

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



Vol. 6, No. 19

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

Sunday, May 13, 2018

SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND & MOTHER'S DAY

Paschal Hours: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M. with prayers of good intention for all the Mothers of the church.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 16:16-34 Resurrection Tone: 5

Gospel: John 9:1-38

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 206-207 / Red Book: 229-231

Memorial Service for all the deceased mothers of St. Nicholas Church, including +Anna Hresan and +Joanne Fecso.

Mother's Day Luncheon, hosted by the Men's Club, for all the Mothers & women of the parish, following the Divine Liturgy. Free-will offering is in effect for this picnic-style buffet.

Monday, (May 14)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +Anna & +John Holinscak, offered by Ann Bunting.

Wednesday, (May 16)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +John & +Mary Butala, offered by their children.

7:00 P.M. Great Vespers on the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord, with the Blessing of Bread, Wheat, Wine and Oil.

Thursday, (May 17)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord. Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +Andrew & +Susan Korinko, offered by Emily & Martha (Daughters).

Friday, (May 18)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +Mary Spontak, offered by Martha Beczak (Daughter).

Saturday, (May 19)... 11:00 A.M. Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation & Holy Communion conferred upon the newly-enlightened servant of the Lord, **Devin Joseph Holmes**, son of Jessica Brancho and Travis Holmes.

Sunday, May 20, 2018

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Service of the Third Hour: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 20:16-18; 28-36 Resurrection Tone: 6

Gospel: John 17:1-13

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 211-212 / Red Book: 235-236

Birthday prayers are extended to: **Luca Paganico & Kira Fischer** (May 24), offered by Trona & Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +Andrew & +John Rusnak, offered by Margaret Rusnak.

John 9:1-38 – This healing is the sixth sign in John’s Gospel. Of all the miracle stories in the Bible, this is the only one in which the person was **blind from birth**. The blind man is symbolic of all humanity: all needs illumination by Christ, the Light of the world. This sign is an illustration of baptism, which is also called “holy illumination.” As Pascha (Easter) is the traditional day to receive catechumens into the Church, the lessons following Pascha reflect a baptismal theology. Thus, this passage is read on the sixth Sunday of Pascha.

9:3 – The Savior rejects the assumption (common in the ancient world) that all troubles and maladies are necessarily the consequence of personal sin or even the sins of one’s **parents**. Though suffering can be the direct result of personal sin, this is certainly not always the case. In this instance, the man’s blindness provided the occasion for **the works of God to be revealed**; it was not related directly to the man’s personal sins.

9:4 – The **work** that people do consists of faith (6:29), good deeds (5:29), and repentance (12:40). **The night** that comes refers both to the time after a person’s death and to the age to come, when there is no longer an opportunity to express faith. On that day there will not be faith, but all will submit, whether willingly or unwillingly (St. John Chrysostom).

9:5 – The unprecedented healing of the man born blind confirms Christ’s claim that He is **the Light of the world**.

9:6 – St. Irenaeus sees in this mixture of **clay** and **saliva** a type of the creation of humanity from the earth (Gen. 2:7). Christ reveals His divinity by restoring part of creation using the same material with which He created humanity in the beginning.

9:7 – **The pool of Siloam** was on the outskirts of Jerusalem, a considerable distance from the temple. From this pool water was taken for the rites connected with the Feast of Tabernacles. Siloam, **translated, Sent**, symbolizes Christ’s claim to be the light of the world (8:12), so also, His making use of the pool of Siloam confirms that He is the true purification of the temple and those who worship in it.

9:16 – Just as **the Pharisees** had ignored the healing of the paralytic and focused only on the perceived violation of **the Sabbath** (5:10-16), here many of them cannot see the glory of **God** through their own prejudices.

9:24 – With Jesus not present, the Pharisees call Him **a sinner**, but earlier when He asked them face-to-face, “Which of you convicts Me of sin?” (8:46), they evaded the question. **Give God the glory!** was an oath formula used before giving testimony. Nevertheless, the healed man will indeed give God glory (v. 38). The more he is pressed, the more fervent his faith becomes, while the Pharisees lapse into deeper darkness.

9:25 – This healed man becomes a model of Christian witness. Many people do not bear witness to Christ because they fear they will be asked questions they cannot answer. This man’s answer to people much more educated than he provides the solution; he admits what he does **not know**, but follows up with what he does know. The formula, “That I don’t know, but what I do know is this,” is foundational to witnessing one’s faith to others.

9:26-38 – Having opened the blind man’s eyes, the Lord also opens his heart and illumines his spirit. The man moves from knowing almost nothing about Christ (v. 25), through the conclusion that Jesus could not possibly be a sinner (v. 31), through confessing that Jesus must be **from God** (v. 33), to finally seeing Him as the divine **Son of God** and worshiping Him (v. 38). The Pharisees again cannot refute this man’s logic nor the truth of what he reveals, and thus they resort to personal insult (v. 34).

9:32 – The unprecedented nature of opening **the eyes of one who was born blind** is a confirmation of Christ’s divinity. This was one of the signs of the coming Messiah (Is. 35:5; 42:7) and a prerogative belonging solely to God (Psalm 145:8).

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>

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY AND HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES ARE OFFERED TO DANIELLE AND THE BARTKO FAMILY!

Danielle's beloved mother, +Joanne Fecso fell asleep in the Lord at her home in New Jersey on May 1st and was buried from St. John's Church in Perth Amboy last Monday. As +Joanne's membership has been transferred to the Church Triumphant, we pray that the good Lord will keep her memory eternal (Christ is Risen!) Donations in Joanne's memory can be made to St. John's Memorial Fund, 141 Broad Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING!

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church shall conduct its monthly Church Officers' Session on Monday, May 21, 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 parish leaders can vote, anyone can participate and express their opinions.

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 \$10,000, 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.

ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY – MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES!

Father R. Michael Zak will conduct a Panachida service for the repose of the souls of our parish's departed Veterans on Monday, May 28th at 1:00 P.M. at St. Nicholas Church Cemetery in West Mifflin. Please note: this is an afternoon service (1 p.m.) and we encourage all faithful members to pay their respects to the deceased on this holiday. In addition, Fr. will intone abbreviated prayers and bless individual gravesites of parishioners upon request.

"PAINT A PICTURE PARTY" AT ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH IN RANKIN ON SUNDAY, JUNE 3 AT 1 P.M.!

What? You think you can't paint? No Problem! We will have an artist here to show us step-by-step how to create a beautiful spring/summer painting. Supplies, refreshments and fun will be provided. When? Sunday, June 3 at 1:00 PM. Where? St. Michael's, Rankin. Cost? \$20 per person. To register: call Carole Bushak at (412) 351-1521.

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.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2018!

To our High School and College graduates and Parents: By Sunday, May 20, please email Fr. Michael the following information: **High School Students:** name of your High School, any academic and/or athletic awards, where you will attend in the fall and your attended major in college (or undecided at this time). **College Students, Graduate and Post Graduate:** name of your college/university, your field of study and degree you have earned. We will recognize our graduates on Sunday, June 10th. Please be in church on that Lord's Day so that we can take a group photo.

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.

OFFER A CAMPSHIP (\$315) OR ANY GENEROUS SUM OF FINANCES TO SEND ALL OF OUR CHILDREN OF CAMPER AGE TO NAZARETH THIS SUMMER FOR THE DIOCESAN CAMPING SESSIONS!

The youths make "friends forever" at Camp and live an authentic Orthodox Christian life-style.

LENTEN COIN BOXES SHOULD BE TURNED IN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OF THE AUDITORIUM!

Our Church School students and conscientious Adults of the parish who deposited sacrificial money into their Lenten self-denial banks during the Great Fast are kindly reminded to turn in the containers to our financial officers in the parish office in the hall. We desire to send a check to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center in Florida. And we commend you for your desire to heed the Great Commission of Christ to spread Orthodox Christianity to all the ends of the earth.

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