonty Durkit) (former Diocesan priest). 1997 – sale price: \$3.00 (plus shipping). Sermons from Sundays (late Fr. Stephen Sedor) 1963 – sale price: \$2.00 (plus shipping). Order from Pani Baranik or Father Rustick; sale prices available through January.

PREPARATION FOR THE BLESSING OF HOMES, BEGINNING THIS FRIDAY (JANUARY 19)!
Before the Priest arrives at your home, here are a few reminders on how to prepare:
+ In the main room of the home, usually the kitchen or dining room, have placed on the table a white cloth, a candle and/an Icon or cross. You may place a small container of Holy Water on the table as well. (Note: Father will bring water with him.
+ Turn off TVs, radios, computers, etc. so as to keep focused on the blessing service.
+ Please make sure that pets are heeled or restrained so as not to get underfoot while Father goes through the home.
+ If you have any items to blessed (Icon, Cross, etc.), put them on the table where the blessing takes place.
+ When the Priest arrives, have everyone in the home gather around the table where the blessing takes place. Participation is important!
+ Invite friends or neighbors to participate and witness the beauty of this holy tradition.
+ If you need to discuss a personal matter with Father, this is the time to do so.

The sanctification of residences will be conducted from Monday to Saturday each week during the afternoon hours 1-5 and the evening hours 7-9. If you have a preference for an afternoon or evening visit, please notify Fr. Michael. Your priest shall begin blessing the homes of parishioners living in the Homestead, Munhall, and West Mifflin areas, proceeding with the city of Pittsburgh and concluding in outlying areas (north, south, east and west. Remember, the invitation to the priest to come and bless your home is an invitation to ask for the mercy of God upon the household. The sprinkling of Holy Water is a sign of God's presence in the home as an extension of His Holy House, the Church. It is a time to renew our commitment to God as we begin another year in His mercy and love for mankind.

ALL ORTHODOX YOUTH GROUPS ARE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EMERGENCY HEALTH KIT DRIVE AND ASSEMBLY PROJECT ON FEB. 3, 2018 FROM 11:30-12:30 AT HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN PITTSBURGH (MT. LEBANON)! + Help provide essential aid to people in the aftermath of disasters; + Introduce our youth to performing philanthropic works via the Ministry of IOCC; +

Teach our youth to work together in His name; and + Build a bridge between the youth of all Orthodox jurisdictions so that we may serve together as a larger community, to His glory.

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