

# 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. 2

**Sunday, June 7, 2020**

## **PENTECOST-TRINITY SUNDAY AND THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WITH SPECIAL KNEELING PRAYERS INTONED (FAST-FREE WEEK)**

**Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.**

Apostolic Reading: Acts 2:1-11; Resurrection Tone: Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 213-216 / Red Book: 237-239

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: **Pentecost Sunday**, offered by the Senior A.C.R.Y. Chapter #11.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **Pentecost Sunday**, offered by the Senior A.C.R.Y. Chapter 11.

Birthday Prayers intoned for: **Trona Paganico** (June 6), offered by Michael & Kira Fischer and Daughters.

Wedding Anniversary Prayers intoned for: **Michael & Kira Fischer** on their 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Holy Matrimony (June 7) offered by the Paganico Family and Michael & Kira Fischer and Daughters.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Michael Nicholas Yenchek**, offered by Michael Yenchek & Family.

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**Monday, (June 8)...** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Holy Spirit and Pentecost Sunday, with Indoor Procession and Reading of the Four Gospels. Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, Mom, **+Mildred Koreny** on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Sons, John, Don, Rob and Gary Koreny.

**Wednesday, (June 10)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servants, **+Mary Lavra**, on the 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Joan, George, Darlene and Joe Lavra.

**Thursday, (June 11)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Margaret Banyas**, offered by Pat Reidenbaugh.

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**Sunday, June 14, 2020**

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS)**

**Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.**

Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-12:2; Resurrection Tone: 8; Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 102-104, 217-218 / Red Book: 117-119, 240-242

Bulletin Sponsor: **Dave & Andrea Urban's** 52<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary, offered by the Family.

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: **All-Saints' Sunday**, offered by Joy Myers.

Birthday Prayers intoned for: **Rebecca Zak** (June 15) and **Aaron Zak** (June 16), offered by Father Michael & Pani Deborah Zak.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Emma Yuhasz**, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord (June 15), offered by Barbara Y.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +**Michael Tomko, Sr.**, wife, +**Anna Tomko**, & +**Father Albert Tomko**, offered by Andrew & Lucy Tomko.

**John 7:37-52; 8:12 –**

**7:37-39 –** The **last day, that great day of the feast** was the eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles. The ceremony of the drawing of water provides the context for the Lord's words, **"If anyone one thirsts, let him come to Me and drink."** The **living water** (v. 38) is the gift of the Holy Spirit (v. 39) and the new life that accompanies this gift.

**7:40 – The Prophet** refers to the expected Messiah, the Savior Moses foretold would come (Dt. 18:15-19).

**7:41-43 – Bethlehem** was the **town** from which **the Christ** was expected to come (Mic. 5:2).

**7:45-49 –** The **chief priests** had sent **officers** of the temple to arrest Jesus in the middle of the Feast (v. 32). By the time the last day had arrived (v. 37), no arrest had been made, because these officers had been converted by the Lord's teaching. The **Pharisees** and the scribes who had "witnessed the miracles and read the Scriptures derived no benefit" from either. These officers, on the other hand, even though they could claim none of this learning, were "captivated by a single sermon." When the mind is open, "there is no need for long speeches. Truth is like that" (St. John Chrysostom).

**7:50-52 – Nicodemus** had spoken with **Jesus** (3:1-21) and had increased in faith. Yet his defense of Christ was still based on **our law** and was not yet a public profession of faith. According to the law, Jesus must be given a hearing before He can be judged (Ex. 23:1; Dt. 1:15-17).

**No prophet has arisen out of Galilee:** The Pharisees show their blind hatred and their ignorance of the Scriptures, for the prophet Jonah came from Galilee, from the town of Gath Hopher; which was only three miles from Nazareth (4Kg. 14:25).

**8:12 – I am the light of the world:** Jesus spoke these words in the context of the great lamps being lit at the conclusion of the Feast of Tabernacles. Thus He declares Himself to be the fulfillment and the divine object of all celebrations of light. In the Scriptures, God the Father Himself is light (1:4-9; 1Jn. 1-5), an attribute He bestows on His followers (Math. 5:14; Php. 2:15). Our Lord confirms His claim by performing the great sign of opening the eyes of a man born blind (9:1-7)

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**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.

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**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>

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## **THE YEAR OF GRACE OF THE LORD**

**By a Monk of the Eastern Church**

### **The Events of Pentecost**

At the Liturgy, on Sunday morning, instead of an epistle, the account of the events of Pentecost, as they are described in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles (2:1-11), is read. Certain aspects of this account call specially for our attention.

"Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them." The Holy Spirit appears under the form of tongues. Pentecost heals the dispersion and confusion of languages brought about by the proud effort of the tower of Babel. It re-establishes the unity of human language. The disciples will be understood by all the strangers then in Jerusalem, Parthians, Medes and Cappadocians, who are astonished to hear the speech of these Galileans, as if in their own language. The language of the Spirit... at least in its inner meaning – is still accessible today to all men, to all races, to all nations; the same Spirit transmits a universal message that each soul nevertheless recognizes as its own. And also, even in our day, someone in whom the Holy Spirit is active becomes capable, even if he or she cannot express his or her self in languages that are foreign to him or her, at least of finding the psychological 'language'

which will echo in, and open the heart of, each person. Thus, 'dialogue' becomes possible. The tongues which alighted on the disciples are tongues of fire, and imply a burning charity. The words seem conditioned by the flame. Lastly, these tongues are evenly distributed. They are not the privilege of St. Peter, or of the Theotokos, or the eleven disciples of Christ. They alight on all those present in the upper room... yet these tongues of flame are one and the same fire. Thus the problem of unity and of the person finds itself resolved in the Church. Neither the one nor the other is sacrificed.

The living and reciprocal love of the three divine Persons is the eternal fact, the greatest fact, infinitely greater and more important than everything that concerns ourselves. Man was created because the three divine Persons wished to communicate to him some measure of their own intimate life. Here on earth, already, the life of grace is participation in this life of the Trinity. The soul which dies united to God is called to enter into the circulation of love between the three Persons. Their relationship constitutes the supreme model for the relationships that should exist between men. Pentecost, which is the final event in the history of our salvation leads us into the heart of the mystery of the Trinity – that ocean which is both the source and the end of the flood of divine love which carries men towards God.

We have already underlined the importance of the theme of light in the Byzantine liturgical year: this divine light first appears with the birth of Christ, it grows with him; on Pascha night it triumphs over the darkness; at Pentecost it reaches its full zenith. Pentecost is 'the midday flame'. But this development, which the liturgical year expresses, must correspond to a growth of the inner light in our soul. The riches and symbolism of the liturgical year are worth nothing if they do not help this 'inner light' to guide our life.

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**ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY – CEMETERY TURNAROUND!** At the 2020 Annual Cemetery Association Meeting in January 2020, the membership approved a motion to install an 80' diameter turnaround at the end of the existing roadway and repair the roadway from the grotto to the new turnaround. This was a much-needed venture. The cost of this project was \$22k. After a few delays related to the Coronavirus situation, the turnaround paving project has been completed. If you are interested in helping, please donate to our cemetery. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated. Thank You! Tom Pingor.

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**INVOKING THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THANKFUL FOR THE CHURCH SCHOOL CHILDREN'S PHOTO!**

Church Children: May the Holy Spirit be with you and your families, Today, Tomorrow and Always! Whatever your endeavor or difficulty that you're up against, pray and do the best that you can. Thank you for taking time to arrange the Group Photo that is on my tote bag. It is deeply appreciated! Danielle: May the Holy Spirit Be With You and Your Family! Thank you for organizing the Photo & tote. God Bless You and always keep you folks in His loving care! Ms. Norma (Sotak)

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**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!

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**ATTENTION CLASS OF 2020: To all High School and College Graduates of 2020:** Please notify Fr. Michael by All-Saints Sun. (June 14) of your graduation info. High School Students: your High School, any academic and/or athletic awards, where you will attend in the Fall and your attended major in college (or undecided at this time). College Students, Graduate and Post-Graduate: your college/university, your field of study and degree you have earned. We will recognize our graduates on Sunday, June 28. Please be in church that Sunday so that we can take a group photo.

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**FIRST CONFESSION CLASS SUNDAY AT 9:00 A.M. – POSTPONED UNTIL A LATER DATE!** Children of our church school Mystery of Penance class shall confess their sins before the priest on Saturday at 11 A.M. in Saint Nicholas Church. And the following Lord's Day they will come forward and receive the Body and Blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. It is a joyous occasion for the entire congregation to welcome these youths in the full sacramental life of the Church and rejoice in their attaining the age of reason and progress in their maturity level.

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**FATHER'S DAY IS JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup> THIS YEAR!** Remember your beloved Father, Grand-Father, Great Grand-Father, God-Father, Step-Father in the special bulletins which will be published for the living and the +deceased fathers of the parish and of our parishioners. Submit their names to Fr. Michael by email or regular mail no later than Sunday, June 14.

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**PROVIDE A SCHOOL SUPPLIES-FILLED BACKPACK FOR A STUDENT IN THE DUQUESNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT THIS YEAR!** Working with FOCUS North America for a new season of Back to School Backpacks, the Orthodox Christian organization will reconfigure the program in a way that offers our parish members an opportunity to support classrooms, grades, or a school of students by sending backpacks filled with school supplies to our church from supply houses where quarantining of products and hands-on processes are not pressures that interfere with getting resources to the students they serve. George Matey and Jean Colantoni shall, once again, serve as our parish coordinators for this project, and we encourage all faithful members or families of St. Nicholas to donate \$25.00 to help the

young children in a financially-depressed school district these “bags of materials” that will aid them in their pursuit of education. Please submit your monetary donation to the church financial officers and help our precious children in their early years of scholastic achievement.

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)