



**SAINT NICHOLAS
ORTHODOX CHURCH**
P.O. Box 777
Barton, OH 43905-0777

*A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople*

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- Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org>
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Very Rev. Father Michael C. Kabel *Pastor & Dean*

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- E-MAIL: stnicholas777@yahoo.com
- WEB SITE: www.stnicholasbarton.org
- PARISH FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/St.NicholasBarton>
- ACRY FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/405014019594907>

MYSTERY OF HOLY CONFESSION: Before & after Saturday evening Vespers. Other Sacraments by appointment.

GOING TO THE HOSPITAL? Please notify Father when you are admitted if you want him to visit. Kindly notify Father also when you are discharged.

SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2017 DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 AM
GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!
SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU! SLAVA NA V'IKI!

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: Regular Sunday Antiphons and the Beatitudes. Propers for Tone 3 on pp. 87-89. "*Zastupnice*" from the hand-out sheets.

EPISTLE: Romans 6:18-23. GOSPEL: Matthew 8:5-13.

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

For the week of July 2:

- Sun., July 2:** (After Liturgy) Panachida in memory of +**David Lazo**. Requested by Cindi & Laney Ross.
- Wed., July 5:** (9:00 AM) Divine Liturgy with prayers for the souls of +**Peter, Sr.** and +**Katherine (Hanas) Silon**. Requested by Theresa Reese.
- Thurs., July 6:** (6:00 PM) Great Vespers with Litija for the Feast of the *Nativity of Saint John the Baptist*.

**Friday, July 7:
Nativity of Saint John the Baptist**

8:30 AM: **Preparation Prayers** for Holy Communion.

9:00 AM: **Divine Liturgy** for the Feast of the *Nativity of Saint John the Baptist*. Regular Weekday Antiphons. Propers can be found on pp. 160-161. There will be *Mirovanije* (festive anointing) at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Sat., July 8: (6:00 PM) **Great Vespers** for the *Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*. Propers for Tone 4 and the Venerable David of Salonica.

July 9: The 5th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM: **Preparation Prayers** for Holy Communion.

10:00 AM: **Divine Liturgy** for the *Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*. Regular Sunday Antiphons and the Beatitudes. Propers for Tone 4 on pp. 90-92. "*Zastupnice*" from the hand-out sheets. There will be *Mirovanije* (festive anointing) in honor of the Feast of the *Nativity of Saint John the Baptist*.

THE ETERNAL LAMP burns *in memory* of +**Anthony Harvilla**. Requested by *Marie Kovalcik*.

THE RIGHT SIDE ALTAR LAMPS (Diakonikon) burn with prayers for **Laney & Anna Ross**. Requested by *Laney & Cindi Ross*.

THE TETRAPOD LAMPS burn with prayers for *Special Intentions*. Requested by *Theresa Reese*.

OUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP will meet *this coming* **Wednesday, July 5** at 6:30 PM in the church basement.

OUR MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be held *next* **Sunday, July 9** following the Pot-Luck Coffee Hour.

THE 24TH ANNUAL BARTON POLKA-FEST will be held on **Sunday, July 30** from 11 AM til 8 PM. Music with "*Polka Family*," "*Buffalo Concertina All-Stars*," and "*Ted Lange and Mollie B with Squeezebox*." Held rain or shine at the Firemen's Field at 52167 Center Street in Barton, OH. BBQ Chicken, Ribs, Homemade Polish Foods and Desserts. Raffles and Door Prizes. ***Free shuttle***. Cash Bar. No B.Y.O.B. or coolers. **Admission is only \$6.00**. Children 18 and under are free. Sponsored by the Barton Volunteer Fire Department "New Firehouse Fund." Enjoy a day of good food, good music and good friends. For more information, please call Jeff Gazdik at **740-695-3029**.

SENIOR & JUNIOR A.C.R.Y. CONVENTIONS. The Saint Nicholas A.C.R.Y. Chapter #11- Homestead will be the host of the 73rd National Senior and 34th National Junior ACRY Conventions, which will take place Labor Day weekend, **September 1-4, 2017** at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott at 777 Aten Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108. We are excited to announce that the Saturday Night Dinner will be a dinner cruise on the Gateway Clipper Fleet. Sunday Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be held at Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church, Homestead, PA. Please visit the special 2017 Convention Page at **http://www.acrod.org/news/2017/conv2017-pr** for all necessary registration information. **Deadline** for all convention related registration, including, hotel, meals, program book, and excursions is **August 1**.

SCIENCE AND NATURE CAMP. Camp Nazareth is pleased to announce its ***FIRST EVER Science and Nature Camp***, which will take place **August 6-12, 2017!!!** This event is open to young people **ages 8 to 18**.

Camp participants will learn all about Astronomy, Biology, Earth Science, Geology, Meteorology and SO MUCH MORE! Presentations and activities will be given and led by the Carnegie Science Center, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Jennings Environmental Center, as well as local high school teachers and college professors.

Participants will have the opportunity to use telescopes, microscopes, and water quality management technology, as well as explore the trails, waterfalls, streams and geography of the Camp. Special emphasis will be placed on appreciating the beauty of nature and the wonder of the fields of science they will study.

Visit **campnazareth.org** for more information and to register for the Science and Nature Camp.

RECEIVED THIS WEEK IN THE MAIL:

Dear Children of the St. Nicholas community,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I recently received the boxes of icons that you all made as part of your Lenten project. On behalf of everyone at the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, I want to thank you for this effort!

These icons will be especially appreciated in places like Guatemala and Indonesia, where people do not have easy access to such resources because they are so isolated.

We thank you, your parents and leaders, Fr. Michael and Pan'i Kelley, and everyone in your parish for your ongoing support of missions. Please feel free to contact me with any opportunities in which we may assist your ministries. May the Lord continue to bless you and your work!

Yours in Christ,
Markella Balaxis
Agape and SAMP Coordinator

HAVE A HAPPY & SAFE 4TH OF JULY! As we reflect on our freedom as Americans, let us remember that our freedom is not a license to commit evil. May we exercise our freedom wisely by choosing God and His holy commandments, and strive to walk in His way, which is the pathway to life everlasting. Have a happy & safe holiday!

THE WEIRTON GREEK FESTIVAL at All Saints Greek Orthodox Church in *Weirton, WV* will be held from **July 6-8**, from **11 AM to 10 PM** each day.

CHURCH KITCHEN CLEANING. The Cleaning Committee met recently to create a list of all regular cleaning throughout the church that needs to be completed during the year. We are looking for volunteers to help with these tasks. We are not asking one person to volunteer for all of the cleaning. Rather, we are asking different individuals to select a listed task, and complete the cleaning when it is convenient for them. Our first task is the cleaning of the basement kitchen in the month of **July**. For one person, this would be a large task. However, if many individuals work together, this can be completed in much less time. A list of all items that we would like to address in this cleaning has been posted on the bulletin board. Please stop by and sign-up for one of the listed tasks, and complete it at your convenience. Any questions, please contact **Joni Turner**.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Saturday Evening Vespers (6/24) — 6

Sunday Divine Liturgy (6/25) — 80

Moleben to the Theotokos (6/29) — 8



On Stewardship and the Orthodox Life

Part 148 Why Should I be a Good Steward? (5/28/17)

“One man gives freely, yet grows all the richer: another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.” (Proverbs 11:24 RSV)

I hear this question all the time, “Why should I be a good steward?” My answer usually is, “Why shouldn’t you be a good steward?” It is about this time that I receive a stern and sarcastic look! Each week this blog is written to help you understand just how important stewardship is to your salvation. There have to date been 147 blogs giving you and at least 147 reasons to be a good steward. Let me approach this a little differently this time using three quotes from the scripture.

1. John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”
2. John 13:34, “A new commandment I give you ‘that you are to love one another as I have loved you. By this all will know that you are my disciples.’”
3. Matthew 25:14, the parable of the Talents.

So there it is, your salvation wrapped up in three quotes from scripture. Let’s look again at what these say and how to apply them.

In John 3:16, we learn that we shall live forever. You cannot say that you don’t want to live forever, it has been decided by Christ. You will live forever. Two points to bear in mind here, the first is that forever is a long, long time. We have lived a very short life here on earth compared to the relatively long time we will live after the second coming of Christ. The second point is that God has given you free choice as to whether or not you want to enjoy eternity, smoking or non-smoking!

In Matthew 25:14, we hear the parable of the talents (gifts). God gives us gifts much like the talents the Master (God) gave his three stewards. Two of the stewards took the gifts that the Master had given them using them in such a way as to bring increase to the Master. These two were reward with stewardship over even more (Kingdom of Heaven). The third steward did nothing with his talent and received his reward of being placed as a slave (Gehenna). The point being that God intends you to use the gifts He has given you to aid you in reaching Theosis as well as helping others in their journey, thereby returning to God with increase.

John 13:34 tells you that you should be “in communion” with God and with each other. As images of God you are to know yourself as a person in communion with God and with others. The Trinity knows themselves as persons in communion and you being in the image of God must know yourself as a person in communion. The Trinity shares a kenotic, self-emptying, love that is unlike the love that we know. We are to obtain that kenotic love on our journey to Theosis by developing and maturing into the “likeness of God.” Without stewardship, without the sharing of the gifts God has given us, we will never experience the kenotic love necessary to be “in communion.” Thus our salvation will be in jeopardy.

It is never too late to start. Start today and return in proportion to what God has given you!



On Stewardship and the Orthodox Life

Part 149: Joys of Generosity (6/4/17)

“What does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?.”
(Mark 8:36 RSV)

St. Gregory of Nazianzen states, “Let everyone bring to God what fruits he can, at all times, at every turn of life and its events, to the measure of his ability according to the gifts he has been given.” There is a joy in being generous and after all is not generosity one of the virtues. And, according to St. Gregory of Nyssa, if you possess one virtue then you possess them all, they are linked. Likewise possessing one passion will lead to the others.

In Proverbs 11:24, we read, “one man gives, yet grows richer.” When sharing the gifts God has given you in gratitude, God receives those gifts and returns them in greater abundance. That does not mean that you should endeavor to give back for the purpose of receiving more. That is an improper motive and no joy will come of it. The joy in giving is that the riches you were gifted with do not govern your life. An abundant life that is free from greed, that you are not possessed by them, gives you freedom and joy and your life is at peace.

Joy also comes from not being concerned about your future. God has blessed you richly and has taken care of you. You are able to live a virtuous life, thinking of others before yourself, because you know that God will continue to take care of you. He will provide for all your needs and He will do this because you are leading a virtuous life, a life led in gratitude for all that He has given you.

To the contrary, those who do not share the gifts that God has given them, will not only forfeit what He has gifted them, they will live in constant torment and fear of the loss of their possessions, relationship and even their life.

Christ commanded us to “love” our neighbors as He has loved us. Christ is talking about that true kenotic, self-emptying love whereby we would give all we have for the benefit our neighbor as Christ gave to us. That is real joy. It is always good to receive but the joy in giving, in sharing, in participation of the life of another is one of the greatest joys of this world.

Be a good steward and experience the joy of giving and sharing with God and the body of Christ.

This weekly series of brief thoughts on stewardship and Orthodox life is brought to you by your Diocesan Stewardship Commission.

Mark Your Calendar Now for the 2nd annual Stewardship Retreat will be held September 22-24, 2017.