

# 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

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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. 23

**Sunday, June 10, 2018**

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: SYNAXIS OF ALL SAINTS OF CARPATHO-RUSS & GRADUATES' SUNDAY

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16

Resurrection Tone: 1

Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81-83 / Red Book: 95-99

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of +**Joanne Fecso** on the 40<sup>th</sup> day of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Danielle Bartko.

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: **To All Graduates**, offered by Trona & Family.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **To All Graduates**, offered by Trona & Family.

Birthday Prayers are extended to: **Trona Paganico**, offered by the Family.

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant: +**Wilson**

**Henderson** on the 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by wife, Olga.

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**Tuesday, (June 12)...** 9:00 A.M. Liturgy of Good Intentions for the health of **Pani Eleanor & Ruth Ann Herbert**, offered by +Protopresbyter Paul Herbert.

**Wednesday, (June 13)...** 7:00 P.M. Moleben (Prayer) Service of Saint Nectarios, with the Anointing of the sick, in body and soul.

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**Sunday, June 17, 2018**

## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & FATHER'S DAY

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M. with Special Petitions intoned for all the Fathers of the Church & Memorial (Panachida) Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +All of the Deceased Fathers of St. Nicholas Parish.

50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Service for **Dave & Andrea Urban**

Epistle: Romans 5:1-10

Resurrection Tone: 2

Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 84-86 / Red Book: 99-102

Bulletin Sponsor: **Dave & Andrea Urban's** 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary (June 16) offered by the Family.

**Father's Day Luncheon served in the parish auditorium following the Liturgy.** (Sign your name to the list (downstairs) of Dinner Patrons)

**Matthew 4:18-23 –**

**4:18-22** – These first disciples had already heard the preaching of John the Baptist and were prepared to accept Christ **immediately**. Though illiterate and unlearned in religion, these “people of the land” whom Jesus calls will be revealed at Pentecost to be the wisest of all.

**4:23-25** – Note that the crowds do not swarm Jesus when He commands repentance (v. 17), but only when He begins to heal and work miracles. This fact shows that the people misunderstood

the true nature of His Kingdom. It also shows Christ's concession "to give credibility to what He teaches" among the fickle **multitudes** (St. Theophilus).

**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/acroddiocece> Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/acrodnews> You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocece>

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### THE APOSTLES FAST

(Began on June 4<sup>th</sup>)

The Orthodox year has a rhythm, much like the tide coming in and going out; only this rhythm is moving in waves between seasons of fasting and seasons (or a few days of feasting). Every week, with few exceptions, is marked by the Wednesday and Friday fast, and every celebration of the Divine Liturgy is prepared for by eating nothing after midnight until we have received the Holy Sacrament.

It is a rhythm. Our modern world has lost most of its natural rhythm. The sun rises and sets causes little fanfare in a world powered and lit by other sources. In America, virtually everything is always in season, even though the chemicals used to preserve this wonderful cornucopia are probably slowly poisoning our bodies. The Scriptures speak of the rhythm of the world, the sun to rule by day, the moon and stars to rule by night.

The rhythm of the Church does not seek to make us slaves of the calendar, nor does it treat certain foods as sinful. It simply calls us to a more human way of living. It is not properly human to eat anything you want, anytime you want. Even Adam and Eve in the Garden initially knew what it was to abstain from the fruit of a certain tree.

Orthodox do not starve when they fast; we simply abstain from certain foods and generally eat less. At the same time we are taught to pray more, attend services more frequently, and to increase our generosity to others (alms).

But it is a rhythm; fasts are followed by feasts. The fast of the Apostles begins on the second Monday after Pentecost and concludes on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29/12. Most of Christendom will know nothing of any of this that the Eastern Christians will have begun a Lenten period while the world begins to think of vacation.

The contemporary God is much the same as the contemporary diet; we want as much of Him as we want anytime, anywhere. There is no rhythm to our desire, only the rise and fall of passions. There is no legalism in the Orthodox fast. I do not think God punishes those who fail to fast. I believe that they simply continue to become less and less human. We will not accept the limits and boundaries of our existence and thus find desires to be constant and unruly. It makes us like a beast, brutal.

For those who have begun the fast, may God give you grace! For those who know nothing of the fast, may God give you grace and preserve from a world that would devour you. May God give us all the mercies of His kindness and help us remember the work of His blessed apostles!

*Fr. Stephen Freeman is the priest at St. Anne Orthodox Church (OCA) in Oak Ridge, TN*

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### **WE ARE ALSO CALLED TO HOLINESS!**

Did not we receive this grace of holiness at baptism?! So we must cause it to bear fruit and be serious, as the Apostle Paul taught about those whom he remembered in his

Epistle to the Hebrews, how they suffered, asking us to patiently struggle. This is what is asked of us, to be patient in our struggle, to be patient in our sufferings and our temptations. When we are patient, we will be victorious, because God, who arranged for us to undertake this struggle, is with us, struggling with us, sanctifying us, and ministering to us, so that we might be victorious and He might be pleased with our struggle.

Almighty God looked upon the struggles of Saint Anthony in the desert. After being exhausted from toil and worn down and wounded by many blows from the devil, Anthony asked the Lord, "Where were you? I called upon You often, and You did not come to me?" He said to him, "O Anthony, I was with you, rejoicing in your struggle and now I will appear to you in order to confirm to you that you are in a righteous struggle and on the true path." Do not ask for a miracle immediately. God is with you, so be patient in your struggle. When He sees your patience, He will help you even more and will reveal victory to you. So let us struggle in patience and let us be persistent. What is the point of this life that we live, if it is not training for us to arrive in holiness? What use is it? It has no use, if it does not lead to holiness and the kingdom. This is the valley of the shadow of death, where man toils and grieves and sheds much sweat, but God will crown his patience with victory, holiness, and the life of the kingdom.

So struggle, especially early in life, because in this way you will become accustomed to following this path. When someone becomes accustomed to loose living and distances himself from the Lord, it is hard for him later to follow this path, just like with sports. If you have trained every day from your youth, then in adulthood and old age you will persist, because you have become used to this regimen. But if you come to train after seventy years of relaxation and immobility, then you will not move at all. So struggle while you are young in order to arrive at victory, starting now. Then you will become accustomed to being victorious and evil will not overcome you. Do not be careless and do not allow yourself to submit to the temptations that come your way, lest you become negligent and in your negligence you will not be victorious. But in your struggling and your patience in the suffering, difficulty, and temptation, that you go through, you will be victorious and your reward will stick to Christ and in this way you will become holy.

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**ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING!** Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church shall conduct its monthly Church Officers' Session this month on Monday, June 25, 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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**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.

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**HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** A variety of meaningful volunteer opportunities are available with Jefferson Hospital. Whether you would enjoy working directly with patients in the surgery center, volunteering in the Gift Shop, behind the scenes in an office or as a caring presence for patients who may be dying alone, volunteering at Jefferson is a wonderful way to give to others. To learn more, contact Janet O'Brien at 412-469-5885.

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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. All registration will be electronic this year and must be made no later than, Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. The Young Women's Encounter includes spiritual discussions and special events. The YWE is an opportunity for our young women, ages 12 to 18, to have fellowship with their Orthodox sisters in Christ while learning to love God and serve the Church with their own unique gifts. For registration, check [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org) Space is limited! Questions? Contact Pani Eleni Stagon at [acrodywe@gmail.com](mailto:acrodywe@gmail.com)

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**MAKE CERTAIN THAT "DAD" IS IN CHURCH ON FATHER'S DAY (NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 17)!** We desire to honor all of the fathers and men of St. Nicholas on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of this month (June 17) with special prayers intoned during the Divine Liturgy for the welfare of our distinguished male laity. A memorial service will also be conducted for the repose of all the fathers of the parish. After services, "a finger-lickin'-good" buffet-style meal, hosted by the Mothers & Daughters Guild, shall satisfy all appetites in the parish hall. Treat the "man of the house" to a special Lord's Day observance in the House of God to heavenly worship, pleasing fellowship and a scrumptious repast that all partakers will relish. A sign-up sheet for the

Luncheon is on display in the auditorium, downstairs. If you have any questions, see Flo Davis or Mary Lou Lenart.

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