

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

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Sunday, April 26, 2020

2ND SUNDAY OF PASCHA – SUNDAY OF SAINT THOMAS

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 5:12-20; Resurrection Tone: 1 Gospel: John 20:19-31

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81-83, 199-200 / Red Book: 95-99, 221-223

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Wendy Pingor**, on the sixth anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Family.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Joseph Grimes**, offered by Wife, Olga & Family.

Monday, (April 27)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Albert & +George Hreha**, offered by the Family; +**William Kane & +Deborah Kane**, offered by Agnes Kane; +**Elizabeth Krompingel**, offered by Ann Bunting; +**Michael Spontak**, offered by Margaret Beczak.

Wednesday, (April 29)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Andrew & +Mary Hudak** and +**Andrew Fedoris**, offered by Matilda Fedoris.

Thursday, (April 30)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Margaret & +George Ladick**, offered by the Family.

Saturday, (May 2)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Merle Benson & +Matilda Benson**, offered by Edward & Bernard Benson (Sons).

Sunday, May 3, 2020

3RD SUNDAY OF PASCHA – SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 6:1-7; Resurrection Tone: 2 Gospel: Mark 15:42-47, 16:1-8

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 84-86, 200-201 / Red Book: 99-102, 223-224

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of +**Joanne Fecso**, on the 2nd Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord (5/1), offered by Danielle Bartko & Family.

John 20:19-31 -

John 20:21-23 – Christ commissions the disciples to continue His mission, granting them the **Holy Spirit** (v. 22) and the authority to **forgive the sins** of others (v. 23). Through this direct consecration and through apostolic continuity, Christ's own Priesthood is communicated to the bishops and presbyters of the Church.

20:24-29 – The doubt of **Thomas** is described in the Church hymns as "blessed," for it was not a doubt of resistance to truth, but one that desperately desired a truthful answer – a "doubt"

which gave birth to faith” when the answer was revealed. In hymns of the Church, Christ says to Thomas, “Your doubt will teach My Passion and Resurrection to all” and we affirm that his doubt “brought the hearts of believers to knowledge.” The conversion of Thomas’ doubt into Faith led him to the clearest confession of Christ’s divinity, addressing Jesus as **my Lord and my God** (v. 28).

20:30 – Signs -

John 2:1-11 – The **wedding in Cana** is the setting for the first of the seven **signs** (v. 11) performed by Jesus in the Gospel of John. John uses the term signs to show that these miraculous actions point beyond themselves to the truth that the Kingdom of God has come among us in the Person of Jesus Christ. The seven signs are (1) changing water into wine (2:1-11); (2) curing the nobleman’s son (4:46-54); (3) healing the paralytic (5:1-15); (4) feeding the five thousand (6:1-14); (5) walking on water (6:15-21); (6) opening the eyes of a blind man (9:1-41), and (7) raising Lazarus from the dead (11:38-44).

The setting here is significant. In the Old Testament, marriage feasts symbolized the union of God with His Bride, Israel. Jesus begins His ministry at **Galilee**, which has a large Gentile population, this was a sign of the spread of the gospel to all the world. That this wedding takes place **on the third day** sets a resurrectional tone, showing that the marriage of God and His Church will be fulfilled in Christ’s Resurrection. Other parallels between the marriage here and the Resurrection account in 20:1-18 are that both involve a woman named Mary who makes an appeal, and in both passages the disciples are invited to witness the event. Furthermore, the Resurrection account (20:11-18) has a striking similarity to 55 3:1-5, again showing the unity between marriage and our Lord’s Resurrection.

By His presence at this wedding, Jesus further declares marriage to be holy and honorable (Heb. 13:4), therefore, this passage is read at Orthodox weddings, and these images are incorporated into many prayers in the wedding service.

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 LIFE AND SUFFERINGS OF THE HOLY APOSTLE THOMAS

After the Ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven and the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the apostles cast lots amongst themselves to determine where each of them should go to preach the Word of God. To Thomas fell the lot to go to India, to the Brahmans and the other divers and obscure peoples of those parts, to enlighten lands benighted by paganism and to teach the true Faith to the Parthians and Medes, and the Persians, Hyrcanians and Bactrians.

Thomas was dismayed to be sent to such savage peoples, but the Lord appeared to him in a vision, strengthening him and commanding him to be valiant and not to be afraid; and he promised to abide with him Himself. And soon He showed him a way to enter those lands.

Thomas converted many to the Faith by signs and wonders. Sojourning in Mylapore, he enlightened many there with the preaching of the Gospel and made them steadfast in the holy faith. Later, the apostle travelled further, to the land of Kalamida, where King Mazdai reigned. The king charged Thomas with deceiving the whole country with divinations so that the people believed in Christ. And, by the Apostle’s craftiness to turn wives away from their husbands, that the women no longer had physical relations with the men. The king threatened Thomas with a cruel death if the situation was not reversed. Thomas remained firm in the True Faith and was subjected to inhumane

tortures. Finally, taking Thomas, the king went forth from the city with his soldiers, and all thought that he went to see some miracle wrought by the apostle. But when they had gone nearly a mile, the king gave Thomas into the hands of five soldiers, ordering them to go with him to a mountain and there to run him through with their spears; he himself then went to the city of Axium. Wazan, the son of the king, and a certain man named Siphor, and others, hastened after the apostle, and, when they overtook him, wept over him. Then Thomas, asking permission of the soldiers to pray, entreated the Lord, praying: "O Lord my God, Thou hope and redemption of the faithful: lead me to Thee this day that my soul may not be hindered in its ascent. Behold I have completed the work which Thou hast assigned to me, and have carried out Thy commands. As Thy slave didst Thou sell me; therefore, render unto me my freedom this day." Thereupon, the apostle blessed the faithful. And he ordained Siphor to the priesthood and Wazan to the diaconate, commanding them to see to the increase of the faithful and the growth of the Church of Christ. Turning then to the soldiers, he said: "Carry out now the king's order." Then soldiers then ran him through with five spears; and thus the blessed Thomas ended his earthly sojourn near the city of Mylapore.

THE NEXT EDITION OF SPF50 CAME OUT ON PASCHA, APRIL 19TH! It is a digital edition. If you didn't start with us on March 1, consider joining now. Make a commitment to reading Scripture and Praying together with your family. Visit the Diocesan Website at acrod.org and look for the SPF50 section or go directly to the SPf50 web page at <https://www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50> to find more about SPF50 and how to help your family read Scripture and Prayer together at home.

NEW GUIDELINES ARE IN PLACE TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19! Divine Services will continue to be celebrated at Saint Nicholas Church by a maximum of five people. The Sanctuary, Nave, Vestibule and upper-church are closed to all parishioners. Faithful are kindly asked to pray in their homes where all Divine Services will be streamed on ZOOM & Facebook Live for your attention, participation and spiritual edification.

WE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF THE RESPONSE OF THE MEN'S CLUB TO ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH IN THE MIDST OF THE VIRUS PANDEMIC AFFECTING ALL HUMANITY ON THIS EARTH! We express our deep gratitude and extreme thankfulness to the Saint Nicholas Men's Club for making a special donation of \$1,000.00 to the church in the name of a Coronavirus Relief Donation, helping to supplement the continued envelope donations of beloved parishioners. This monetary gift is especially needful at this time when all liturgical services are being celebrated in a closed church setting and social distancing is being implemented and practiced by all. The Men's Club also made a donation to St. Michael's Church in McKeesport. A general Pascha contribution has been submitted by this distinguished group of men, as well. May all our beloved parishioners and various organizations view this generosity of the "People of God" and do likewise into their individual stewardship and communal-group financial obligations to our "House of Worship."

MEMBERS OF ST. NICHOLAS: JOIN OUR CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN DEPOSITING YOUR TREASURES IN THE COIN BOXES TO BENEFIT THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER!

The self-denial banks are available for adult parishioners in the vestibule of the church and downstairs in the auditorium. The icon on the front of the O.C.M.C. Coin Box reminds us of Christ's command to make disciples of all nations. The sacrificial money that you graciously collect will be used to help Orthodox Christians who serve as missionaries, volunteer for Mission Teams and support the mission of the Church to take the Gospel to people around the world. Please return the self-denial banks to the church office in the parish hall.

AS YOU HAVE DONATED IN THE PAST, PLEASE CONTRIBUTE IN THE PRESENT FOR THE REPLATING IN GOLD AND SILVER OF THE LITURGICAL VESSELS OF OUR CHURCH! Three chalices and three Communion spoons used at every Sunday Divine Liturgy for the partaking of the Holy Eucharist were recently re-plated in gold and silver at the Frank Mance Plating Service on Penn Avenue in Pittsburgh, PA. When the liturgical vessels of the church needed a refinishing in the past, generous parishioners offered monetary gifts for this service. We humbly implore our faithful members to, once again, contribute their finances to maintain these sacred articles. Since the final cost for the plating service amounted to nearly \$1500.00, any sum of money is certainly appreciated by the "People of God." Pass on your donation to any of the financial leaders in the parish office downstairs.

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!

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