

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. 3

Sunday, January 21, 2018

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY & SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Resurrection Tone: 8

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

1 Timothy 4:9-15

Luke 19:1-10

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 102, 150 / Red Book: 117, 169-170

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

TUESDAY, JAN. 23... 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.

Sunday, January 28, 2018

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE – TRIODION BEGINS

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Resurrection Tone: 1

Gospel: Luke: 18:10-14

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81, 175 / Red Book: 95-96, 197

Matthew 4:12-17

4:15 – The term **Galilee of the Gentiles** indicates that many non-Jews lived in the region.

Having a mixed population, it was not considered a genuinely Jewish land, even though many Gentile residents had converted to Judaism during the Maccabean period. Because many of the Jews there had been influenced by the Greek culture and its customs, they were generally considered second-class citizens by the Jews of Judea.

4:16 – **Darkness** means ungodliness. Here it represents the Gentiles' unawareness of God and the Jews being under the shadow of the Old Covenant. To sit in darkness means to be overcome by spiritual ignorance. The **great light** is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

4:17 – Christ's first word, like that of John the Baptist, is "**Repent.**"

3:1-3 – **The wilderness of Judea** is the barren region descending from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea. The preparation for the Savior's ministry begins with John the Baptist's call to **repent**.

Repentance, which accompanies faith, is a total about-face. The word in Greek literally means to change one's mind, or more generally, to turn around. Repentance is a radical change of one's spirit, mind, thought, and heart, a complete reorientation of the whole of one's life. It is the necessary first step in **the way of the Lord**. It is accompanied by the confession of sins and the act of baptism (v. 6), and it is followed by a life filled with fruits worthy of this change (v. 8)

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>

WHEN DESPONDENCY SEIZES US
By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

The renowned Russian saint Seraphim of Sarov (1759-1833) said of himself, "I don't know anything." These words were remarkable coming from a hermit who was the most sought-after spiritual adviser of his age, with even the tsar seeking his counsel. Yet St. Seraphim recognized that he was but a funnel, so anything good that came out of him was from God.

As a priestmonk, I am often tortured with the knowledge that I am a poor example to others and I fall short – daily – of living out the image of Christ in me. Yet I am compelled to live every day with joyfulness of heart, no matter what. I am also compelled to preach, teach, write of the things of the Lord, and try to trust God, no matter what. I try, as best I can, to remember the words, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4).

I also try to remember the words of St. Basil the Fool for Christ, whose holy relics reside in the cathedral in Red Square that bears his name. He said, "Winter is cold, but paradise is sweet." Like St. Anthony the Great, I cry out to God, "Where are You?" all the while floating in a river of grace. I want to be a friend of God, yet I often feel like the eagle chick who has been pushed out of the nest by its mother.

I am comforted by the counsel of St. Seraphim, who instructed his spiritual children with these words:

When despondency seizes us, let us not give in to it. Rather, fortified and protected by the light of faith, let us with great courage say to the spirit of evil: "What are you to us, you who are cut off from God, a fugitive from heaven, and a slave of evil? You dare not do anything to us: Christ, the Son of God, has dominion over us and over all. Leave us, you thing of bane. We are made steadfast by the uprightness of His Cross. Serpent, we trample on your head."

THE PITTSBURGH ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULTS (POYA) WILL MEET THIS EVENING IN

HOMESTEAD! The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA) will hold their next "Orthodoxy on Tap" on Sunday, January 21 at 6:00 P.M. at Bar Louie in the Waterfront. The topic will be "Stump the Priest". All 20 and 30 yr. olds are welcome for a night of fellowship.

TO ALL CLERGY, PARISH STAFF, AND OCMC AMBASSADORS: THE BEST SPRING BREAK DESTINATION EVER!

Advertisements are popping up on social media and all over college campuses with catchy tag lines telling you about the '10 Best Deals for Spring Break' or 'Sunniest Spring Break Destinations'. They all promise you the most fun, the best beaches, the wildest parties and the greatest deal for your money. None of them advertise that you'll be doing anything meaningful. Period. Guaranteed. Welcome OCMC/OCF Spring Break Albania; the best alternative to everything else out there. Sign up for a week in which you will see a nation that has risen from the ashes of atheism. A week where you will see what it means to desire Christ first through your interactions with the youth, the youth leaders, the faithful and the church leadership. Apply for the 2018 OCMC/OCF Spring Break trip to Albania at www.ocmc.org or by calling 1-877-643-6784 and open your heart to participate in the Best Spring Break Destination EVER.

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 – 2nd 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.

TO ALL FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF ST. NICHOLAS MOTHERS & DAUGHTERS GUILD: We will be having our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at the Eat 'N Park at the Waterfront banquet room. The meeting time is from 12:30 P.M. until 2:30 P.M. We will be electing officers for this year, along with collecting the annual dues of \$10.00 per person. Please try to attend if possible, as we need us all to work together to make our association a success in this upcoming year. Thank you and hope to see all there!

CELEBRATE WITH THE CHOIR AT THEIR ANNUAL BANQUET ON FRIDAY, FEB. 2ND! All parishioners of St. Nicholas are invited to this joyful gathering. Please contact Andrea Babbie (412-461-4282) for reservations and payment by today's deadline. Date: Friday, February 2, 2018; Location: Shelly Pie, 912 Penn Avenue, Turtle Creek, PA 15145; Time: 6-10 P.M.; Menu: Pizza Buffet/Tossed Salad/Sandwich Rings/Soft Drinks/Coffee/Tea; Price: \$18 Adults, \$15 Children ages 6-10; Payment Due: Today (Jan. 21); Contact Person: Andrea Babbie, 412-461-4282.

INTERNATIONAL SOUP SAMPLING – TO BENEFIT IOCC – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018 FROM 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.!

Experience tastes from around the world! Sample five homemade soups for \$10, and take your favorite quart home for a \$10 donation. Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 123 Gilkeson Rd. (Mt. Lebanon), Pittsburgh, PA 15228. Register online: iocc.org/pittsburgh. For questions or to pre-order soup, contact Marianne at (412) 668-0420 or marianne.carmack@gmail.com

HIS GRACE, BISHOP GREGORY SHALL SERVE AS THE RETREAT MASTER AT THE NATIONAL A.C.R.Y. LENTEN RETREAT OF THE CENTRAL REGION OF OUR DIOCESE AT ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH IN HOMESTEAD, PA ON SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH!

Please mark this date on your calendar and participate in this spiritually-enriching encounter, presented by the spiritual leader of our God-saved Diocese, Bishop Gregory. Fr. David Urban will offer Godly instruction to our young children in the Sunday School Building during the Retreat. During the Great Fast, it is prudent and necessary for all of us "go into the desert" and nourish our immortal souls in preparation for Holy Week and Christ's Resurrection.

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church