

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 25, 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: ST. MARY OF EGYPT

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

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

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Resurrection Tone: 1

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81, 185-186 / Red Book: 95-96, 207-208

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of the departed, +Michael Tomko & +George Sukal, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

3:00 P.M. Pittsburgh Deanery Lenten Vespers at St. John the Baptist Church in North Side 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 28... 7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (3-hr. Fast of food or drink before partaking of Holy Communion.)

THURSDAY, MARCH 29... 9:00 A.M. Panachida service for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +Anna Lipka, offered by herself.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30... 9:00 A.M. Panachida service for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +Margaret Rusnak, offered by herself.

7:00 P.M. Akathist Hymn to the Most Holy Mother of God.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday.

12 Noon – 1 P.M.; Hearing of Confessions.

Sunday, April 1, 2018

TRIUMPHAL ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM: PALM (WILLOW, FLOWERY) SUNDAY

Matins: 8:00 A.M., with the Blessing of Palms & Pussywillows

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 188-192 / Red Book: 210-214

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of +John Harris' 90th Birthday Remembrance, offered by Debbie Harris, daughter.

GREAT & HOLY PASSION WEEK BEGINS AT SUNSET (No meat products are to be eaten this entire 7-day period).

7:00 P.M. Bridegroom Matins.

Mark 10:32-45 –

10:32-34 – Christ’s repeated predictions of His Passion were intended to encourage and strengthen the disciples for the terrifying events they would face. They also confirms that Christ was going to His death of His own will and choosing.

Matthew 20-23 – This quest for temporal power and glory is unfitting for a disciple and shows an earthly misunderstanding of the Kingdom of God. Matthew reports that **the mother of Zebedee’s sons** requested this honor, but John’s and James’ own involvement is revealed by the plural **you** in v. 22, and in Mark 10:35.

Christ calls His Crucifixion a **cup** and his death a **baptism**. The Cross is a cup because He drank it willingly (Heb. 12:2). His death is baptism, for He was completely immersed in it, yet it cleansed the world (Rom. 6:3-6). Christ’s prophecy of John and James participating in the same cup and baptism shows the life of persecution and martyrdom they would lead after Pentecost.

Christ declaring that the places of honor in the Kingdom are not His **to give** does not mean that He lacks authority. Rather, it means that they are not His to give arbitrarily. Instead, He will give them to those for whom God has prepared them. Note also that with regard to sitting as equals on the right and left hand of Christ in His Kingdom, St. John Chrysostom teaches that no one could possibly occupy such a position. With regard to the highest places of honor that can be given to man, the icons of the Church universally depict the Virgin Mary (the most blessed among women – Luke 1:28) and John the Baptist (the greatest born of women – 11:11) holding these places.

Mark 10:45 – The phrase **for many** is an Aramaic expression meaning “for all.”

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>

ST. MARY OF EGYPT

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Dr. Gayle Woloschak, Professor, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University

**In you the image was preserved with
exactness, O Mother; for taking up
your cross, you did follow Christ,
and by your deeds you did teach us ...**

to attend to the soul. – Apolytikion, Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Nearing the end of the Lenten journey, we see Pascha approaching, but we have not arrived yet. The story of St. Mary of Egypt demonstrates that it is never too late in life – or Lent – to attend to eternal matters.

St. Mary initially lived a life of debauchery. She once traveled to Jerusalem with some pilgrims, herself looking for fun; upon attempting to enter the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, she felt a force preventing her. Suddenly aware of her impurity, she prayed for forgiveness and was able to enter. She repented, received absolution, and entered the wilderness, where she lived in fasting and repentance for the rest of her life.

Sometimes we too experience a moment of realization. We must repent. And after repentance comes action. Though we are not all called to solitude as St. Mary was, we

can all turn from sin, toward Christ. When we fast, we grow our compassion for the hungry and the poor, as well as our knowledge of how much we need God's mercy.

**O Holy Trinity, teach me to repent
and to honor You by offering service
to Your children near and far.**

SARRIS CANDY FOR PASCHA DELIVERY DATE IS EXPECTED TODAY! Your support is appreciated!

WE APPRECIATE YOUR FINANCIAL AID TO THE "LEAST OF CHRIST'S BRETHREN!" The

International Orthodox Christian Charities' Syrian Relief Dinner was held recently at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Pittsburgh. Although ticket sales to the event were down this year, the total donations from our St. Nicholas parish was \$970,00, which is an increase of \$120.00 over last year. Thank you very much to all those faithful of our church who gave to help support those still in need in Syria.

HEAR AND SEE OUR HIERARCH'S THOUGHT-PROVOKING SPEECH ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM! A

video of His Grace's excellent speech recently in Naples, Florida on the subject of "Religious Freedom" is now posted on the internet. It can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/mnq0dv6DCA0>. Please inform your family members and Orthodox Christian friends with this information.

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.

SPECIAL PARISH MEETING – TODAY! – St. Nicholas Church shall conduct a Special Parish Meeting on this Lord's Day after the Divine Liturgy at approximately 11:15 A.M. All church members are encouraged to attend this important session. The meeting should last about 15-20 minutes.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING - St. Nicholas Orthodox Church will hold its monthly Board Meeting on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. Auditors will meet at 6:30 P.M. All parishioners are welcome to attend these monthly board sessions, and although only parish officers may vote, anyone can participate and express their opinion(s).

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. Also, at this exciting event, we will be having (12) themed baskets to raffle off. If you would like to help by donating towards any of them, see Pani Zak for the list at the Coffee & Fellowship Hour, this morning.

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 LITURGY OF THE PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS OR BEFORE OR AFTER FRIDAY'S LENTEN SERVICE OR ON LAZARUS' SATURDAY BEFORE OR AFTER THE LITURGY AND FROM 12-1 P.M. 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!

LET US REACH OUT TO THE POOR AND DESTITUTE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WITH THE INSPIRATION OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT, ESPECIALLY DURING THIS TIME OF TUMULT & SUFFERING.
