

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

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Sunday, March 11, 2018 (Daylight Saving Time Begins) THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: CROSS VENERATION

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

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

Epistle: Hebrews 10:32-38

Resurrection Tone: 7

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 99, 182-183 / Red Book: 114, 204-205

Wreath of Flowers surrounding the Holy Cross: Donated in loving of +Michelle Dzvonic and all departed members of the Dzvonic Family, offered by Michael Dzvonic.

3:00 P.M. Pittsburgh Deanery Lenten Vespers at St. John the Baptist Church in East Pittsburgh, PA. Christ the Saviour Seminarians shall be in attendance and one of the theological school students will deliver the Lenten message. A Lenten meal shall be served to all worshipers in the parish hall, afterwards. A free-will offering is in effect for the repast.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14... 7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (3-hr. Fast of food or drink before partaking of Holy Communion.)

FRIDAY, MARCH 16... 7:00 P.M. Lenten Service to the Holy Cross.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the 4th Soul Saturday with Panachida and the Reading of the Parish Diptychs (names of all the departed).

4:00 P.M. Lenten Vespers

Sunday, March 18, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

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

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

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

Resurrection Tone: 8

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 102, 183-184 / Red Book: 117, 206-207

3:00 P.M. Pittsburgh Deanery Lenten Vespers at St. Michael's Church in Rankin, PA. Christ the Saviour Seminarians shall be in attendance and one of the theological school students will deliver the Lenten message. A Lenten meal shall be served to all worshipers in the parish hall, afterwards. A free-will offering is in effect for the repast.

Mark 8:34-9:1 –

Matthew 16:24 – The cross, a dreaded instrument of Roman punishment, is also a symbol of suffering by Christians in imitation of Christ. We practice self-denial for the sake of the love of God and the gospel. Accepting this suffering is not punishment, nor is it an end in itself, but a means to overcome the fallen world for the sake of the Kingdom and to crucify the flesh with its passions and desires (Gal. 5:24).

16:25 – The central paradox of Christian living is that in grasping for temporal things, we lose the eternal; but in sacrificing everything in this world, we gain eternal riches that are unimaginable (1 Co. 2:9).

16:26 – **What will a man give in exchange for his soul?** This question emphasizes the utter foolishness of accumulating worldly wealth or power, for none of this can redeem man’s fallen soul, nor benefit a person in the life to come.

Mark 9:1 – This is a reference to those who would witness the Transfiguration (vv. 2-13), as well to those in every generation who will experience the presence of God’s **kingdom**.

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>

VENERATION OF THE CROSS

Third Sunday of Lent

Rev. Dn. Paul Zaharas, Chancellor, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Denver

Whoever desires to come
after Me, let him deny himself,
and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Mark 9:34-35

At the mid-point of our Lenten journey, the Church strengthens and fortifies us by calling to mind Christ’s precious and life-giving Cross. This Sunday’s Gospel passage reminds us that following Christ – walking the path of salvation – is not easy, but rather involves sacrifice. Following Him comes at a personal cost, and each one of us is asked to endure our own unique difficulties. We are called to bear our own cross in imitation of the Savior, in humility and seeking God’s mercy.

When we commemorate the Cross on this third Sunday of the Great Fast, and as we venerate it for its power and role in Christ’s victory over death, let us also think about the cost of following Him. Let us consider the price of serving our Lord and the fruit that our own personal sacrifices, for the sake of others, will bring: “For whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it (Mark 8:35).

When we serve our brothers and sisters in need, we offer our gifts and ourselves to Christ Himself. Through our selfless acts we deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow the Lord, and in this way heed His command.

Christ our God, teach us to humbly
bear our cross as we seek to follow You.
Give us eyes to see where need exists and
generosity to serve as You served.
Through the power of Your precious
Cross, grant to us Your great mercy and
Teach us to embody Your compassion.

SARRIS CANDY FOR PASCHA DELIVERY DATE IS EXPECTED 3/25/18! Your support is appreciated!

SENIOR ACRY 68TH ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST – NEXT SUNDAY, AFTER THE HIERARCHICAL LITURGY! Tickets are \$8.00 for Adults; \$4.00 for Children ages 6-12 years; Free for Children 5 years old and younger. Please see Carol Dunn to purchase your ducat. Also, the 70th National ACRY Metropolitan Orestes Memorial Bowling Tournament is being held in Perth Amboy, N.J. They are seeking Patrons (\$10); Boosters (\$5); Memorial Listing (\$5). Please see Michele Tomko if you would like to have your name in the commemorative booklet.

COME AND HELP US MAKE PIROHI ON TUESDAY, MARCH 13TH AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE PARISH HALL!

Multitudes are asking when our St. Nicholas parish will be selling the irresistible Slavic delicacy. Thus, we need your support and assistance to make a variety of these “favorites of Lent”. Come to work and socialize with our talented culinary personnel on Tuesday, March 13 at 6 P.M. in the auditorium. We work, communicate and have fun at the same time!

SEE AND HEAR BISHOP GREGORY’S VIDEO MESSAGE FOR LENT! His Grace is offering another challenge to all the beloved members of our Diocese. Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3coy-kRxPL4> It is also posted on the Diocesan Website.

AS BISHOP GREGORY PRESENTS “OUR CALLING AS DISCIPLES AND EVANGELISTS” AT THE DIOCESAN LENTEN RETREAT ON SATURDAY, MARCH 17 AT 12 NOON, WE ARE IMplored TO SIGN OUR NAMES TO THE PARTICIPANTS’ LIST IN THE AUDITORIUM!

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! The Schedule is as follows: 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy on All-Souls’ Saturday; 11:00 A.M. Coffee Social; 12:00 Noon: First Session of the Hierarch’s Presentation; 1:30 P.M. – Lunch; 2:30 P.M. Bishop’s Second Session, with a Question & Answer Segment; 4:00 P.M. Vespers. This Central Region Diocesan Lenten Retreat at our church includes a Continental Breakfast and a Light Lunch. Cost: Free-will Offering. Registration deadline is: March 12th. Speak with Cathy Pawlik in person if you have any questions regarding this “venture into the desert for spiritual renewal”. Or, you may email her at cmpawlik@verizon.net or phone her at (412) 461-2110 residence; (412) 889-6702 (Cell Pho)

FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE FASHION-CONSCIOUS, YOUR SEATING IS READY AT THE “DESIGNER PURSE BASH” ON SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018 AT ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH AUDITORIUM IN HOMESTEAD, PA!

Doors open at 4:00 P.M. / Buffet served at 4:30 P.M. / Tickets \$30 & includes 3 chances & full meal. Grand Prize is a Louis Vuitton, valued at over \$900! Other prizes include Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Coach, & more! Contact Jessica Krchmar at 412-290-3526 or jessicakrchmar@gmail.com Proceeds benefit St. Nicholas Orthodox Church and ACRY Chapter #11.

FIRST ANNUAL SENIORS’ RETREAT AT CAMP NAZARETH IN MERCER, PA, FROM APRIL 23-25!

His Grace, Bishop Gregory is calling upon all our Seniors, age 65 and older, to join him at the Camp for 3 days of fellowship and prayer in order to be spiritually rejuvenated. The Retreat is being offered with our Seniors specifically in mind. The central theme of the Retreat comes from Psalm 77:5, “I consider the days of old, I remember the years long ago...I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord...” The Retreat will focus on gratitude for God’s many blessings in our lives and the hope that His mercy creates in us. The schedule will include worship, fellowship, learning, fun, time for reflection and relaxation, and time spent together. You can review the registration form on the Diocesan website (www.acrod.org). Online Registrations begins March 1, 2018. There will be the option to register via mail as well. All registrations are due by April 18, 2018. Bishop is looking forward to spending time with the participants especially because many have a rich history in our Diocese, a history he wishes to hear and learn more about.

COME TO CONFESSION BEFORE OR AFTER THE ALL-SOULS SATURDAY’S DIVINE LITURGIES OR AFTER FRIDAY’S LENTEN SERVICE!

If we are to be forgiven by God, He requires of us that we also forgive one another. For many of us, this is the most difficult aspect of repentance and confession. Yet we say it each time we pray the Lord’s prayer, “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Just as God’s love for us is personal, so must ours be for Him. As the Christian grows from child to adult, his or her personal response to God becomes crucial. This personal response is the act of confession. God the Father runs to meet and kiss you, like the humble father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, in the Mystery of Holy Penance. Do not keep Him waiting! Come this week!

THE PRAYER ROPE: Predating the Catholic Rosary, this Orthodox tool of prayer, made of black wool with a small cross has over centuries passed through the hands of countless people seeking God’s Kingdom. Like a chain on a bike, the prayer rope helps us move towards God with the saying of the Jesus Prayer on each knot. **THE JESUS PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, Have Mercy on me.** It is a mystery what depth this prayer has... saying the name of Christ burns the demons, it makes them flee from us in times of temptations. When we are upset, feel tempted, we can reach for our prayer rope and calmly call upon the Lord. Because we ask for mercy in the Jesus Prayer, we find that this helps us not be prideful. Our ego makes us think we have all we need without God; we have all the strength with out Jesus... but that is a lie. Only with God can we do anything and praying to Him with the Jesus Prayer helps us remember that we are servants in need of God’s commands, rather than commanding Him.

Now the Prayer Rope is not some kind of amulet with special powers... it is just string... however when tied with 7 knots, the tradition tells us the devil cannot untie it like he did with the monks of Egypt in the 300’s. The Prayer Rope is simply an aid. Keeping it in our left hand and moving from knot to knot with each prayer helps us focus and become still and quiet.

His Grace Bishop Gregory once encouraged the youth of our Diocese at Camp Nazareth that if they ever feel something is off, to go sit somewhere quiet and say the Jesus Prayer on a small rope and see how God helps us.

View the display case of our parish’s Gift Shop, where many beautiful prayer ropes are available to buy.