

# 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. 7; No. 49

**Sunday, December 29, 2019**

## SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS

Chanting of the Nativity Canon: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11;

Resurrection Tone: 3;

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87-89, 128 / Red Book: 102-105, 145-146

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Libbie & +Michael Bachofsky**, offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant: +**Frannie Zatorsky**, offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Natasha**, offered by a Christian worshiper.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 2...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Suzanna Tartarka**, offered by Mary, John, & Michael (Children).

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 4...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Helen Novak**, offered by John Novak.

11:00 A.M.-12 Noon: Hearing of Confessions during the Nativity Fast.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, January 5, 2020**

## SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY: OF THE GENEALOGY

Chanting of the Nativity Canon: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40; Resurrection Tone: 4; Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 90-92, 129-130 / Red Book: 105-107, 146-148

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of Parents: +**John & +Lena Pristash**, offered by Larry & Carole Dunn.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Mr. & +Mrs. +John Antalovich**, offered by John Antalovich, Sr.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MONDAY, JANUARY 6... NATIVITY EVE VIGIL (Strict Fast Day). Holy Night Supper eaten in the homes of the faithful. 8:00 P.M. The Vigil Service for the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. St. Nicholas Church Choir will sing Christmas Carols before and after the service.**

Nativity Candle offered in memory of: +**Edward & +Dolores Pingor and +Wendy Pingor**, by the Family.

Altar Candles' Sponsor – In memory of the +**Harris Family**, offered by Trona & Family.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 7... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Nativity Social staged in the parish hall after the Liturgy. Christmas Caroling in the late afternoon and early evening hours.**

Altar Candles' Sponsor – In memory of +Lena & +John Pristash, offered by Carole, Larry, Bill & Jean Dunn.

**Luke 14:16-24 –**

**14: 16, 17 –** This parable operates on two levels, illustrating both the first and second coming of Christ, who is the **servant** sent to gather many. **Supper** indicates evening, the end of the age. The people **invited** are first the Jews, then all mankind.

**14:18-20 –** The Fathers see the three **excuses** as having both a literal meaning, that many are too attached to worldly cares to accept the Kingdom of God (v. 26; 18:29), and spiritual meanings. St. Ambrose sees the three excuses of **I cannot come** representing the Gentile, the Jew, and the heretic. The Gentile's devotion to earthly wealth is represented by the **piece of ground**, the Jew's enslavement to the five books of the Law by the **five yoke of oxen**, and the heretic's espousal of error by the man refusing on account of his **wife**. Theophylact more generally associates the excuses with people devoted to earthly matters, to thing pertaining to the five senses, and to all pleasures of the flesh.

**14:21-23 –** Those in the **streets and lanes** indicate (1) the Gentiles who accepted Christ after the faithless Jews rejected Him, and (2) those outside the Church replacing those within who have rejected their own baptism.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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>**

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE WILDERNESS JOURNAL**  
365 Days with the PHILOKALIA  
By: Angela Doll Carlson

**Day 363**

**What is that so distresses you? No stain is intrinsic. If a man has tar on his hands, he removes it with a little cleansing oil, how much more, then, can you be made clean with the oil of God's mercy.**

St. John of Karpathos, "Ascetic Discourse" p. 324

**FOREVER**

MISTAKES I HAVE MADE OVER the years fade with time, but I never seem to let them go. I hold on to them as I hold onto a favorite T-shirt on which I've managed to spill motor oil. The stain that's left behind is the size of my palm. I stop trying to remove it after the first attempt. It's stubborn, and maybe there is a part of me that is resigned to it. This is forever, I think, I did this.

Yet I'm not willing to throw out that article of clothing. I wear it around the house, covering it with a pullover sweater, always remembering it's there under the scratchy wool. I don't want to throw away the shirt. It means something to me, even with the stain there

This is where I'm stuck – remembering that the stain is not the shirt and the shirt is not me. I am not the sum of my past missteps, sins, transgressions, or shortcomings. I

don't have to carry them around with me like this. I am forgiven, given a new garment to wear.

**CHECK TODAY IF YOUR DUES FOR THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN PAID IN FULL!** All parishioners of St. Nicholas should check with the parish financial leaders in the church office today to get the present status on their 2019 dues.

**THE NEXT ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH BOARD MEETING!** The Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Board Session is scheduled for Monday, December 30th at 7:00 P.M. Auditors will meet at 6:30 P.M. and all parishioners have the privilege to attend the meeting.

**2020 CHURCH CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE AUDITORIUM!** All parishioners are invited to pick up the liturgical guide and calendars for their home use. To afford the opportunity of all faithful members to secure the new calendars, we kindly request that parishioners take just (1) date guide for their residence at this time. And, when you are at the Savolskis – Wasik – Glenn Funeral Home on Main Street in Munhall, thank Supervisor Michael Perovich and his administrative staff for once again sponsoring the calendars for St. Nicholas Church of Homestead, PA.

**GO NO FURTHER THAN OUR FABULOUS ST. NICHOLAS GIFT SHOP AND BOOK STORE FOR YOUR NATIVITY SHOPPING THIS YEAR!** Our parish is certainly blessed to have a wonderful display of religious items and spiritual books that make “perfect gifts” for every member of your household at the celebration of the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. No need to battle the “maddening crowd of shoppers, working themselves up into a frenzy, searching for that unique present,” when you can view the icons, candles, crosses, religious jewelry, Orthodox Bibles & Prayer Books, a splendid library of Orthodox Christian books and spiritually-rich publications, greeting cards for all occasions, and children’s coloring books and religious education pamphlets, plus, much more! Take time to browse the Store & Shop, ask questions on any of the articles, and enjoy the conversation you’ll have with the ladies waiting on you.

**2020 A.C.R.Y. LOTS-O-LUCK CALENDARS!** The calendars are available for your purchase. They are \$25.00 each and make wonderful gifts for Christmas. See Carol Dunn!

**PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST BY CONFESSING YOUR SINS ON THE SATURDAYS DURING THE NATIVITY FAST FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON!** Acquire the grace of Almighty God in the Holy Mystery of Penance during this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Your Pastor shall welcome you to this life-saving sacrament and offer prudent council to aid you in your spiritual warfare against the unseen principalities who are ever so ready to tempt us to sin (miss the mark) and not seek first the Kingdom of God. Feed your immortal soul during this time of fasting!

**MEN'S CLUB PARTY AT DUKES!** The St. Nicholas Men's Club will be hosting their annual Christmas Party during their January meeting on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 P.M. at Dukes on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Homestead. The Men's Club would like to extend an invitation to all the men in our church who would like to consider joining our organization as we celebrate Russian New Year's Eve. Food and drinks will be provided by the club. If you are interested or need more details, please check with a Men's Club member. Please consider joining us for the evening! Thanks, Brian.

**LOOKING TO MAKE A LITTLE EXTRA MONEY DURING THIS SEASON OF ALMS-GIVING?** D car Transportation, operating out of the Northside Pittsburgh area, is looking for part-time drivers who have A clean driving record, a PA driver's license, and are dependable and customer friendly. Having a CDL is a bonus. Anyone looking to make a little extra money driving some high-end clientele around Pittsburgh and back-and-forth to the airport, please call Denny at (412)725-3345. Thank you, Peggy Rusnak, a parishioner of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church on California Avenue in North Side Pittsburgh, PA.

**PITTSBURGH STEELERS VS. ARIZONA CARDINALS WINTER 2019 BLOCK POOL!** Thank you to everyone who participated in the Steelers Block Pool on Sunday, December 8, 2019. The Steelers won and our church received a positive cash flow of \$500. The winners of the block pool were Dave Urban – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (\$50 + \$50), Melissa Ditmore – half time score (\$100), and Richard Babbie for the final score (\$300). Thanks again for your support... Thank you, Tom Pingor, Church President.

**EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED!** We are looking to become more connected as a parish by sending out important announcements, updates, death and sickness notices, and other pertinent information via email. Our high school Sunday School class has volunteered to collect these email addresses. If you have not already provided your email address, we invite you to do so. Email addresses can be submitted by writing it on the sheet in the vestibule, giving it to any high school Sunday School student, or by emailing Bob Bartko at [RABartko@gmail.com](mailto:RABartko@gmail.com). Thank you for your participation!

**ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH CEMETERY ASSOCIATION WILL MEET ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> AT 2 P.M.!** All members are kindly asked to participate in this session, preparing for the Annual Cemetery Association Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2020.

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)