

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, 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

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +**Joanne Fecso**, on the 2nd Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord.

Tuesday, (May 5)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, from the **Mustakis Family: +George & +Irene, +Nicholas, +Eva, +Caroline**, and +**Cleo Angeliki**, offered from the estate of Cleo Mustakis.

7:00 P.M. Vespers on the Feast of the Holy Great-martyr, Wonderworker and Victory-bearer, Saint George.

Wednesday, (May 6)... 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Holy Great-martyr, Wonderworker and Victory-bearer, Saint George.

Saturday, (May 9)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, mother +**Yolanda Sedlak**, offered by daughter, Sandy Rizzo.

Sunday, May 10, 2020

4TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 9:32-42; Resurrection Tone: 3 Gospel: John 5:1-15

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 87-89, 202-203 / Red Book: 102-105, 225-226

Mark 15:42-47, 16:1-8 –

Luke 23:50-53 – If the apostles had buried Christ, doubters could claim His body was simply hidden away. **Joseph** being both a **council member** and a **good and just man** refutes any possibility that the Lord's body was deceptively hidden by the apostles. The spiritual significance of a tomb **where no one had ever lain before** is that Christ died a death unlike any person had ever died: a death without corruption, a death leading to victory over the grave itself.

Mark 16:1 – Because Christ died so close in time to **the Sabbath**, the burial customs of the Jews could not be completed. Therefore, these faithful women went as early as possible to complete the rites of burial. **Mary, the mother of James** was the wife of Alphaeus, and this James was one of the twelve. Most, however, hold that this is the Virgin Mary, being in fact the

step-mother of a different James, “the Lord’s brother”. Many teach that **Salome** was the wife of Zebedee and the mother of James and John.

16:4 – The stone had been rolled away not to accommodate the Lord’s exit from the tomb, for in His resurrected body, He needs no such accommodation (John 20:19). Rather, this was to allow the witnesses – and us – to look in and see that the tomb was empty.

16:7 – The specific mention of **Peter** reveals a special care for the one who had denied Christ. In the words of St. Theophylact, Peter would have said of himself, “I denied the Lord and therefore am no longer His disciple.” The angel’s command is a promise that Peter is forgiven.

16:8 – They said nothing to anyone does not mean the women never said anything, but that they kept silent until Jesus appeared to them (vv. 9-11).

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>

THE YEAR OF GRACE OF THE LORD

By a Monk of the Eastern Church

The Myrrh-bearing Women: A Galilee Moment!

The young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side of the tomb said to the spice-bearing women: “But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.” What is the significance of this meeting in Galilee, which is mentioned several times in the Gospels? Does Jesus simply want to shield His disciples from the curiosity and hostility of the Jews? Does He, after these past days of trouble and anguish, want to assure them of an interval of tranquility, in an atmosphere very different from that of Jerusalem? Perhaps this is so. But perhaps, too, we would not be mistaken in giving Jesus’ words a deeper interpretation. It was in Galilee that most of the apostles had their first, their unforgettable, meeting with their Master. It was here they first heard Him and followed Him, and had given Him their hearts. Now that their faith has been submitted to a harsh test – in which they were found wanting – it would be good for them to be plunged once again into the Galilean atmosphere and to find Jesus there again, also to recapture the freshness and joy of the first encounter, and renew their act of faith and obedience. This is true for us too. There is a Galilee in the lives of most of us (we think particularly of those who read these lines). A Galilee: that is, a moment, perhaps already long past, when we met Jesus personally and when, for the first time, we listened to Him and tried to follow Him. Since then, much that is sinful, forgetful, and negligent may have separated us, perhaps, from the Lord. At the hour of decisive crisis, we may, like the apostles, have abandoned the Master. The risen Jesus seeks to meet us, too, in Galilee. He asks us to let the memory and fervor of the first meeting live again. If we try to become again what we were then, we shall again find Him. We need not say: ‘It is too difficult’, for He made ready the way: ‘He is going before you into Galilee...’. Invisibly present, He walks into front of us towards that Galilee of the soul; if we follow Him, each step will become easier for us, and a moment will come when, if not with the eyes of the body, at least with the eyes of faith and love, we will attain an unshakeable certainty of His Presence: “There shall you see Him.”

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."

REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED MOTHERS ON MAY 10TH THIS YEAR BY HAVING THEIR NAMES INCLUDED IN THE SPECIAL EDITION OF THE MOTHERS' DAY BULLETIN! Whether your "Mom" has fallen asleep in the Lord and is a member of the Church Triumphant, or she still lives with us here as a member of the Church Militant, give due recognition to her, your grandmother, your God-mother, and to all the Godly women in your life who have made a difference. Please submit their names, identifying the departed with a cross (+) in front of their identification. You can send the names to Father Michael by emailing him at: frmzak@gmail.com or sending a note to his address at 903 Ann Street, Homestead, PA 15120. Don't delay in this matter, plan to submit the names to your Pastor no later than the Feast of the Great-martyr, Saint George on May 6, 2020 to assure publication in the Mother's Day newsletter.

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!

WITH THE BLESSING OF HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN GREGORY, WE HOPE TO CONDUCT MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES AT OUR CHURCH CEMETERY IN WEST MIFFLIN ON MONDAY, MAY 25TH AT 10 A.M.! Subject to our Bishop's consent, we hope to conduct a Panachida (Memorial) Service at the Grotto on the tranquil burial grounds of our dearly-departed loved ones at 10:00 A.M., followed by abbreviated memorial services at the individual graves of our families' deceased members of this life upon request. In this outdoor setting, we can certainly implement safe distancing between one another and remember those relatives whose membership is in the Church Triumphant, and those courageous men and women of the armed forces who sacrificed their lives in order for us to enjoy the many freedoms and privileges we share in this great nation of the United States of America.

A CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS! Around the world, millions of Orthodox Christians have celebrated Pascha with us. There are many who do have a beautiful Church to worship in and many do not have a priest who will minister to them. Over the last 3 decades, the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) has been dedicated to supporting Churches around the world, where the phrase 'A Church Without Walls' is commonplace. Be a part of something amazing by applying for a Mission Team where a church without walls is very real. Teams are online and ready for you to apply. Youth ministry, teaching, clergy retreats,

women's seminars, health care opportunities and more are waiting for you to submit an application. Email teams@ocmc.org or call (904) 829-5132 for more information.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN! KRISTO GESSO! BUHAR HA SHO NAY! Korean

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)