

# Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



## American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

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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. 20

**Sunday, May 20, 2018**

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL & FIRST HOLY CONFESSION SUNDAY

Matins: 8:00 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, and to: **Andrea Labik** on her 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday, offered by Protodeacon Michael, Leslie & Elizabeth Sochka.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant: **+Anthony J. Ribic** on the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Jean Colantoni.

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

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**Monday, (May 21)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+George and +Mary Godish, & +Margaret Godish**, offered by Mary Godish.

**Thursday, (May 24)...** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Equals-to-the-Apostles and Teachers of the Slavs.

**Saturday, (May 26)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Fifth All Souls' Saturday of the year, with a Panachida service and the Reading of the Parish Diptychs (names of the deceased).

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**Sunday, May 27, 2018**

## PENTECOST - TRINITY SUNDAY: DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT UPON THE APOSTLES AND DISCIPLES (GREEN SUNDAY)

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M., with the Kneeling Prayers intoned at the end of the service.

**BEGIN FAST-FREE WEEK**

Apostolic Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 213-216 / Red Book: 237-239

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: Senior A.C.R.Y. Chapter #11

Altar Candles' Sponsor: Senior A.C.R.Y. Chapter #11

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Shirley M. Brugos** on the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Edward Brugos & Daughters: Cheryl Williams & Deborah Daniels.

**John 17:1-13 –**

**John 17:1-26** – Christ’s prayer is often called the High Priestly Prayer, as it contains the basic elements of prayer a priest offers to God when a sacrifice is about to be made: glorification (vv. 3-5, 25), remembrance of God’s works (vv. 2, 6-8, 22, 23), intercession on behalf of others (vv. 9, 11, 15, 20, 21, 24), and a declaration of the offering itself (vv. 1, 5).

The passage that includes vv. 1-13 is read on the seventh Sunday of Pascha, a day remembering the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council (Nicea 1) in AD 325. At this council the heresy of Arianism was condemned. This heresy taught that the Son of God was created by the Father and that there was a time when the Son of God did not exist. We find our Lord’s words here bearing witness to His divinity and to His filial relationship with the Father. This testimony is sufficient in itself to dismiss Arianism.

**The hour has come** signifies Christ is Lord over time. “He voluntarily willed to ascend the Cross in the flesh” (hymn of Orthodoxy Sunday). **Glorify** refers to the redemption of all creation that will be accomplished through the Cross and Resurrection – the purpose for which Christ was sent into the world. In this redemption, the Father and the Son are glorified. This is why the Cross, which is a sign of death, is glorified in the Church as “life-giving” and the “weapon of peace.”

**17:3** – The knowledge of **the only true God** is far more than intellectual understanding. It is participation in His divine life and in communion with Him. Thus, **eternal life** is an ongoing, loving knowledge of God in Christ and the Holy Spirit.

**17:4** – Christ’s **work** can never be separated from who He is. This verse is a statement each believer can make at the end of life, no matter how long or short that life may be.

**17:6** – **The men whom You have given Me** are the apostles. They are the ones through whom God’s **word** comes to us. This handing down of God’s word to successive generations is called apostolic tradition.

Isaiah prophesied that in the days of the Messiah, the knowledge of the Name of God would be revealed (Is. 52:6). **Your name:** In the Old Testament times, the phrase “the Name” was reverently used as a substitute for God’s actual Name “Yahweh,” which was too sacred to pronounce. The fuller revelation of the Name was given to those who believe in Christ, for Christ **manifested** the Name not only by declaring the Father, but by being the very presence of God and sharing the Name with Him.

**17:9** – Christ first prayed for Himself (vv. 1-5) and secondly **for them**, the apostles (vv. 6-19). Only then does He pray **for those whom You have given Me** – all who will come to believe in Him (vv. 20-26). Here **the world** is the portion of humanity in rebellion against God, those who prefer darkness to His light.

**17:11** – **Holy Father** is echoed in the Eucharistic prayer of Didache 10:2: “We give you thanks, Holy Father, for **Your holy name** which You have made to dwell in our hearts.

**17:12** – **The son of perdition** (“destruction”) is Judas Iscariot (6:70, 71). Old Testament prophecy alludes to Judas (Ps. 40:10; 108:2-13; Zec. 11:12, 13), and Judas becomes a type for all who will fall away in the last days. (see 2 Th. 2:3, where “son of perdition” refers to the Antichrist).

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**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.

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**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>

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**CHIEF OF SINNERS**

By Abbot Tryphon of “The Morning Offering”

As Orthodox Christians, what is our responsibility regarding those who do not live according to biblical morality? We first remember that we have fallen short of the glory

of God and say, like St. Paul, "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief" (1 Tim. 1:15).

When we say the words "of whom I am chief" before receiving the Holy Mysteries, we must mean it! To focus on the evilness of another person's lifestyle only takes the focus off our own sin. And we fail to remove the log from our own eye.

When we look only upon our own fallen nature, upon our own sin, we find the mercy of God for ourselves. And we become far more merciful toward others as a result. We are given the grace to love even the worst of sinners, because Christ is in us. We know that the Lord does not love us because we are good or because we keep the commandments. He loves us because His very nature is love. When His love dwells in us, we are empowered to love.

It is our love, as Christians, together with our prayers for those who seem lost, that will change hearts and lead others to repentance. This I believe with my whole heart.

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**WE REJOICE AS RYAN EPPS AND ALBERT PIMENOV MAKE THEIR FIRST HOLY CONFESSION!** It is spiritually uplifting for us, as "the Body of Christ", to witness our young people reach the age of maturity, to know right from wrong in participating in the Sacrament of Holy Penance and attaining the grace of Almighty God. We pray that Ryan & Albert will continue to grow in their precious Orthodox Christian faith and that they always acknowledge the mercy of God the Father, Who welcomes them in a charitable spirit to return to the confessional as often as they feel the need to repent.

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**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.

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**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 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

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**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 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**"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 by May 30, 2018.

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**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 10<sup>th</sup>. Please be in church on that Lord's Day so that we can take a group photo.

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**OFFER A CAMBERSHIP (\$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.

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**ALTAR BOYS' RETREAT IN JOHNSTOWN, PA AND YOUNG WOMEN'S ENCOUNTER IN WINDBER, PA – JULY 1-4, 2018!** "Encounter 2018" for the boys begins with registration from 6 pm till 8 pm at our Christ the Saviour Seminary. The Retreat takes place at the theological school, Cathedral and Ed. Center,

plus, SS. Peter & Paul Church facilities in Windber. For the outing this year, we will be traveling to TEEN QUEST in Somerset, PA. We hope that all of our "Knights of the Altar" of St. Nicholas will go this year!

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