

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. 8; No. 5

Sunday, February 2, 2020

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-16;

Resurrection Tone: 8

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

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

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: **Fr. Deacon Marc's Birthday**, offered by Alison & Anastasia.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Evelyn Tihey**, offered by Jackie & Albert Maurer.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7... 10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Rose Yenchek**, offered by Michael Yenchek & Family.

Sunday, February 9, 2020

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE (FAST-FREE WEEK)

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

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15;

Resurrection Tone: 1

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81-83, 175 / Red Book: 95-99, 197

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: In memory of **+Demetrios Galanides**, offered by wife, Juliana Myers.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Demetrios**

Galanides, on the 1-year Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Juliana Myers.

LUKE 19:1-10 –

19:1 – Jericho was notorious as a place of iniquity and is commonly associated with sinful living. **Jerusalem** is the place of peace, symbolic of communion with God. **Jericho**, on the other hand, was renowned as a place of sin. Falling **among thieves** (Math. 10:30) speaks to the natural consequence of journeying away from God toward a life of sin.

19:2 – He was rich: This encounter between Christ and Zacchaeus demonstrates that grace can accomplish that which is impossible to man.

19:3, 4 – Many spiritual interpretations express the universal significance of this encounter. Theophylact sees the crowd symbolizing sins: "Crowded in by a multitude of passions and worldly affairs, he is not able to see Jesus." St. Ambrose sees several parallels: (1) Zacchaeus being **short** is indicative of his being short on faith and virtue; (2) that Zacchaeus must ascend a **tree** shows no one attached to earthly matters can see Jesus; and (3) the Lord intending **to pass that way** reveals that Christ will approach anyone willing to repent and believe.

19:8 – Zacchaeus uses the term **give** for his free and generous offering **to the poor**, and **restore** for what he owes those he had cheated, as this was not a gift but required by the Law. (Ex. 22:1). By doing both, Zacchaeus not only fulfills the Law, but show his love of the gospel.

19:9 – The title **son of Abraham** indicates Zacchaeus had become like this patriarch of Israel, he was counted righteous by his faith, he became generous toward the poor, and he was united to the people of God. Early records tell us he went on to be a bishop of the Church.

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/acroddiocese> Twitter:

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

BREAD FOR THE ROAD AHEAD:

We don't get married to live happily ever after, to have children, to have a home. No, the main point is to enter the Kingdom of God together, which means that I am ready at any time to pay any price, to make any sacrifice and to endure any difficulty in marriage. Therefore, you cannot break off your marriage at the first difficulty that appears, or even if the difficulty continues, but it must be preserved... Marriage must rest and be built on this foundation, and that the mutual bond is built and strengthened on the joint march of the spouses to the Kingdom of God. This means that one must support the other, and both will move forward together towards the Kingdom of God.

Metropolitan Athanasius of Limassol

"Marriage is the key of moderation and the harmony of desires, the seal of a deep friendship... the unique drink from a fountain enclosed, inaccessible to those without. United in the flesh, one in spirit, they urge each other on by the goad of their mutual love. For marriage does not remove God, but brings all closer to Him, for it is God Himself Who draws us to it."

+ St. Gregory the Theologian

THE WILDERNESS JOURNAL

365 Days with the PHILOKALIA

Angela Doll Carlson

DAY 24

There is a demon, known as the deluder, who visits the brethren especially at dawn, and leads the intellect about from city to city, from village to village, from house to house, pretending that no passions are aroused through such visits, but then the intellect goes on to meet and talk with old acquaintances at greater length, and so allows its own state to be corrupted by those it encounters.

Evagrius the Solitary, "Texts on Discrimination," p. 43

DELUSIONS

THESE DAYS, WHEN DAWN COMES I'm already awake. The day begins with an alarm, dark mornings of stumbling to my slippers, shivering in the cold. It's a nice surprise when, in making coffee or waking the last late-sleeping child, I notice that it's already becoming light outside. There's some hope to it, some encouragement.

The hope and the encouragement are short-lived, though. Shouts for a missing shoe or pants too short, the news blaring in my ears despite my resolve to begin the day in the vacuum of this present moment. This bad news or good news or indifferent news creeps in. It sets the tense and the tone for the day.

“Did you hear...” I’ll say when I talk to my friends. And then their day is set too. We are swimming in it. We are basking in it. We are feeling maybe a little less alone with it, regardless of the situation, and this is what I’m after – not being alone.

But instead, maybe barring “the deluder” means something besides making these agreements with myself to avoid the news or distractions. Maybe defeating this demon means we ought to try to remember when the light spreads across the living room in the morning that this is already true – we are not alone.

PREPARATION FOR THE BLESSING OF HOMES! The sanctification of residences will be conducted from Monday to Friday each week during the afternoon hours of 1-5 P.M. and the evening hours 7-9 P.M. If you have a preference for an afternoon or evening visit, please notify Fr. Michael. Your priest shall begin blessing homes of parishioners living in the Munhall and West Mifflin areas, proceeding to the city of Pittsburgh and concluding in outlying areas (north, south, east and west).

“SOUPER BOWL OF CARING” – TODAY! Junior A.C.R.Y. members and Church School students are staging a “Canned Goods’ Drive” to feed the needy in our local community in partnership with the International Orthodox Christian Charities organization. We are all called to be “Good Samaritans” and neighbors to all humanity. Please donate non-perishable food items and canned goods; bring the supplies to the stage area of the auditorium. We shall gather the culinary staples for a few more weeks in order for all parishioners to give freely to feed the hungry. The Rainbow Kitchen, here in Homestead, will be the recipient of our donations.

FREE COMPUTER CLASSES IN HOMESTEAD! If you’re applying for a job – or doing almost anything – in 2020, you need basic computer skills. (No, Facebook and texting aren’t enough!) Mon Valley Initiative offers free, self-paced computer classes covering keyboard and web basics, sending and managing email, creating files, using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel and Power Point), using the Internet to search and apply for jobs, and other skills. Classes are held three days per week (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings) at 305 E. Eight Avenue (corner of Ann Street) in Homestead. MVI’s office is accessible from the 61C, 53F, 56E, 59A, 59U and 61F buses. To enroll or get more information, call Deb at 412-464-4000, ext. 4001.

MEN’S CLUB WILL MEET ON MONDAY (FEB. 3RD) EVENING AT 7 P.M. IN THE PARISH HALL FOR THE REGULAR MONTHLY SESSION! All members and all men of St. Nicholas are invited to attend and serve Christ’s Bride, the Holy Church!

ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY – ANNUAL MEETING RESCHEDULED – 2nd NOTICE! The St. Nicholas Cemetery Association will hold its 2020 Annual Cemetery Association Meeting on Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 11:45 A.M. All Cemetery Association members and parishioners are encouraged to attend.

HEALTH KIT DRIVE AND ASSEMBLY – FEBRUARY 8, 2020 FROM 11:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M. AT HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN MT. LEBANON! Youth Volunteers and Monetary Donations Needed! Kit assembly will take place during the International Soup Sampling to benefit IOCC. The Orthodox church is located at 123 Gilkeson Road (Mt. Lebanon), Pittsburgh, PA 15228. All Orthodox Youth Groups are asked to participate. Students, please bring you volunteer forms for school credit. Our goal is to assemble one thousand health kits. Donations are needed to purchase bulk health kit supplies. To donate please make checks payable to “Holy Cross Agape Fund” with “IOCC Health Kit Project” in the memo, and mail to Nick Terezis, c/o IOCC, 306 Marberry Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15215. Please contact Deno at 412-833-8771 or dmpappas22@gmail.com to coordinate your youth group attendance.

OUR CHURCH SINGERS ARE THANKFUL! The Choir is grateful for the generous donations given by parishioners and friends during the season of Christ’s Nativity. We appreciate your loyal support and wish you a healthy & prosperous New Year. Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever! Sincerely, Members of the Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Choir.

INTERNATIONAL SOUP SAMPLING TO BENEFIT IOCC ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020 FROM 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M. AT HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN MT. LEBANON! Experience tastes from around the world! Sample five homemade soups for \$10, and take your favorite quart home for a \$10 donation. The Greek Orthodox parish is located at: 123 Gilkeson Road, (Mt. Lebanon), Pittsburgh, PA 15228. Register at ioccc.org/pittsburgh. For questions or to pre-order soup (by January 25), contact Marianne at 412-668-0420 or marianne.carmack@gmail.com. Youth groups & children’s ministries from all jurisdictions will assemble health kits. All area youth are invited! Donations are needed to purchase bulk health kit supplies. To sponsor kits, call Nick Terezis at 740-282-5198.

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. Thank you for your participation!

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYER FOR THE SICK: Ann Marie Kline and Eleanor Konar, who are residents of Arrowwood at Southwestern Assisted Living Facility, located at 512 Lewis Run Road in Pittsburgh, PA. Visit them or send a prayerful card expressing your love and petitions of good intentions for their health and well-being. Remember, this is one of our bodily acts of mercy.

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