



**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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Very Rev. Father Michael C. Kabel *Pastor & Dean*

OFFICE PHONE (740) 695-9533
Church Hall Phone (740) 695-9456

- E-MAIL: stnicholas777@yahoo.com
- WEB SITE: www.stnicholasbarton.org
- PARISH FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/St.NicholasBarton>
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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, MARCH 25, 2018 DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 AM
HAVING ENDURED THE PASSION FOR US,
O JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, HAVE MERCY ON US!

THE COMMEMORATION OF SAINT MARY OF EGYPT (5th Sunday of Great Lent): Antiphon “Bless the Lord, O my soul,” on p. 8. and the Beatitudes. Tropar for Tone 1 on p. 81. Tropar & Kondak of Saint Mary of Egypt and all remaining Propers can be found on pp. 185-186. The *Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great*, with its special melodies, is served on the Sundays of Great Lent.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 9:11-14. **GOSPEL:** Mark 10:32-45.

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

For the week of March 25, 2018:

- Sun., March 25:** (After Liturgy) **Panachida** in memory of +**Julia Repchak Zavatsky**. Requested by Carolyn & Family. Also in memory of +**Anna Timko**, newly departed.
- Wed., March 28:** (6:30 PM) **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**. *Please keep at least a 3-hour fast!*
- Fri., March 30:** (6:30 PM) **Moleben** to Saint Nectarios with anointing.

Sat., March 31: (9:00 AM) **Divine Liturgy** for *Lazarus Saturday*. Propers can be found on pp. 186-187.

6:00 PM: **Great Vespers** with Litija for the *Entrance of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem (PALM SUNDAY)*. Propers for Palm Sunday.

Palm Sunday, April 1:

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

9:45 AM: **PROCESSION** around the church carrying the blessed palm and willow branches. *Come early* to be in the procession!

10:00 AM: **Divine Liturgy** for the *Entrance of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem (PALM SUNDAY)*. Special Antiphons and all Propers can be found on pp. 188-192. The *Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom* is served on this day. There will be *Mirovanije* (festive anointing) and the *distribution of the blessed palm and willow branches* at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

No Confessions AFTER Liturgy.

NO Confessions BEFORE the First Bridegroom service.

6:00 PM: **First Bridegroom Service.**

Confessions AFTER the service.

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

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

THE RIGHT SIDE ALTAR LAMPS (Diakonikon) burn with prayers and best wishes for a *Happy Birthday* to **Cindy Beth Butterfield**. Requested by *Laney & Cindi Ross*.

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

TODAY'S SUNDAY BULLETIN is sponsored with prayers and best wishes for a *Happy Birthday* to **Cameron Reese**. With love from *Mom & Dad*.

THE PATRIARCHAL PENCE COLLECTION will be taken-up **TODAY**. Please use the envelope in your offering box to assist the work of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople.

THE LADIES ALTAR SOCIETY will meet **TODAY** after the Divine Services.

OUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP will meet *this coming* **Thursday, March 29** at **6:30 PM**.

PUSSY WILLOW BRANCHES. All pussy willow branches should be brought to the church this week, **no later** than **Saturday**. The palms and willows are blessed before the beginning of Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday. If you bring them in after this, you miss the blessing.

FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT. Instead of our bi-annual church cleaning, we are asking families to pick a cleaning task. A list of tasks can be found on the bulletin board. Please complete your chosen task **before next Sunday, Palm Sunday**.

LENTEN CONFESSIONS can be heard on **Saturday afternoons** from **5:00 til 5:45 PM**; and again **after Vespers**. Confessions can also be heard from **5:30 PM til 6:15 PM** **before & immediately after** most other evening Lenten services. Please don't wait til the last minute!

GRAVE WATCH. Please sign-up for at least a **one-hour shift** so we have continuous coverage at the Tomb of Our Lord from Good Friday evening through Resurrection Matins on Holy Saturday evening. The sign-up sheet is on the **bulletin board** in the vestibule. Sign-up today!

SPECIAL THANKS to **Dave Bartyzel** for upgrading the cleaning supply shelf in the back of church. Great job!
Many Years and God Bless!

ADDITIONAL EASTER FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the back of church. Names and donors will be published in the Easter bulletin. **Donation: \$15.00 per flower.** Please submit these envelopes by **next Sunday, April 1.**

SYMPATHY NOTE. We offer our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy to the family of **+Anna Timko**, who fell asleep in the Lord late on **Friday night, March 23.** The Funeral Service will be out of the ***Wilson Funeral Home*** in **Bridgeport** on **Tuesday, March 27 at 11:00 AM.** Viewing from 10:00 AM until the beginning of the service. Interment at our parish cemetery. ***"May her memory be eternal!"***

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

6 Christopher Greene * **15** Laney Ross * **16** Joni Turner * **20** Sandy Fox * **22** Joyce Snider * **22** Bryon Street * **23** Busaina Khalil * **24** Helen Koprak * **25** Annabea Bartyzel * **30** Michael Andronic.

HAPPY APRIL
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
25 Manuel & Pat Thomas.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP. It's time to remove all Christmas decorations from the graves of your loved ones at our parish cemetery. Please do not discard these items over the hillside. Either take them home, or dispose of them in the trash can provided for this purpose in the back of the cemetery. ***Thank you for your cooperation!***

PARISH DIRECTORIES are still available in the back of church.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Lenten Retreat in Homestead (3/17) — 3

Sunday Divine Liturgy (3/18) — 72

**Lenten Mission Vespers
in Steubenville (3/18) — 16**

Presanctified Liturgy (3/21) — 15

Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete (3/22) — 9

Akathist Hymn with Icon (Steubenville) (3/23) — 16

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2018

Please mark your calendars now!

Saturday, April 7 — Easter Egg Hunt.

Sunday, April 8 — PASCHA.

Saturday, April 28 — First Confession Day.

Sunday, May 13 — Mother's Day.

Thursday, May 17 — Ascension.

Sunday, May 27 — Pentecost Sunday.

Sunday, May 27 — Memorial Day Weekend and the Blessing of Graves.

Friday, June 1 thru Sunday, June 3 — *Family Camp* at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA.

Sunday, June 3 — *Family Day* Celebration at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA.

Sunday, June 17 — Father's Day.

Sunday, July 29 to Saturday, August 4 — Tri-State Deanery Summer Camp Week.

What is proper "behavior" in our Church?

Here are some gentle reminders about Church etiquette.

This guide is meant for personal reflection, not as a means of judging others. Keep in mind that there are different traditions among the Orthodox faithful. In Orthodoxy, there is a wider acceptance of individualized expressions of piety, rather than a sense that people are watching you and getting offended if you do it wrong. Variations in behavior with pious intent should not be confused with disrespectful behavior. If you are uncertain about something, ask Father. We come to church to pray and worship God above all else, and that should be our focus.

ENTERING THE CHURCH

When entering an Orthodox church, reverently make the sign of the Cross and pray, "O God, forgive me a sinner and have mercy on me." Continue through the narthex quietly and reverently. First, light your candle. Candles represent the light of Christ and the flame of the Holy Spirit. You may then venerate the icons before you. The Orthodox Church teaches that it is proper to venerate, not worship, icons. The acceptable way to do this is to kiss either the hands or feet of the saint depicted in the icon, or the scroll, the Gospel book, or the hand cross a saint is holding. Please be aware that it is improper to kiss the face of an icon.



THE IMPORTANCE OF PUNCTUALITY

The Orthodox Divine Liturgy begins when the priest intones, "Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." We need to arrive early enough to receive this blessing. Arriving late causes a distraction for others who are praying. If an occasional problem occurs, and you have to come in late, enter the church reverently and quietly. Try not to interrupt the Liturgy by your entrance. Remain stationary in the narthex if:

- The Priest is facing the congregation
- The Priest is censuring the congregation
- During the Small Entrance (Priest carries out the Holy Gospel)
- During the Great Entrance (Priest carries out the Holy Gifts)
- During the readings of the Epistle and the Gospel
- During the Consecration of the Gifts
- During the Creed & the Lord's Prayer
- During the sermon

The best way to avoid this situation is to arrive on time. Coming before the Divine Liturgy begins (10 minutes early) will ensure that you will be settled in plenty of time to pray without distraction.

STANDING IN CHURCH

It is the custom of some Orthodox Christians to stand throughout the Divine Liturgy, as well as during other services. While it is perfectly acceptable to stand in church, you may choose to sit or kneel during the appropriate times as indicated in our Diocesan Pew Book. Please remember to always stand at these times:

- When the Liturgy begins and the priest gives the blessing
- During the Small and Great Entrances
- When the priest is censing the icons and congregation
- During the Gospel reading
- For Holy Communion
- At the final Blessing

Sometimes the priest will motion to stand, sit or kneel. Respectfully follow the request. Whenever a hierarch is visiting the parish, out of respect follow his example, and stand and sit when he does.

HOLY COMMUNION

Orthodox Christians are invited to approach and receive Holy Communion as often as they are properly prepared to do so. Proper preparation includes a recent Confession and fasting from midnight on. Please allow godparents and parents to bring newly-baptized children first. All others who are prepared to receive may then approach the holy chalice. The cloth held by the priest and the altar servers is there to prevent any particles of the gifts from falling onto the floor. It is not to be used as a napkin.

PIOUS CUSTOMS AND BEHAVIORS

In the Orthodox Church, there are many pious customs and traditions that are an important part of our worship.

- **Crossing oneself** - To a certain extent, when to cross oneself is according to personal piety, and not an issue of dogma. It is always appropriate to cross oneself at the mention of the Holy Trinity — Father, Son and Holy Spirit; whenever entering or leaving the church; at the beginning of the Liturgy; when passing in front of the altar; when venerating an icon, the Gospel, or the Cross; and at times for personal petitions. It is not necessary to cross oneself when the priest is giving a blessing or censing the congregation. Instead, one should bow to receive the blessing. One should not cross themselves near the chalice, before or after receiving Holy Communion, as it is possible to hit the chalice with your hand and cause an accident.
- **Bowing** - Orthodox Christians bow when the Theotokos and Christ are petitioned. They also bow to the priest at his blessing, when the congregation is being censed, and when the priest asks forgiveness before the Great Entrance and again before Holy Communion. It is traditional for the Orthodox faithful to bow and cross themselves when they enter and leave the church, and when they pray before the icons.
- **Kneeling** - There are times when kneeling is a pious practice in the Liturgy, the most notable being at the Consecration of the Holy Gifts. You may kneel, prostrate or stand with head bowed – as is indicated in our Diocesan Pew Book. However, kneeling and prostration is prohibited during the Paschal season, from Pascha to Pentecost, in honor of the Resurrection.

CHILDREN – SOME COMMON SENSE INSTRUCTIONS

Christ said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14). It is possible for young children to remain in church throughout a service, if they are taught to be quiet and respectful. For those who are too small to be quiet throughout the whole Liturgy, please remove them from the nave of the church briefly if they become fussy or out of control. If a baby or toddler needs a snack, please clean-up any leftover pieces. However, the child should not have anything in his/her mouth when he/she comes to Holy Communion. It is not acceptable at any time to chew gum in church (at any age). It is never appropriate to allow a child to run down the aisles, play loudly or carry toys that make noise. Eventually, children will be able to spend longer times in the Liturgy. The more they attend, the easier this will become. Children should definitely be in church. We should all feel at home in our Father's House. But remember that the reason for coming to church is to pray and to worship. Plan to have your children use the restroom and get a drink before church begins. Don't allow children to come and go continually. The restroom is not a lounge or playroom. Parents should accompany young children to the restroom. Remember that the restrooms in the back of the church were originally intended for the use of the elderly and physically challenged. As a general rule, physically able parishioners should use the restroom facilities located downstairs. Consider bringing your children into the church at a time when there is no service going on to “practice” church behavior. Teach them that they are visiting God's very special house, and they will need to have very special manners there. You will be surprised how quickly they can learn.

RESPECTFUL BEHAVIORS

Remember that you are in church to worship God, the Holy Trinity. The priest says, “In the fear of God, with faith and with love, come forward.” Let this be the way you approach your worship.

- **Refrain from socializing during the Liturgy** - Save your greetings and conversations for the fellowship hall. We are in the Liturgy to greet God with our prayers and worship, not to distract others.
- **Mobile devices** – The use of mobile phones is never proper during the Liturgy. If you have a professional reason to carry one for emergencies, keep it on mute, not vibrate. Sit near the exit, so that leaving for an emergency will not be a distraction to others. Otherwise, turn your phone off before entering the church.
- **Refrain from reserving seats** - Allow others to sit where they want to as they come into the church, and especially make room for visitors so they will feel welcome. First come, first served.
- **We do not clap in church**
- **Lipstick** - Do not wear lipstick while taking Holy Communion, or when kissing the Cross, an icon, the priest's or bishop's hand, or any sacred object. It is best not to wear it at all in the church.
- **Leg crossing** - One should not be too casual in the Divine Liturgy. People from some Orthodox traditions are offended by the crossing of legs. In our North American culture, while there are no real taboos, we tend to cross our legs to get comfortable when sitting. Crossing one's legs in church is not permitted, not because it is "wrong," but rather because it is too casual and relaxed for being in church. Remember, sitting in church is a concession, not the normative way of prayer. Keeping your feet on the ground also enables you to remain attentive and to stand when necessary.
- **Church Dress** – Respectful attire is also an important part of attending Orthodox services. You do not need to be dressed "fancy," but respectfully and modestly, so as to present yourself to God. Preferably, women should wear dresses or skirts and men should wear dress pants or suits. No shorts, short skirts or revealing clothing, please. Some women have the pious tradition of covering their heads. Men and boys must remove their hats when entering the church.
- **Photography in the Church** - Whenever photography will take place during a service at an Orthodox

church (including special events such as weddings and baptisms), please make sure to instruct photographers that pictures and videos may not be taken from behind the priest or standing in front of the altar.

HANDLING THE HOLY BREAD (ANTIDORON)

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, it is customary to receive a piece of holy bread or antidoron - the bread that was left over after Holy Communion was prepared. While antidoron is not Holy Communion, it is blessed bread; and as such, it should be eaten carefully, so that crumbs do not fall. Both adults and children should always remember to treat and consume the antidoron with respect.

LEAVING BEFORE DISMISSAL

Leaving church before the dismissal deprives us of a blessing. Worship has a beginning: "Blessed is the Kingdom...", and an end: "Let us depart in peace..." To leave immediately after Communion is to treat the church with disrespect. Remember that Judas left early too.

GREETING A PRIEST OR BISHOP

It is not appropriate to merely shake the hand of a bishop or priest. In the Orthodox tradition in this country, the faithful usually take the bishop's or priest's right hand as though to shake it, but instead kiss it. We kiss/venerate his hand to honor the fact that his hand holds the Holy Gifts. If the Priest is holding the Gospel, Cross or other Holy Object, kiss/venerate the object first and then his hand.

Excerpted and edited from:

- "A Guide to Church Etiquette" - The Department of Marriage and Parish Family Ministry of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America in conjunction with Conciliar Media Ministries.
- "Church Etiquette or Some Things You Should Know While in Church," Fr, David Barr - The Word, January 1997
- Some additions from Father Michael C. Kabel