

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. 6

Sunday, February 11, 2018

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT: MEATFARE SUNDAY

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Resurrection Tone: 3

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87, 177-178 / Red Book: 102, 199-200

Bulletin Sponsor: **Samantha Ditmore's** 9th Birthday, offered by the Family.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of **+Mary Labik, +Michael Labik, and +George Beres**, offered by Andrea Labik.

Birthday prayers are extended to **Doug Trumpower** (Feb. 13), offered by Samantha and Cathy.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Mary Labik** (17 yrs.), **+Michael Labik**, and **+George Beres**,

7:00 P.M. Vespers on the Synaxis of the Three Holy

Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom.

MONDAY, FEB. 12... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Synaxis of the Three Holy

Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Helen Bakura**, offered by the Konar, Kapolka and Lasobik Families, and for **+Anna Rohaly Fialla**, offered by Emma Lazorchik.

7:00 P.M. Great Vespers on the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple, with the Blessing of bread, wheat, wine & oil.

THURSDAY, FEB. 15... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple, with the Blessing of Candles.

Sunday, February 18, 2018

SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS: CHEESEFARE SUNDAY

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4

Resurrection Tone: 4

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90, 178-179 / Red Book: 105, 200-201

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of **+Joseph & +Marie Maurer**, offered by Albert and Jackie Maurer.

Birthday prayers are extended to: **Tracy Hvasta**, offered by Mary Ann (Mother) and Ernest J. (Brother).

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Annie Timko**, offered by Evelyn & +Cynthia Dzvonic and Timothy Kane.

Forgiveness Vespers: 12:30 P.M. following the Pre-Lenten Breakfast. The priest begins in gold vestments and changes to purple at the Great Prokimen.

Matthew 25:31-46 – Here is the majestic climax of the discourse, which is not simply a parable, but a prophecy of the universal judgment that will indeed come. Since the Cross is now near to Him, Jesus raises the hearer to the sight of the glory of the Son of Man on His judgment seat and the whole world before Him.

The standard of judgment is uncalculated mercy toward others. The works produced by faith are emphasized, for saving faith always produces righteous works. What we do reflects our true inner state. **The least** (v. 40) refers to all the poor and the needy. The needs described in this parable include both physical and spiritual needs. Thus, the **hungry or thirsty** (v. 44) are not only those who need feed and drink, but also those who hunger and thirst for the hope of the gospel.

25:32 – Christ uses **sheep** to illustrate the righteous, for they follow His voice and are gentle and productive. **Goats** indicate the unrighteous, for they do not follow the shepherd and they walk along cliffs, which represent sin.

25:34 – **Inherit** is a term used with regard to sons and daughters rather than strangers or servants, for the righteous become children of God by adoption (Gal. 4:4-7).

25:40 - To see Christ in everyone is the fulfillment of the great commandment to love your neighbor as yourself (22:39).

24:41 – That the **fire** was **prepared for the devil** shows that God did not create hell for man; rather, people choose this torment by their coldness of heart.

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 CHURCH SHOWS CHARITY TO HER NEIGHBORS

By Abbot Tryphon of The Morning Offering

Great and Holy Lent is the perfect time for us to support and enter into collaboration with charitable organizations such as RACS (Russian American Community Services), the Orthodox charity based in San Francisco that feeds hundreds of poor. International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), another worthy organization, is also deserving of our support. Almost every community has a food bank that is in desperate need of donated food, as the number of the poor and homeless grows at an astounding rate.

This is a time when the Church and her people face a need that offers us the chance to reflect on the cultural and spiritual issues related to charity. In the face of a “contemporary culture that promotes the marginalization of those who are weak, it is increasingly necessary to restore the centrality in the lives of Christians, of the encounter with the poor and their questions, especially in the context of uncertainty produced by the complexity and uncertainty of the globalized world” (from a statement by the Moscow Patriarchate).

St. Jerome said, “Our church walls sparkle with gold, which also glitters upon our ceilings – while the capitals of our pillars are lavishly decorated. The holy vessels are beaten out of costly elements and precious stones. Yet Christ is dying at our doors in the person of His poor, naked and hungry.”

And St. Maria of Paris wrote, "At the Last Judgment I will not be asked whether I satisfactorily practiced asceticism, now how many bows I have made before the divine altar. I will be asked whether I fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the sick, and the prisoner in his jail. That is all I will be asked."

SIGN UP DOWNSTAIRS TO PARTAKE OF A PRE-LENTEN BRUNCH NEXT SUNDAY FROM 11:00 A.M. UNTIL 12 NOON!

St. Nicholas Church Men's Club will stage an appetizing repast on Cheese-Fare Sunday (Feb. 18) prior to the Forgiveness Sunday Vespers at 12:30 P.M. The meal shall consist of a variety of meats, scrambled eggs, fruit, coffee and additional complementary "comfort foods." A free-will offering shall be in effect for the brunch and envelopes will be situated on the tables for patrons. Everyone is kindly asked to sign their names to the designated list in the parish hall today to give our "Men" an indication on how many diners to prepare for.

COME DOWNSTAIRS FOR THE COFFEE SOCIAL AFTER THE LITURGY AND VISIT THE CHURCH OFFICE!

Parishioners can pick up their I.R.S. statements this morning from the church's financial officers!

PURCHASE SARRIS CANDY FOR PASCHA! The Choir is sponsoring its annual Pascha fundraiser: Sarris Candy. Orders may be given to any choir member by February 18. Delivery date is expected for March 25. Your support is appreciated. Choir members: Please submit your Sarris Master Order Sheet to Andrea Babbie by the February 21 rehearsal.

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.. Sermons from Sundays (late Fr. Stephen Sedor) 1963 – sale price: \$2.00. These two excellent clergy publications can be purchased at the Gift Shop in the lower level of the church, today.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – ANNUAL MEETING – 3rd (FINAL) NOTICE! St. Nicholas Orthodox Church will hold its 2018 Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 11:45 A.M. All parishioners are encouraged to attend this very important meeting.

DECLARE YOUR ENTRY INTO A MARCH MADNESS BLOCK POOL THIS YEAR! The Saint Nicholas Church Men's Club is selling tickets for their 2018 NCAA Men's Basketball March Madness Block Pool. Tickets are \$25 each, with 31 chances to win cash prizes of \$25 up to \$500. A flyer is posted on the bulletin board. For additional information or to purchase a ticket, please see Brian Smoley or Aaron Zak.

PREPARATION FOR THE BLESSING OF HOMES, BEGINNING 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 SOULS' SATURDAYS! The 5 All Souls' days for this year are as follow: February 10; March 3, 10 and 17; May 29. If you have any updates to your family listings, please notify Fr. Michael as soon as possible so that he can add the names to the parish diptychs. And, everyone should try to attend at least one of these memorials each year, coming to pray for the departed of our family and your church family.

OUR BISHOP WILL PRESENT "OUR CALLING AS DISCIPLES AND EVANGELISTS" AT THE DIOCESAN LENTEN RETREAT ON SATURDAY, MARCH 17 AT 12 NOON! All parishioners of St.

Nicholas reap the spiritual benefits that come from spending time in retreat, even if only for a day. Make certain that you are a participant in this Lenten encounter for sake of your immortal soul. Prioritize that day!

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)