

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

Vol. 6; No. 25

Sunday, June 25, 2018

4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Romans 6:18-23

Resurrection Tone: 3

Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87-89 / Red Book: 102-105

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of +**Andy Talarovich**, on the 3rd Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Friends.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Michael Labik, Jr.** and +**Helen Beres**, offered by Andrea Labik.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**George Pacolt**, +**Ann Ondrejcek**, +**Helen Maurer**, +**Grace Ondrejcek**, & +**Olga Simmers**, offered by Andrew & Lucy Tomko.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Reader, Choir Director, Cantor, Professor Andrew Talarovich, Jr.**, offered by St. Nicholas Ch. Choir.

Monday, (June 25)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**John & +Mary Kindya**, +**Donald & +Eleanor Kindya**, +**Joseph & +Mary Pacolt**, and +**Leonard Seseock**, offered by Lucy & Andrew Tomko.

Thursday, (June 29)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Fred & +Mary Bonach**, offered by the Family.

Sunday, July 1, 2018

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10

Resurrection Tone: 4

Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90-92 / Red Book: 105-107

Bulletin Sponsor: **Kaitlyn Thorn's** 18th Birthday, offered by the Family.

Matthew 8:5-13 –

8:5 – A centurion (a Gentile) commanded 100 men in a Roman legion. Jesus is the Savior of all, and in Him ethnic distinctions are void.

8:7 – I will come has been read as a question by many Greek scholars: "Shall I come?"

Regardless, Jesus is ready to deal graciously with this Gentile and even to enter his house, which would make Him unclean in the eyes of the Jews.

8:8, 9 – The centurion expresses unusual faith in calling Jesus, who is a Jew, Lord. The statement, "**Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof,**" is frequently quoted in liturgical texts as an ideal expression of humility.

8:10 – Twice in the gospels it is said of Jesus that **He marveled:** (1) at the unbelief in His hometown of Nazareth (Mk 6:6) and (2) at the belief of this foreigner.

8:11, 12 – Here Jesus nullifies any ideas of ethnic superiority. The rejected **sons of the kingdom** are both the Jews who deny Christ and those raised in the Church who do not live their faith; **outer darkness** and **weeping** and **gnashing** are descriptions of the state of the unrighteous dead in Sheol (Hades) in the Jewish tradition (Enoch 10:38). They are common expressions in Matthew (13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30), and also occur in Luke (Lk. 13:28).

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>

Something to think about...

Everything I know about fire I learned from being an Altar Server. Fire is hot, it can burn you, and boy, it can be a lot of fun!

I am confident I can talk to any man who has served in the Altar and their most memorable story will more than likely involve flames. Garbage cans tend to take the brunt of the flames, though, singed hairs, and holes burnt in sticharions, Altar Cloths, and the floor are also fairly common findings.

I am not sharing this information only to frighten the mother of the newest Altar Server in our Church, although, that may happen.

I am sharing it because service to Almighty God at His Holy Table is like fire, very serious work.

Ultimately, service to Almighty God is very serious, and the alternative will burn you.

The job which every Altar Server aspires to is the maintenance of the charcoal in the censer.

The censer has a top and a bottom. The bottom represents the earth, the top with the cross that looks like a Church reaching into the sky represents the heavens.

The in-between space is where you and I reside, between heaven and earth, within I pray, the saving structure of the Holy Church.

This means you and me are the charcoal. First things first, we need to be lit, an unlit charcoal is good for nothing. It must first be lit by an outside source.

The outside source that lights you and me is the Holy Spirit, Who gives life, blesses, illumines, and inspires us to perform all the good we may do by His Grace.

If the charcoal is going to survive the Divine Liturgy, or in our case into eternal life, we have to give everything we are, and all that has been shared with us in service and devotion to Almighty God.

This is where the incense comes in for the incense represents our offering, our sacrifice to Almighty God, and our fellow man through both prayer and material offerings.

There are really just three types of charcoal, or three types of Orthodox Christians:

1. There is the charcoal that gets lit and stays hot for a little while but then gets choked out by a lack of use. This is the person who was once on fire for the faith, who lives an active, and serious Christian life, except now for one reason or another find themselves cold. They are probably still showing up for Church, and from the outside might look like a good Christian, but, they are really just going through the motions.
2. Then there is the charcoal that was lit, and then by a lack of attention or a careless priest goes flying out of the censer burning the carpet, and anything else it may touch. This may be the person who uses their God-given-life to fulfill their sinful and pleasure-filled passions. Or it might also be the person who gets caught up in their career, their children's sports activities, or other pursuits, and simply allows their relationship with God to slowly, or more quickly fall apart.
3. Finally there is the third type of charcoal. This is the charcoal every Altar Server desires. It is carefully maintained, the proper amount of incense is regularly offered, and it stays in the center until it is nothing but dust and ashes. This is the person who has offered their whole life to Almighty God, and who has allowed the Holy Spirit to impact all of their decisions. They are overwhelmed by love for God, and neighbor and lead their life in service to Him all their days. At the end, nothing is left, and like the charcoal they return to the dust from whence they came.

I do not believe I need to go into detail about which charcoal you ought to aspire to be. But, know that even if you have already gone a different direction there is time yet to be re-lit.

“Once an altar boy,” the late Father Stephen Dutko used to say, “always an altar boy.” It is the same with the Christian life; once a Christian, always a Christian. “I was born a Christian,” one holy martyr of our faith cried out when given the option to escape their tortures and impending death before adding, “and I want to die a Christian.”

You and I who have been supplied with the same spark of Christian inspiration by the Holy Spirit Who enlivens and enriches our lives ought to be inspired all the same to burn in faith till the bitter end. Stay lit my friends. By Fr. Matthew Stagon, from the bulletin of Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, Rockaway, NJ

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.

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. Campships received 2018: Dave & Andrea Urban - \$300; Sue Semancik - \$300; Sr. A.C.R.Y. Chapter - \$315; T. Pingor - \$300.

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. If you have any questions, please call Janet at (412) 469-7038.

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 15th. 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 Space is limited! Questions? Contact Pani Eleni Stagon at acrodywe@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS IN JULY VENDOR/CRAFT SHOW IN ST. NICHOLAS PARISH HALL ON SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2018 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M. This exciting mid-summer event will feature over (20) of your favorite vendors and crafters. Plus, a Russian Auction (filled with fascinating and unique prizes), Café Nikolai (well-stocked with our parish’s irresistible pirohi) and Raffles galore where all participants are bound to win something. Invite your family members, neighbors and friends at work to stop over at our church auditorium for a lively affair that appeals to everyone!

FAITH NIGHT AT PNC PARK IS FRIDAY, JULY 27TH AT 7:05 P.M.! Our Pittsburgh Pirates will battle the New York Mets. Our sister parish of St. John the Baptist on the North Side is organizing a group plan of ticket sales in section 204 of the ballpark. For \$30 you will have a discount on concessions and all-you-can-eat-snacks. Please contact Wendy Martellotti at 412-583-6254 or martellotti11@verizon.net to reserve your ticket by July 8th. Let’s Go Bucs!

RESERVE THE DATE OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, ON YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE PITTSBURGH DEANERY PICNIC IN SCHENLEY PARK (OAKLAND SECTION OF PITTSBURGH) FROM 12 NOON UNTIL 5 P.M. It will be a covered-dish format where faithful of the five parishes in the Pittsburgh District will sign their names as participants and list what food entrées they will be offering for the picnic. A children’s playground is close to the site, and we hope to have entertaining “Rovin’ Musicians” offering plenty of good songs and delightful music to dance to.

LET’S FILL THE BACKPACKS FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PUPILS IN THE DUQUESNE SCHOOL DISTRICT THIS SUMMER TO GIVE TO THE STUDENTS WHEN THEY START BACK IN AUGUST! Our parish is working with F.O.C.U.S. America to supply needy elementary & middle school students backpacks, filled with specific school supplies, to further their education, in financially-depressed districts. Ask our projector coordinator, George Matey and assistant, Jean Colantoni, how you can help!

CORRECTED; URGENT OPENING FOR A DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AT THE OCMC! The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) in St. Augustine, FL, is currently looking to fill an open position that is essential to its ongoing efforts to grow its ministries. If you would like to work for the Church and help share the Orthodox Faith, please prayerfully consider submitting your resume for the position of Development & Marketing Administrative Assistant. This full-time position with benefits is responsible for assisting in the administrative activity for the OCMC Development and Marketing Departments. They work to help educate, engage, and inform the faithful of the United States in Orthodox Missions. Please see our posting on Orthodox.Jobs.com at http://www.orthodoxjobs.com/display_job49501/.html for a full description. Please submit resumes to the

Annual Gifts and Marketing Director Alex Goodwin at alex@ocmc.org, or call 904-829-5132 for more information.

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