

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. 25

Sunday, June 14, 2020

1ST 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** 52nd Wedding Anniversary, offered by the Family.

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

Birthday Prayers intoned for: **Rebecca Zal** (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 1st Anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord (June 15), offered by Barbara Yuhasz.

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.

Monday, (June 15)... Apostles' Fast begins – No meat or meat products are to eaten on this first day of the Fast.

Tuesday, (June 16)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy of Good Intentions for the health of **Rebecca, Adam & Aaron Zak**, offered by Father Michael & Pani Deborah Zak.

Wednesday, (June 17)... 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Margaret Banyas**, offered by Pat Reidenbaugh.

Sunday, June 21, 2020

2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, SYNAXIS OF THE SAINTS OF CARPATHO-RUS AND FATHER'S DAY

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M. with special prayers of good intentions for the health of all fathers of the parish and of our parishioners, and Panachida Service for all departed fathers of the church and of her members.

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16; Resurrection Tone: 1; Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

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

Altar Flowers' Sponsor: **"Father's Day"**, offered by Saint Nicholas Church.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In honor and memory of **Father's Day**, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+John Sr.**, **+Suzanna**, **+Suzanna**, **+John Jr.**, **+Mary**, **+Helen** and **+Anna Mihalik**, offered by Catherine and Emma Mihalik.

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30 –

Math. 10:35-39 – To carry his cross, a true disciple must be ready, if necessary, to sacrifice even

family relationships.

Luke 12:53 – Divisions within the family: This fulfills the prophecy of Mic. 7:6. In addition to its literal meaning, which has been experienced in the Church since the time of Christ, the older generation being divided from the younger generation also symbolizes (1) the rejection of the new covenant by the followers of the old covenant, and (2) the spiritual struggle between our old, sinful state and our renewal in Christ.

Luke 22:30 – “Christ judges by discerning the heart, and not by examining deeds. So also the apostles are being shaped to exercise spiritual judgment concerning faith, and in rebuking error with virtue” (St. Ambrose of Milan). The apostles will judge not with earthly judgments, but by the witness of their own lives. Since God’s **kingdom** begins with the Resurrection of Christ, the authority of judgment has already been given to the apostles and their successors in the journey of the Church on earth (Math. 16:19; John 20:23).

Math. 19:29 – Christ is not commanding believers to divorce spouses and abandon children. According to St. John Chrysostom, this refers to keep faith under persecution even if it means to lose one’s family. It also means to accept that unbelieving family members may cut off ties because of the believer’s faith. Believers are promised **a hundredfold of houses** and relatives not in an earthly sense, but in a spiritual sense – the fathers and mothers of the Church, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and houses of worship and fellowship.

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 Feast of all the Saints

The first Sunday after Pentecost is dedicated to the commemoration of all the saints. Sanctity is the work of the Holy Spirit. All Christian holiness is a fruit of Pentecost. There is therefore a logical link between today’s feast and that of last Sunday.

At the liturgy, a portion of the epistle to the Hebrews (11:33-12:2) is read which evokes the sufferings of the ‘cloud of witnesses’, that is to say the prophets, the martyrs, the righteous, those who were stoned, put to the sword, or tortured, ‘of whom the world was not worthy’. We know this passage well, for the Church has already given it to us to hear twice during the liturgical year: first on the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ; then, on the first Sunday of the Great Fast. It seems that the Church, in calling our attention to this text before the Birth of Jesus, before Pascha, and immediately after the Descent of the Holy Spirit, wants to emphasize that we draw near to these great mysteries ‘universally’, surrounded by the saints and helped by their prayers; she wishes above all to tell us that saintliness is not an abnormal or exceptional state: that, on the contrary it is the normal flowering of every Christian life. The call to holiness is addressed to each one of us.

The gospel for the Liturgy (Matt. 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30) is a selection of the sayings of Our Lord which relate to the actual conditions of holiness. Once again, our Lord brings us into the presence of His Cross and the personal renunciations that it involves. There is, however, a great difference between the way we read these words today and the way we read them (or similar texts) during the preceding months: read after Pentecost, this invitation to sacrifice is now clothed in fire, in the light and power of the Holy Spirit. The apostles did not really follow their Master on His painful road until after the coming of the Holy Spirit: the saints, whose collective feast we celebrate today, only carried the cross when they were under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The cross that Jesus sets before our eyes, on this first Sunday after Pentecost, is a cross of fire – the fire of the Spirit descending on the disciples

CHURCH EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – THURSDAY, JUNE 18! The June monthly executive board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 18th at 6:00 P.M. Now that we are in the “green” phase of the Coronavirus, I am hopeful that more board members will be comfortable attending the meeting in person at the church hall. However, if you still don’t feel comfortable, then, I assume that we can still use the Zoom video-conferencing and phone calls. As usual, I will prepare the agenda and send it out Thursday morning. I would like input about the monthly board meetings, as well. Maybe we can consider a monthly board meeting for July.

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.

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)

ALTAR BOYS & YOUNG WOMEN (AGES 12-18) REGISTER FOR THE VIRTUAL RETREAT & ENCOUNTER THIS YEAR BY THIS FRIDAY, JUNE 19TH!

Saint Nicholas Church will pay your registration fees which shall entitle you to various materials for the events, as well as a commemorative t-shirt. Go to the Diocesan Website to register on-line, and inform Father Michael or Cheryl Tomko, Church Treasurer, of you planned participation.

CAMPERS: REGISTER FOR THE VIRTUAL DIOCESAN CAMPING WEEK OF THE PITTSBURGH DEANERY BY THE END OF JUNE; JULY 1ST IS THE DEADLINE!

Our parish shall, once again, finance your registration fees. Once you register online at the Diocesan Website, pamphlets concerning your week-long activities will be mailed to you, plus, a commemorative Camp Nazareth tee-shirt. The code for St. Nicholas Church campers is: **Homestead 30**. Use this code in place of any monetary stipend submitted. And, notify your Pastor, or the Church Treasurer, Cheryl Tomko of your participation this year.

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!

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2020: To all High School and College Graduates of 2020: Please notify Fr. Michael by Father’s Day (June 21) 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.

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.

FATHER’S DAY IS JUNE 21, NEXT SUNDAY!

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 this coming Wednesday, June 17th.

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.

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