

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

Homestead, PA 15120

Rectory Office Phone: (412) 461-3264

Church Office & Auditorium: (412) 461-9437

Web Site: www.stnichomestead.org

E-mail Address: STNICKHOMESTEAD@GMAIL.COM

E-mail Address: frmzak@gmail.com

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. 15

Sunday, April 15, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA: ST. THOMAS SUNDAY

Matins of the Resurrection: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M. and the Partaking of the blessed “Artos” Bread.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 15:12-20

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 199-200 / Red Book: 221-223

Bulletin Sponsor: **Dave Urban’s** Birthday, offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God’s departed servants, +**Ann Opsitos**, on her birthday (4/10/18), and +**Martha Opsitos**, on her birthday (4/11/18), offered by Ann Marie Kline and George Opsitos.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God’s departed servant, +**Ann Janicko**, offered by Mary Janicko and Helen Revak (daughters).

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God’s departed servant, +**Anna Rosgonyj**, offered by herself.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God’s departed servant, +**Michael Dzvonic. Sr.**, offered by the Family.

No weekday services are scheduled for this week, since Father Michael will be a participant of the Diocesan Clergy Convocation at Camp Nazareth, beginning on Tuesday, April 17 thru Friday, April 20. In case of an emergency, where an Orthodox clergyman is needed, please contact Fr. Stevo Rocknage, Pastor of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in McKeesport, PA. His telephone no. is: (412) 672-1872.

Sunday, April 22, 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE HOLY MYRRH-BEARERS

Matins of the Resurrection: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Resurrection Tone: 2

Gospel: Mark 15:42-47; 16:1-8

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 200-201 / Red Book: 223-224

Altar Candles’ Sponsor: In memory of +**Wendy Pingor**, on the 4th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God’s departed servant, +**Andrew Tomko**, offered by Ann Tomko & Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God’s departed servants, +**Albert & +George Hreha**, offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God’s departed servants, +**William Kane & +Deborah Kane**, offered by Agnes Kane.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God’s departed servant, +**Wendy Pingor**, on the 4th Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

John 20:19-31 –

20:21-23 – Christ commissions the disciples to continue His mission on earth, granting them the Holy Spirit (v. 22) and the authority to forgive the sins of others (v. 23). Through this direct

consecration and through apostolic continuity, Christ's own Priesthood is communicated to the bishops and presbyters of the Church.

20:24-29 – The doubt of **Thomas** is described in the Church hymns as “blessed,” for it was not a doubt of resistance to truth, but one that desperately desired a truthful answer – a “doubt” which gave birth to “faith” when the answer was revealed. In hymns of the Church, Christ says to Thomas, “Your doubt will teach My Passion and Resurrection to all,” and we affirm that his doubt “brought the hearts of believers to knowledge.” The conversion of Thomas’ doubt into faith led him to the clearest confession of Christ’s divinity, addressing Jesus as **my Lord and my God** (v. 28)

20:30 – Signs – 2:1-11 – The **wedding in Cana** is the setting for the first of the seven **signs** (v. 11) performed by Jesus in the Gospel of John. John uses the term signs to show that these miraculous actions point beyond themselves to the truth that the Kingdom of God has come among us in the Person of Jesus Christ. The seven signs are (1) changing water into wine (2:1-11); (2) curing the nobleman’s son (4:46-54); (3) healing the paralytic (5:1-15); (4) feeding the five thousand (6:1-14); (5) walking on the water (6:15-21); (6) opening the eyes of a blind man (9:1-41); and (7) raising Lazarus from the dead (11:38-44).

The setting here is significant. In the Old Testament, marriage feasts symbolized the union of God with His Bride, Israel. Jesus begins His ministry at **Galilee**, which had a large Gentile population; this was a sign of the spread of the gospel to all the world. That this wedding took place **on the third day** sets a resurrectional tone, showing that the marriage of God and His Church will be fulfilled in Christ’s Resurrection. Other parallels between the marriage here and the Resurrection account (20:11-18) has a striking similarity to SS 3:1-5, again showing the unity between marriage and our Lord’s Resurrection.

By His presence at this wedding, Jesus further declares marriage to be holy and honorable (Heb. 13:14); therefore, this passage is read at Orthodox weddings, and these images are incorporated into many prayers in the wedding service.

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>

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PASCHAL ARTOS!

The significance of the Artos is that it serves to remind all Christians of the events connected with the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. While still living on earth, the Lord called Himself the Bread of Life, saying: I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. After His Resurrection, more than once Jesus appeared to His disciples, ate before them and blessed their own food. For example, as evening fell on the first day of His Resurrection, He was recognized in Emmaus by two of His disciples as He blessed and broke bread. On the 40th day after His Resurrection, the Lord ascended into heaven, and His disciples and followers found comfort in their memories of the Lord: they recalled His every word, His every step and His every action. When they met for common prayer, they would partake of the Body and Blood of Christ, remembering the Last Supper. When they sat down to an ordinary meal, they would leave a place at the head of the table empty for the invisibly-present Lord and would lay bread on that place. Remembering this custom of the Apostles, the Fathers of the Church made it their custom to put out the Artos at the Paschal Feast in memory of the appearances of the Risen Lord to His

disciples, and also in memory of the fact that the Lord Who suffered and was resurrected for our justification has made Himself the true Bread of Life and is invisibly present in His church always, to the close of the age. Whereas special Paschal breads, called kulichi are broken and eaten on the first day of Pascha, the Artos is kept whole throughout the whole of Bright Week as a reminder of the presence of the Risen Savior in the midst of those who believe in Him and is only divided and distributed on Saturday or Sunday. In this way Bright Week begins and ends with the eating of especially baked and blessed bread. The Artos may also be compared to the unleavened bread of the Old Testament, of which ancient Israel, delivered from their captivity in the land of Egypt, ate during the week of Passover. It is the custom among Russian Orthodox Christians to this day to keep a portion of the Artos throughout the year and with due reverence and faith to eat of it in time of illness or distress. This is eaten, often together with a drink of Holy Water, which had been blessed at the Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord.

PURCHASE A "FAMILY DAY" RAFFLE TICKET OR TWO AND ENABLE OUR CAMP NAZARETH TO IMPLEMENT A MEMORABLE DIOCESAN CAMPING SESSION FOR OUR YOUTHS THIS SUMMER!

Our parish has received her allotment of the \$20 ducats and plans to pay for all (135) tickets, with the proceeds returned to our Diocesan Apostolate for Youths. See Cathy Pawlik today to secure the ducats in hope of winning the Grand Prize of \$1,000, plus, other cash awards and (1) week Diocesan Summer Camping Week Reservations for a child of your choice. Family Day at Camp Nazareth shall be celebrated on Sunday, June 3rd. Plan to be in Mercer, PA that weekend, and participate in the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, beginning at 10:00 A.M. A bountiful luncheon meal shall be served to all worshipers at 12 Noon in the Main Lodge. The High & Low Ropes courses, the Junior-size Olympic swimming pool and Gift Shop will be open for activities. The Gala Raffle Drawing is also set for the afternoon hours.

SEE AND HEAR BISHOP GREGORY'S PRESENTATION ENTITLED "ENGAGE THE CALL TO BE A DISCIPLE!" The excellent talk that His Grace gave to us at the recent Lenten Retreat is now posted to our Diocesan You Tube Channel. Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/-Sq8zc-hVYM>. Pass this info. on to others.

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. Items needed are: Lottery tickets, Bottles of Cheer, Gift cards and Bath & Body Items. See Jean Colantoni, as well.

PROPERTY SEARCH – As St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, North Side Pittsburgh, continues to explore relocating to the 79 corridor (from Mt Nebo Road to southern Cranberry), would you by chance have a piece of property that could help their re-location efforts. Please contact them at OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com or 412-748-0148 if you may be able to assist them.

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.

6TH ANNUAL LADIES SPRING TEA ON APRIL 22ND FROM 1-3 P.M. AT THE ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CHURCH HALL, 363 WEST 11TH AVENUE, HOMESTEAD, PA 15120!

The Savolskis-Wasik-Glenn Funeral Home will like to cordially invite you to join them and other women of the community to the Tea. Please join us for an afternoon of games, laughter and a light lunch. Please RSVP by calling the funeral home at 412-462-2288 no later than April 18th. Spring hats and colorful attire are encouraged. Feel free to bring a family member or friend. Any questions, please call Alisha at the funeral home.

TAKE PART IN THE "CHINESE AUCTION" AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN NORTH SIDE PITTSBURGH, PA ON SUNDAY, APRIL 22ND AT 12 P.M.!

Five dollars admission charge includes sheet of tickets,

beverage and dessert. Food will be available for sale. There will be a Basket Raffle, and Prizes to be won for all ages!

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