

SOBORNOST

St. Thomas the Apostle Orthodox Church

(301) 638-5035 Church
4419 Leonardtown Road
Waldorf, MD 20601

Rev. Father Joseph Edgington, Pastor
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www.apostlethomas.org

American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

*ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE
OF CONSTANTINOPLE*

SERVICES

Wed: Moleben to the Theotokos 6:00 AM

Friday: Moleben to the Cross 6:00 AM

**Saturday: Confession 5:00 PM,
Great Vespers 5:30 PM**

Sunday: Matins (Orthros) 8:45 AM

Children's Sunday School 9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM.



February 9, 2020 – Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee Leavetaking of the Reception of Our Lord in the Temple

The Leavetaking of the Meeting of the Lord usually falls on February 9, but may be moved if the Feast falls during the period of the Triodion. In that case, the Typikon must be consulted for information on the Leavetaking.

The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid. 23: 13, 14, 15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness. Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This

present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights. All foods are allowed the week that follows this Sunday. (*from johnsanidopoulos.com*)

Today's Epistle Lesson – St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15

My son Timothy, you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Today's Gospel Lesson – Saint Luke 18:10-14

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

A Word From the Holy Fathers

I have said that wisdom was my sister; and I have honored and embraced her to the extent of my ability; and for my head I seek a crown of graces and delight, the gifts of wisdom and of the Logos who illumines the faculty of reason within us and lights our steps on the path of God.

With this I curb incontinent anger; with this I quiet corrosive envy; with this again I quell grief that shackles the heart; with this I restrain effusive pleasure; with this I

moderate hatred, but not love: the one we should moderate, the other, know no limit. It is this that makes me unassuming when I prosper and generous when poor; this that impels me to keep pace with the swift of foot and to extend my hand to the fallen; to share the afflictions of the weak and the ebullience of the strong. With this as my companion, home and abroad are the same to me, and likewise, changes of location affect others, not me. It is this that sets apart two worlds for me, drawing me away from the one and uniting me to the other; this that both leads me forth with the weapons of righteousness for my right hand, yet I do not exalt myself, and when life is too harsh and sinister it encourages and consoles me by joining me to the hope that does not disappoint and by lightening the present with the future.

– St. Gregory the Theologian, *Oration 6*

National Jr. ACRY Lenten Project

February 1, 2020

National Jr. ACRY Chapters and Diocesan Faithful,

During Great Lent we are called to increase our prayer, fasting and works of charity. Every year the National Jr. ACRY, the philanthropic organization of our diocese for youth 8-18, challenges its chapters to hold a fund raiser for the Lenten Mission Project. We welcome support from all of our diocesan faithful as well! I'm excited to announce that the new ZOE for Life!® Southern Tier Chapter will be the recipient of our Lenten Mission Project funds this year.

ZOE for Life!® Southern Tier is a Chapter of ZOE for Life!® serving the Southern Tier of New York State. The mission of ZOE for Life!® is to help pregnant women in distress who need confidential emotional and spiritual support to encourage them to choose life for their unborn child, to assist Orthodox Christians seeking to adopt, and to provide life-affirming resources. ZOE for Life!® Southern Tier is an Orthodox Christian-based group serving to provide confidential and non-discriminatory support--material, emotional and spiritual--at no cost to those needing help with a pregnancy. Such aid may include confidential referrals for spiritual guidance, professional counseling, free prenatal medical care, housing assistance, adoption, and other social services or material aid.

The Binghamton ACRY chapters are hosting this year's National ACRY Conventions over Labor Day Weekend and we hope to present the funds to a representative during the weekend. Plans are being made for the Junior delegation to do some hands- on work during the convention weekend to support this organization and experience their "Faith in Action". Please consider donating towards this worthwhile project this year!

Please make checks payable to the **National Jr. ACRY** and note that the donation is for the **Lenten Mission Project** in the memo line. Please mail donations, postmarked by May 1 5t, to **Katren Lavra 122 R. Pope Road Stroudsburg, Pa 18360**. Wishing you a blessed Lenten Season and thank you in advance for your support!

Yours in Orthodoxy,

Hannah M. Gdovin

Hannah Gdovin

National Jr. ACRY President

Camp Nazareth

Summer Job and Internship Opportunities

- Counselor
 - Science and Nature Camp Counselor
 - High/Low Ropes Course Facilitator
 - Maintenance Worker/Groundskeeper
- Kitchen Worker
- Lifeguard

To Apply:

See the Camp website – campnazareth.org – for applications OR
Call 724-662-4840 or email campnazareth@acrod.org for more information.

Applications are due **February 15**, 2020

House Blessings

Fr. Joseph blessed holy water for Theophany. Please contact him if you'd like to schedule a house blessing.

January Treasurer's Report

Glory to Jesus Christ! This month we received \$11,928 in weekly collections. We paid out \$11,458.25 in expenses. Thanks you all for your continued support! To God be the glory!

Herman Blaydoe, Treasurer

CAMP NAZARETH SUMMER CAMP 2020

The time for Summer Camp is Rapidly Approaching!!! The clock is ticking!!

REGISTER ONLINE STARTING MAR. 1, 2020!!!

Dates for the Summer Camping Program

Week 1: July 19-25, 2020

Johnstown, Pocono, Southern Tier, Youngstown and Chicago Deaneries

Week 2: July 26-August 1, 2020

Pittsburgh, Mid-Atlantic, Tri-State and Washington D.C. Deaneries

Week 3: August 2-August 8, 2020

New England, NY, NJ, Florida and Canada Deaneries

Science and Nature Camp: August 9-August 15, 2020

Register Online Starting March 1, 2020

Register at – *campnazareth.org*

From the Home Page, From the 2020 Summer Camp Icon, or From the Diocesan Summer Camp Tab found under the Summer Camp Tab and look for Camper Registration.

If you are Clergy or a Volunteer go to the 2020 Summer Camp Icon on the Home Page or the Diocesan Summer Camp Tab found under the Summer Camp Tab and look for the paper forms under Clergy/Volunteers.

\$20 Early Bird Discount Per Child!!!!

(one-time only, not per week)

Register & pay by May 15, 2020!!!!

Online Registration MUST be complete AND payment must be submitted by May 15 in order to qualify for the Early Bird Discount.

Registrations after June 15 will incur an additional \$20 late fee.

- ❑ When you register online please note that **you will still need to submit a paper copy of the Medical Examination Form (i.e. Camper Physical)** which must be filled out and signed by a licensed medical professional (licensed physician or physician's assistant). This form will be emailed to you after you complete the online registration process.
- ❑ **Payment by check, money order, or credit card is accepted.** Checks and Money Orders are to be made payable to *Camp Nazareth* and sent to *Camp Nazareth at 339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137.*

CAMP NAZARETH FAMILY CAMP

JUNE 5 – JUNE 7, 2020

**“GOD AS HEAD OF FAMILY AND
HOUSEHOLD”**

**“O LORD OUR GOD...FILL THEM WITH YOUR GRACE
THAT THEY MAY...KNOW YOU AS THE HEAD OF THEIR
FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD...”**

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

**KEEPING GOD AT THE CENTER OF DAILY FAMILY LIFE
SEEMS TO GET MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT THESE DAYS.**

**COME AND LEARN ABOUT WAYS TO KEEP GOD AS THE
HEAD OF YOUR FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD.**

ENJOY TIME AT CAMP AS A FAMILY. DEEPEN YOUR FAITH TOGETHER.

REGISTER ONLINE AT CAMPNAZARETH.ORG

**EMAIL CAMPNAZARETH@ACROD.ORG OR CALL 724-662-4840 FOR
MORE INFORMATION**



**CAMP NAZARETH
ANNUAL FAMILY DAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020**

FELLOWSHIP & FUN ALL DAY

**MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT, SWIMMING, CRAFT
ACTIVITIES, GAMES AND THE RAFFLE DRAWING**

10AM -- DIVINE LITURGY

LUNCH/PICNIC FOLLOWING LITURGY

**PLAN ON JOINING METROPOLITAN GREGORY AND OTHER DIOCESAN
FAITHFUL FOR AN ENJOYABLE DAY TOGETHER!**

LENTEN RETREAT APRIL 4, 2020

RETREAT WILL FOCUS ON HUMILITY IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY
LOOKING AT PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORIES RELATED TO
SELF-ESTEEM AND HOW THEY CAN BE INTERPRETED FROM AN
ORTHODOX PERSPECTIVE

Speakers: Fr. Anthony Perkins and Natalie Bilynsky



*St. Francis Center for Renewal
395 Bridle Path Road
Bethlehem, PA*

Retreat registration:

Adults \$45 (late fee \$15)

Clergy \$25 (late fee \$15)

Adolescents \$25 (late fee \$15)

Children (under 12) \$10

Registration due March 20, 2020

*Registration includes all meals, breakfast,
lunch and dinner.*

For more information contact:

Oleh or Natalie Bilynsky at

nsufler@aol.com call – 610-892-7315

LENTEN RETREAT APRIL 4, 2020 REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

\$45 for adults (ACROD prior to deadline)

\$25 for clergy (ACROD prior to deadline)

\$25 for adolescents (aged 13 to 18)

\$10 for children 7 to 12

Appropriate Registration fee is enclosed: Yes _____ No _____ *amount _____

Check made to: Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA

Return registration to: Oleh Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Rd. Media, PA 19063

Please submit registration by March 20, 2020. After this deadline a \$15 late fee is applied.

Pictures from the UOL Retreat can be used for publicity. Please indicate if you do not want pictures of you and/or your child used.

LENTEN RETREAT APRIL 4, 2020 REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

\$45 for adults (ACROD prior to deadline)

\$25 for clergy (ACROD prior to deadline)

\$25 for adolescents (aged 13 to 18)

\$10 for children 7 to 12

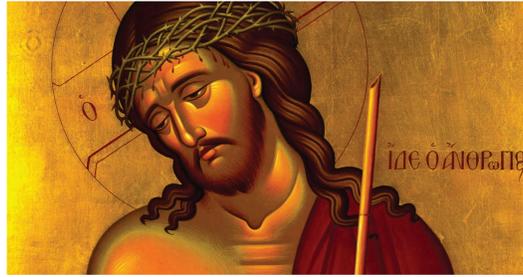
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NATIVITY OF OUR LORD ORTHODOX CHURCH

MEN'S RETREAT

Hosted by the Society of St. Maximus

LEADING YOUR FAMILY THROUGH LENT

Saturday February 29th

Speakers for the Event:

Father Daniel Vaskalis • Father Joseph Birthisel • Father Patrick Viscuso

Tentative Schedule:

12:30pm - 1:15pm.....Light Refreshments
1:15pm - 4:00pm.....Retreat Topics presented by our Guest Speakers
4:00pm - 4:40pm.....Open Q&A Panel with our Guest Speakers

We will finish with celebrating Vespers

The Men's Retreat is open to adult men in the Parish. A \$5 donation is suggested for attendance.
To register, please email Subdeacon Seamus at ruairi.murray@gmail.com

BYZANTINE MONASTICISM PAST AND PRESENT

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS:

Friday, February 21, 12:00-18:00

Archbishop Alexander (OCA)

Joel Kalvesmaki

Michael Petrin

Casey Knott

Tom Papademetriou

Metropolitan Tikhon (OCA)

Saturday, February 22, 9:00-18:00

Despoina Prassas

Robin Darling Young

Fr. Damaskinos of Xenophontos

Fr. Columba Stewart, OSB

Fr. Justin of Sinai

Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou

Fr. Chrysostom Koutloumousianos

Fr. Patrick Viscuso

Sister Vassa Larin

Metropolitan Savas (GOA)

February 21-22, 2020

The Pryzbyla Center

Rooms 321/323

To register, go to:

<https://>

[cua.irisregistration.com/Form/](https://cua.irisregistration.com/Form/BMPP2020)

[BMPP2020](https://cua.irisregistration.com/Form/BMPP2020)



Institute for the Study
of Eastern Christianity

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Cosponsored by
The School of Theology and Religious Studies
The Byzantine Student Union

YES, (Youth Equipped to Serve) is coming to Columbia, MD!

Join us for a wonderful opportunity to serve and love our most needy neighbors.



- Be guided thru an educational and formational experience of the Columbia, MD area, its people and its needs
- Learn how to approach people in need, with whom we are unfamiliar, and how to break down stereotypes
- Connect with organizations doing great work in your city
- Share fellowship and learning with other youth eager to serve

WHEN? Saturday, February 29th, 2020 from 9:30am – 7pm.
We will meet at the Orthodox Church of St. Matthew:
7271 Eden Brook Dr., Columbia, MD 21046.

WHO? 13 years old- College Students

COST? A registration gift of \$25 a person will cover all trip expenses, make it possible for the YES Program to prepare and execute the trip, and enable our service team to meet the needs of those we serve.

HOW DO I REGISTER? www.yesnorthamerica.org

ANY QUESTIONS? Please contact Katrina Bitar,
YES Program Director: kbitar@focusna.org

Social Team for February 16

Team 6 is up next week – Tucker, Blaydoe M., Wright RC. Thank you!

Diocese to Begin New Family Ministry - SPF50

Praying together and reading Scripture together are pillars of a Christ-centered Orthodox Christian family. While families may desire to have these activities in their home, they may not be sure how to start. SPF50 intends to help our families bridge that gap.



SPF stands for “Scripture, Prayer, Family” and is designed to equip families to read the Scriptures and pray together at home.

With the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory, the SPF50 team has produced the first installment of this ministry program which will be available beginning Sunday, February 23, 2020. Each issue will be available both in hard-copy and digital form. A section of the Diocesan website dedicated to SPF50 will also contain supplemental resources to help families get started and maintain participation.

Quality time with our Lord is hard to come by. Quality time with your family is hard to come by. SPF50 intends to help families have both. Be on the lookout for more information in the next 2 weeks!

Lenten Reading

As in years past, we will be reading a book during Lent for discussion after Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays. This year, we will be reading *Way of the Ascetics* by Tito Colliander. See Anna Connour if you’d like a copy.

The True Nature of Fasting

[This material is taken from the introduction to *The Lenten Triodion* published by St. Tikhon’s Seminary Press – ed.]

‘We waited, and at last our expectations were fulfilled’, writes the Serbian Bishop Nikolai of Ochrid, describing the Easter service at Jerusalem. ‘When the Patriarch sang “Christ is risen”, a heavy burden fell from our souls. We felt as if we also had been raised from the dead. All at once, from all around, the same cry resounded like the noise of many waters. “Christ is risen” sang the Greeks, the Russians, the Arabs, the Serbs, the Copts, the Armenians, the Ethiopians – one after another, each in his own tongue, in his own melody. . . . Coming out from the service at dawn, we began to regard everything in the light of the glory of Christ’s Resurrection, and all appeared different from what it had yesterday; everything

seemed better, more expressive, more glorious. Only in the light of the Resurrection does life receive meaning.’

This sense of resurrection joy, so vividly described by Bishop Nikolai, forms the foundation of all the worship of the Orthodox Church; it is the one and only basis for our Christian life and hope. Yet, in order for us to experience the full power of the Paschal rejoicing, each of us needs to pass through a time of preparation. ‘We waited,’ says Bishop Nikolai, ‘and at last our expectations were fulfilled.’ Without this waiting, without this expectant preparation, the deeper meaning of the Easter celebration will be lost.

So it is that before the festival of Easter there has developed a long preparatory season of repentance and fasting, extending in present Orthodox usage over ten weeks. First come twenty-two days (four successive Sundays) of preliminary observance; then the six weeks or forty days of the Great Fast of Lent; and finally Holy Week. Balancing the seven weeks of Lent and Holy Week, there follows after Easter a corresponding season of fifty days of thanksgiving, concluding with Pentecost.

Just as the children of Israel ate the ‘bread of affliction’ (Deut 16:3) in preparation for the Passover, so Christians prepare themselves for the celebration of the New Passover by observing a fast. But what is meant by this word ‘fast’? Here the utmost care is needed, so as to preserve a proper balance between the outward and the inward. On the outward level fasting involves physical abstinence from food and drink, and without such exterior abstinence a full and true fast cannot be kept; yet the rules about eating and drinking must never be treated as an end in themselves, for ascetic fasting has always an inward and unseen purpose. Man is a unity of body and soul, ‘a living creature fashioned from natures visible and invisible,’ in the words of the Triodion (from Vespers for Saturday of the Dead); and our ascetic fasting should therefore involve both these natures at once. The tendency to over-emphasize external rules about food in a legalistic way, and the opposite tendency to scorn these rules as outdated and unnecessary, are both alike to be deplored as a betrayal of true Orthodoxy. In both cases the proper balance between the outward and the inward has been impaired.

The primary aim of fasting is to make us *conscious of our dependence on God*. If practiced seriously, the Lenten abstinence from food – particularly in the opening days – involves a considerable measure of real hunger, and also a feeling of tiredness and physical exhaustion. The purpose of this is to lead us in turn to a sense of inward broken-ness and contrition; to bring us, that is, to the point where we appreciate the full force of Christ’s statement, ‘Without Me you can do nothing’ (John 15:5). If we always take our fill of food and drink, we easily grow

over-confident in our own abilities, acquiring a false sense of autonomy and self-sufficiency. The observance of a physical fast undermines this sinful complacency. Stripping from us the specious assurance of the Pharisee – who fasted, it is true, but not in the right spirit – Lenten abstinence gives us the saving self-dissatisfaction of the Publican (Luke 18:10-13). Such is the function of the hunger and the tiredness: to make us ‘poor in spirit,’ aware of our helplessness and of our dependence on God’s aid.

Yet it would be misleading to speak only of this element of weariness and hunger. Abstinence leads, not merely to this, but also to a sense of lightness, wakefulness, freedom and joy. Even if the fast proves debilitating at first, afterwards we find that it enables us to sleep less, to think more clearly, and to work more decisively. As many doctors acknowledge, periodic fasts contribute to bodily hygiene. While involving genuine self-denial, fasting does not seek to do violence to our body but rather to restore it to health and equilibrium. Most of us in the Western world habitually eat more than we need. Fasting liberates our body from the burden of excessive weight and makes it a willing partner in the task of prayer, alert and responsive to the voice of the Spirit.

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>

In Your Prayers – Please Remember... His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch BARTHOLOMEW, His Eminence Metropolitan GREGORY, Fr. Joseph & Family, Greek Orthodox Archbishop Paul Yazigi of Aleppo, Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim of Aleppo, His Grace Bishop Neofitos of Nyeri and Mt. Kenya, Fr. John & Pani Betty Jean Baranik, Presbytera Katie Baker and family, Dn. Steve Hall, Santiago Alzugaray, Jeffrey Carey, Tatyana and Slava Chumak & family, Xenia Chilkowich, Jon Church, Ramius Connour, Curtis Cooper, Luke Cooper, Tina Crull, Mary Diane David, Ron Dominiecki, Linda A. Georgiev, Heather Himler, John Homick, Cameron Houk, Helen Janowiak, John M. Janowiak, Tucker Karl and family, Robert & Pam Karpin, Andrew Kinn, Kopan family, Brian, Helen, and Luke Mahony, Valentina Makowelski, Susan Matula, Anna Meinhold, Dn. Henry Middleton, David & Kathryn Newman, Bobby Nutter & Family, Henry & Lisa Osborne, Westin Perry & Parents, John Reece, Mary Reed, Chris & Kaitlin Rixey, Jerry Von Ronne, Anne Rosario, James, Theodore and Christina Ristas, Samson Family, Sharon Sheptak, Alexander Shostko, Bernie Takabayashi & family, Dawn & Faith Ulmschneider, Lydia Vita, Christine, Marshall, Nathaniel, Dcn. Nectarios and Ia, the Syrian Christians displaced by war, Mother Virginia Marie and the Carmelite Nuns of Port Tobacco, and all those in need of our prayers. (Please advise Fr. Joseph of changes.)