

# 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](http://www.stnichomestead.org)

E-mail Address: [STNICKHOMESTEAD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:STNICKHOMESTEAD@GMAIL.COM)

E-mail Address: [frmzak@gmail.com](mailto: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. 37

**Sunday, September 16, 2018**

## 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Resurrection Tone: 7

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 99-101 / Red Book: 114-117

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+John Romanchuk** on his birthday (Sept. 16), offered by grandchildren: Ann Marie Kline and George Opsitos.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday, (Sept. 18)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy of Good Intentions for the Health of **Bill & Shirley Majernik**, offered by the couple.

**Thursday, (Sept. 20)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Joseph & +Mary Genci (Ganzi)**, offered by +Joseph Genci (Ganzi).

7:00 P.M. Great Vespers on the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God, with the Blessing of Bread, Wheat, Wine & Oil.

**Friday, (Sept. 21)...** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, September 23, 2018**

## 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Resurrection Tone: 8

Gospel: John 3:13-17 (before Exaltation)

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 102-104, 108 / Red Book: 117-119, 124

**Matthew 25:14-30** – This parable illustrates the use of gifts given by God. Even one **talent** was a great sum of money; here it represents the goodness God has bestowed on each person. The amount each receives is based on that person's abilities (Rom. 12:4-7). God does not show partiality in the ultimate reward, for all are invited to share the same **joy** (vv. 21, 23).

The **wicked and lazy servant** (v. 26) could not evade responsibility for ignoring his talent, for idleness is as much a rejection of God as outright wickedness. Burying the talent **in the ground** (18) is an illustration of using one's God-given gifts for earthly pursuits. The **bankers** (v. 27) represent other faithful people to whom the man could have turned to help him use his talents wisely. Since help was available to him in the Church, the man has no excuse.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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>

\*\*\*\*\*

**ALMSGIVING: KEEPING OUR LAMPS LIT**  
**By Abbot Tryphon in "The Morning Offering"**

When our conscious relationship with God had its beginning, His grace was given in such free abundance that it brought us into the awareness of the saving love that had encompassed us. This grace manifested itself in the peace and joy that became our own and enabled us to live an exemplary life – as St. Paul said, it is not he himself, but Christ in him. This grace has given us the wisdom and desire to live “not of this world.”

Now God expects us to fly like eagles, reaching the heavens by our good deeds, manifesting exemplary lives through our kindness toward others, being quick to forgive and generous in almsgiving. As we await the Bridegroom, we must not let our lamps become extinguished.

As St. John Chrysostom said,

Let us not extinguish our lamps, but keep them bright by almsgiving.

It is by this means that the brightness of this fire is preserved.

Let us, then, put oil in our vessels as long as we are here.

It is not possible to buy it when we have taken our departure hence, or to receive it from any source other than the hands of the poor.

Let us, therefore, collect it from there in great abundance, that is, if we wish to enter in with the bridegroom;

If we do not do this, we must remain outside the bridal chamber.

It is impossible, I repeat, even if we perform countless good works, to enter the portals of the kingdom without almsgiving.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING!** Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church shall conduct its monthly Church Officers' Session on Monday, September 24, 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 PLENTY OF CHANCE TICKETS TO INCREASE YOUR ODDS OF WINNING THE TERRIFIC STEELERS' BASKETS IN THE AUDITORIUM!** A Steelers Gear (10 prizes) raffle shall take place next Sunday, so you'll want to buy scores of ducats to increase your chances of winning. Plus, 2 tickets for the Pittsburgh vs Atlanta (home) game on Sunday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M. will be secured by some lucky ticket-holder. Chances are \$10.00 each and only 100 will be solicited. See Jean Colantoni for tickets. And, good luck to you legion of black & gold football devotees.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE "BODY OF CHRIST" WORSHIPS TOGETHER AND ASSEMBLES TODAY FOR THE SUMMER OUTING!** Our annual church picnic awaits us this Lord's Day at the Park in West Mifflin. There will be no Coffee & Fellowship Hour following the Divine Liturgy, so that faithful members can quickly drive directly to the Park, off of Bettis Road. Tickets for the picnic are on sale. Adult - \$8, Students 6-18 - \$5, Children 5 and under FREE. Please purchase your tickets as soon as possible from Thomas Pingor, Church Council President. Susan Miller will be collecting donations for the Chinese Auction. You may bring them with you to the picnic or give them to her after Liturgy. Also, please consider bringing a dessert. Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**COME AND HELP US MAKE A VARIETY OF PIROHI ON TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 18 & 25 AT 6:00**

**P.M.!** We want to get an early start on the Fall Food Festival with the making of the Slavic delicacy. Exhibit your wonderful stewardship traits for the Lord's Bride (The Church) and enjoy the fellowship of believers who share our precious faith. Commit yourself to the Annual Fall Food Festival (Oct. 12 & 13).

\*\*\*\*\*

**SAVE THE DATE – COME & SEE – SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> 2018 – NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS**

**GREEK ORTHODOX MONASTERY** - With the Blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Savas, Gerontissa Theophano & her Sisterhood warmly welcome you to: **5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DINNER BANQUET** in memory of Gerontissa Taxiarchia at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral. 3:30 Vespers; 6:00 Dinner. Salmon or Chicken Entrees: \$100 per ticket. RSVP Online Now: [2018MonasteryBanquet.Eventbrite.com](http://2018MonasteryBanquet.Eventbrite.com) 121 St. Elias Lane – Saxonburgh, PA 16056 724-352-3999 [www.nativityofthetheotokosmonastery.org](http://www.nativityofthetheotokosmonastery.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

**WORK AT KENNYWOOD PARK DURING THE FRIDAYS AND SATURDAY'S "FRIGHT NIGHTS" IN OCTOBER, PERMITTING OUR CHURCH TO REAP A FINANCIAL TOKEN!**

You must be an adult, at least 18 years of age to participate in these two areas: Costumed Actors or Actresses lending their skills and talents to "scare" patrons in frightening encounters with the customers, or working in the food or concessions' stands soliciting refreshments for the frenzied crowds. Depending on the hours that you labor in either of these areas, a monetary check will be sent to your place of worship. Consider this means of employment as a stewardship venture for St. Nicholas Church. Inform our church president, Tom Pingor, if you and other parishioners would be willing to engage in these amusement park activities.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FALL BAZAAR AT SAINT MICHAEL'S ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RANKIN, PA ON SUNDAY, OCT. 14<sup>TH</sup> FROM 11:00 A.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M.!**

The parish is located at 146 Third Avenue. There will be a variety of foods including Slavic Specialties for eat-in or take-out, Bake Sale, Children's Games, Beverages, Raffles, Crafts and Bingo. Plenty of parking is available. For more information please call Fr. Nik at (412) 271-2725.

\*\*\*\*\*

**TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL 7-K WALK FOR MISSIONS AT SOUTH PARK, SPONSORED BY THE ORTHODOX CLERGY BROTHERHOOD, ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2018!**

2018 Walk Proceeds earmarked for the Guatemalan Mission – Catechetical Training Center. Walker with the highest collected funds at walk will receive Fleet Feet Shoes certificate. Register at Walk: 1:00 P.M. Oct. 14 at South Park's Children's Playground Pavilion, (Corrigan & Brownsville Rd., 15129). Complimentary Refreshments before the Walk and Lunch after the Walk. Super Holy Oil Blessing, Pinata at 1:30 P.M.; Walk begins at 2:00 P.M. Free T-shirt for children 8 years and under who raise \$50 or others who raise \$100 or more. Mail balances by Oct. 30 to: Walk for Missions, C/O Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa 15228.

\*\*\*\*\*

**A GRACIOUS THANK YOU CARD RECEIVED:**

Bless, Father: I want to write to tell you how grateful I am for your prayers during my recent surgeries & hospitalizations. Thank you for remembering me during my time of need. I know well "the fervent prayers of a righteous man avails much" (Jam. 5:16). Please also extend my appreciation to St. Nicholas parishioners who sent cards & flowers to extend their thoughts & prayers for my recovery. The Apostle James tells us to "... pray for one another that you might be healed... (for)... prayer avails much" (James 5:16). I am grateful for the kindness you have shown me and will remember all of you in my own prayers. Kissing your right hand, Katherine Beauchamp

\*\*\*\*\*

**ALL OF US ARE "TEAM MEMBERS" OF ST. NICHOLAS AND WE WANT TO SEE YOUR NAMES LISTED ON THE FALL FOOD FESTIVAL PAPERS SITUATED DOWNSTAIRS!**

Stewards acknowledge that Almighty God is the Owner & Giver "of every good and perfect gift from above," and that we, as His creation, are mere managers of the treasures, time and talents that the gracious Lord has bestowed upon each and every one of His followers. As faithful workers in His Vineyard, we are eager and ready to work at the Annual Fall Food Festival of St. Nicholas Church (Oct. 12 & Oct. 13), putting our signature in any of the vital components of the Festival: (1). Food Preparation – Pirohi; (2) Food Preparation – Stuffed Cabbage; (3) Kitchen Help (Days of Festival); (4) Steam Tables (Days of Festival); (5) Bingo; (6) Basket Raffle; (7) Bake Sale. God forbid if we "bury our talent" like the foolish husbandman in today's Gospel lesson. We cannot afford to have the Godly blessings taken away from us because of our inactivity. All parishioners can contribute in their own unique and distinct manner, permitting our parish to stage, once again, a financially-profitable venture for the parish treasury, and more importantly, to proclaim: "Glory be to Jesus Christ!" "Glory be forever!"

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES HAVE COMMENCED IN OUR PARISH!** As parents, we are held accountable for the religious up-bringing of “our gifts from Almighty God.” Make certain that your children are present for worship at the Divine Liturgy and enrolled in the religious education program of the Church!

## [Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)