



Welcome!

Whether you're searching for a new church home or just visiting, we're glad you're with us today. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr Thomas, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the offering basket as your offering today. Please join us downstairs following the Divine Liturgy. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

This Week

Saturday, November 11

5:00 pm – Great Vespers

Sunday, November 12

9:15 am – Adult Education Class

10:00 am - Divine Liturgy

Church School after Communion

Mark your calendar: Our Annual St Nicholas Day Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 3. Tickets for sale beginning today!

To our Visitors: Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Mat. Janet Mihalick, *Choir Director*

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

Nov 5, 2017

Announcements

➤ **New "Virtual" Catechism class** coming to St Nicholas parish beginning **Tuesday, November 7!** "What We Believe" presents the basic doctrines and practices of the Orthodox Christian Faith in an engaging online interactive format. This series will be divided into **six live one-hour sessions** led by Fr Thomas. Don't let your busy schedule keep you from learning the about the Orthodox Christian Faith. If you're interested, you'll need a computer (or phone) with an internet connection (Wi-Fi preferred) and Skype installed and working. A video camera is recommended but not required. *A mic is required.* See Fr Thomas for details and on how to join!



➤ **"Orthodox Perspectives on the Reformation: A Symposium"** will be held at our parish on **Saturday, December 16** beginning with Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am. Five respected and knowledgeable speakers will present on topics relevant to Orthodox views of Protestant themes. We'll be hosting people from all over Pittsburgh and we'll need help organizing the breakfast, lunch, a bookstore, and the talk venue. Please see Fr Thomas for more information or Heidi Lewis if you can help. More information coming!

➤ **2017 Parish Christmas Card:** It's time again for our annual Christmas Card Project which will run thru December 3, 2017. For a \$10 donation, you/your family's name will be listed on the Christmas card which will be sent in early December to parishioners and friends of St. Nicholas. Proceeds of the project will benefit our 2018 FOCUS ministry of serving meals. See Marsha Wasilko or Jan Widel to sign-up today! Thank you!

➤ Our next **hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, November 29. See Bob Madalinsky for details.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be Hospitalized:* Jack Saban (VA). *Home:* Jan Widel, Donya Yewisiak, Sandi Tirpak, Leslie Wokutch, Georgiann Robes. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* George Shaytar (Greentree Manor), Olga Bednar, Stephanie Kowal, John Shaytar, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **Vigil Lights from Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From John & Olga Kowalcheck** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of Donya Yewisiak and Jan Widel. **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for the departed servant, Barbara Naiser; for the health of Donya Yewisiak. **From Raisa Burd** for the departed servants, Agrippina, Yury, Yevgeniy Fikhman, Alexandra, Stepan, Vassili, Vladimir, Anna, Denis, Vitali, Ivan, Lena, Nastya; for the health of Marina, Yevgeniy, Roman, Polina, Liza, Vladimir and all our relatives & friends. **From Nancy Shaytar** for the health of (husband) George, (son) George on his birthday and Donya Yewisiak. **From Doris Wasilko** for the health of Donya Yewisiak and Jan Widel. **From Marina Petrov** for the health of Yevgeniy, Galina, Anastasia and Agrippina; for the health of Elizabeth, Veronika, Raisa, Yevgeniy, Polina, Roman and Vladimir. **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Valentina, Marina, Bruce and Alina; for the health of Veronika, Tatyana, Kristofer, Adick and Sergei.
➤ **Prayers for our couples** who are receiving the sacrament of marriage: Aaron and Alexandra, Lazarus (Sonny) and Ludmilla (Heather).

Welcome

➤ **Welcome to Fr Joshua Burnett** from St George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral in Wichita, KS along with family and friends who are here today for the wedding of Alexandra Humphrey and Aaron Summers. May God grant you all a blessed day and safe travels!

St Nicholas Church will strive to glorify God through Orthodox Christian worship, sincere love and care for one another, and service to those in need around us.

Festival News

Our apologies for inadvertently omitting the some worker and donor names in last week's bulletin. May God richly bless you all! Thank you!

Basket Auction Committee

Marsha Wasilko
Michelle Bittner
Mat. Nancy Mell
Doris Wasilko
Larry Polny
Jan Widel
Nancy Pravlochak
Suzy Polny

Basket Donors

Mat. Nancy & Greg Mell
Nancy & George Shaytar
Margie Speth
Nancy & John Pravlochak
Mat. Ashley & Dn. Luke Loboda
Missy & Erik Wenger
Helen Billak
Jan & Chuck Widel
Tom & Mary Hoffmann
Mat. Martha Nakajima
Larry Polny
Sandi Tirpak
Marsha Wasilko
Doris Wasilko
Lois & Paul Fuller
Suzy Polny
Donna Kovacs
Julianna Hollowood
Michelle Bittner
Donya Yewisiak
Susan Wagner
Gretchen Bergman
Olive Garden
Sam's Club
Ricci Sausage
Mancinis Bakery
Walmart
T's Country Candles

Beverages

Dn Luke
Rick Porter
Nathan Graff
Brendan Matthers
Aaron Pease
Patrick Lewis
Bob Brewster

Advertising

Fr Tom Soroka
Jessica Baker

Decorating

Marsha Wasilko

Baked Goods

Sandi Tirpak

Hymns and Readings for Today

Nov 5, 2017

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, Co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin.

For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh

to endure death

and to raise the dead,

by His glorious resurrection

Troparion of St Nicholas Tone 4

You appeared to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility, and a teacher of abstinence. Because of your lowliness heaven was opened to you!

Because of your poverty riches were granted to you!

O holy Bishop Nicholas,

pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 5

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator and destroying the sting of death.

Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man

and we all cry to Thee, O Lord, save us!

Kontakion of the Theotokos Tone 6

Steadfast protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the creator, do not despise the cry of us sinners, but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith.

Hasten to hear our intercessions and to intercede for us, O Theotokos

For you always protect those who honor you.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 12) Tone 5

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

Epistle of the Sunday (Galatians 6:11-18)

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

And as many as walk according to this rule peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 8:41-56)

And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying.

But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me."

Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Communion Hymns (Ps 148:1)

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

New Website!

➤ Our new mobile-enabled website and new internet address is now live!

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org went live recently. Visit us on the web and look for future enhancements!

This Week in Church School

(As a feature of our new Church School program, review notes are being provided to the parents of our Church School students so that they can review what they learned in Church School today and reinforce the lesson at home at a level appropriate for your student.)

Today's lesson: The Wedding at Cana

Questions to ask/review:

- What was Christ's first Miracle? (Turning the water into Wine – John 2)
- What is a miracle? How do we know a miracle has occurred? (an even that cannot be explained by nature)

- Discuss Orthodox weddings. What is the purpose of a wedding? (God unites a man and a woman in marriage)
- Why are weddings special and significant?
- What are the parts of an Orthodox wedding service? (Betrothal, Crowning, Epistle, Gospel, Procession, Cup of wine, Removal of crowns)
- What is the meaning of the procession, also known as the "Dance of Isaiah"? (together husband and wife take up their Cross and follow Christ, they are called to sacrifice themselves for each other and the Church)
- Discuss the dialogue between the Theotokos, Christ, and the servants. What can we learn from it?

Suggested activities at home:

- Read the story together before bed (John 2:1-11).
- Show your child pictures of your wedding. Review the parts of the service and their meaning.
- Sing the Wedding Processional together: "Rejoice, O Isaiah! The Virgin is with child, and shall bear a son Emmanuel, both God and Man, and Orient is His Name, whom magnifying we call, the Virgin blessed. / O Holy Martyrs, who fought the good fight and have received your crowns, entreat ye the Lord, That He will have mercy on our souls. / Glory to Thee, O Christ our God, the Apostles boast, the Martyrs Joy, whose preaching was the Consubstantial Trinity."
- Make grape juice with your child from water and frozen concentrate; explain how Jesus made the water turn into wine without a can of juice.
- Prayer: Our Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for blessing the wedding at Cana, and bless the wedding and marriage of my parents. Amen.

(continued Angels) **AUTHORITIES** (1 Pet 3:22, Col 1:16) have authority over the devil. They protect people from demonic temptations, and prevent demons from harming people as they would wish. They also uphold ascetics and guard them, helping people in the struggle with evil thoughts.

The Lowest Hierarchy includes the three Ranks: Principalities, Archangels, and Angels:

PRINIPALITIES (Col 1:16) have command over the lower angels, instructing them in the fulfilling of God's commands. They watch over the world and protect lands, nations and peoples. Principalities instruct people to render proper honor to those in authority, as befits their station. They teach those in authority to use their position, not for personal glory and gain, but to honor God, and to spread word of Him, for the benefit of those under them.

ARCHANGELS (1 Thess 4:16) are messengers of great and wondrous tidings. They reveal prophecies and the mysteries of the faith. They enlighten people to know and understand the will of

God, they spread faith in God among the people, illuminating their minds with the light of the Holy Gospel.

ANGELS (1 Pet 3:22) are in the lowest rank of the heavenly hierarchy, and closest to people. They reveal the lesser mysteries of God and His intentions, guiding people to virtuous and holy life. They support those who remain steadfast, and they raise up the fallen. They never abandon us and they are always prepared to help us, if we desire it.

All the Ranks of the Heavenly Powers are called angels, although each has its own name and position by virtue of their service. The Lord reveals His will to the highest ranks of the angels, and they in turn inform the others.

Over all the Nine Ranks, the Lord appointed the Holy Archangel Michael (his name in Hebrew means "who is like unto God"), the faithful servitor

of God, as Chief Commander. He cast down from Heaven the arrogantly proud Lucifer and the other fallen spirits when they rebelled against God. Michael summoned the ranks of angels and cried out, "Let us attend! Let us stand aright before our Creator and do not consider doing what is displeasing unto God!"

According to Church Tradition, and in the church services to the Archangel Michael, he participated in many other Old Testament events.

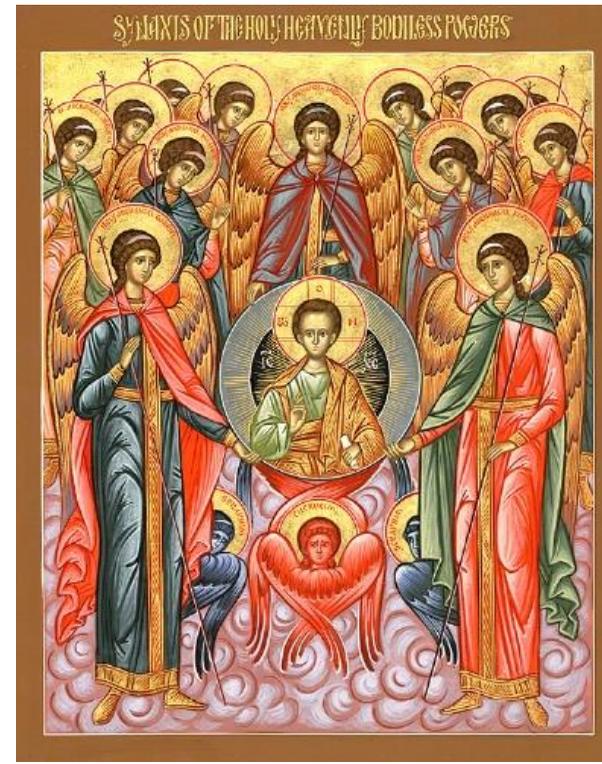
During the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt he went before them in the form of a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Through him the power of the Lord was made manifest, annihilating the Egyptians and Pharaoh who were in pursuit of the Israelites. The Archangel Michael defended Israel in all its misfortunes.

He appeared to Joshua Son of Navi and revealed the will of the Lord at the taking of Jericho (Josh 5:13-16). The power of the great Chief Commander of God was manifest in the annihilation of the 185 thousand soldiers of the Assyrian emperor Sennacherib (4/2 Kings 19:35); also in the smiting of the impious leader Heliodorus (2 Macc. 3: 24-26); and in the protection of the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misail, thrown into the fiery furnace for their refusal to worship an idol (Dan 3:22-25).

Through the will of God, the Chief Commander Michael transported the Prophet Habbakuk (December 2) from Judea to Babylon, to give food to Daniel in the lions' den (Dan. 14:33-37).

The Archangel Michael disputed with the devil over the body of the holy Prophet Moses (Jude 1:9).

The holy Archangel Michael showed his power when he miraculously saved a young man, cast into the sea by robbers with a stone about his neck on the shores of Mt Athos. This story is found in the Athonite Paterikon, and in the Life of Saint Neophytus of Docheiariou (November 9).



The Synaxis of the Chief of the Heavenly Hosts, Archangel Michael and the Other Heavenly Bodiless Powers: Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jehudiel, Barachiel, and Jeremiel was established at the beginning of the fourth century at the Council of Laodicea, which met several years before the First Ecumenical Council. The 35th Canon of the Council of Laodicea condemned and denounced as heretical the worship of angels as gods and rulers of the world, but affirmed their proper veneration.

A Feastday was established in November, the ninth month after March (with which the year began in ancient times) since there are Nine Ranks of Angels. The eighth day of the month was chosen for the Synaxis of all the Bodiless Powers of Heaven since the Day of the Dread Last Judgment is called the Eighth Day by the holy Fathers. After the end of this age (characterized by its seven days of Creation) will come the Eighth Day, and then "the

Son of Man shall come in His Glory and all the holy Angels with Him" (Mt. 25:31).

The Angelic Ranks are divided into three Hierarchies: highest, middle, and lowest.

The Highest Hierarchy includes: the Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones.

The six-winged SERAPHIM (Flaming, Fiery) (Is 6:12) stand closest of all to the Most Holy Trinity. They blaze with love for God and kindle such love in others.

The many-eyed CHERUBIM (outpouring of wisdom, enlightenment) (Gen 3:24) stand before the Lord after the Seraphim. They are radiant with the light of knowledge of God, and knowledge of the mysteries of God. Through them wisdom is poured forth, and people's minds are enlightened so they may know God and behold His glory.

The THRONES (Col 1:16) stand after the Cherubim, mysteriously and incomprehensibly bearing God through the grace given them for their service. They are ministers of God's justice, giving to tribunals, kings, etc. the capacity for righteous judgment.

The Middle Angelic Hierarchy consists of three Ranks: Dominions, Powers, and Authorities:

DOMINIONS (Col 1:16) hold dominion over the angels subject to them. They instruct the earthly authorities, established by God, to rule wisely, and to govern their lands well. The Dominions teach us to subdue sinful impulses, to subject the flesh to the spirit, to master our will, and to conquer temptation.

POWERS (1 Pet 3:22) fulfill the will of God without hesitation. They work great miracles and give the grace of wonderworking and clairvoyance to saints pleasing to God. The Powers assist people in fulfilling obediences. They also encourage them to be patient, and give them spiritual strength and fortitude. *(continued on back page)*

The Archdiocese of Pittsburgh Orthodox Youth
Youth Retreat

Why Go To Church?

**Grades
K – 6th**

FREE! Lunch is provided!

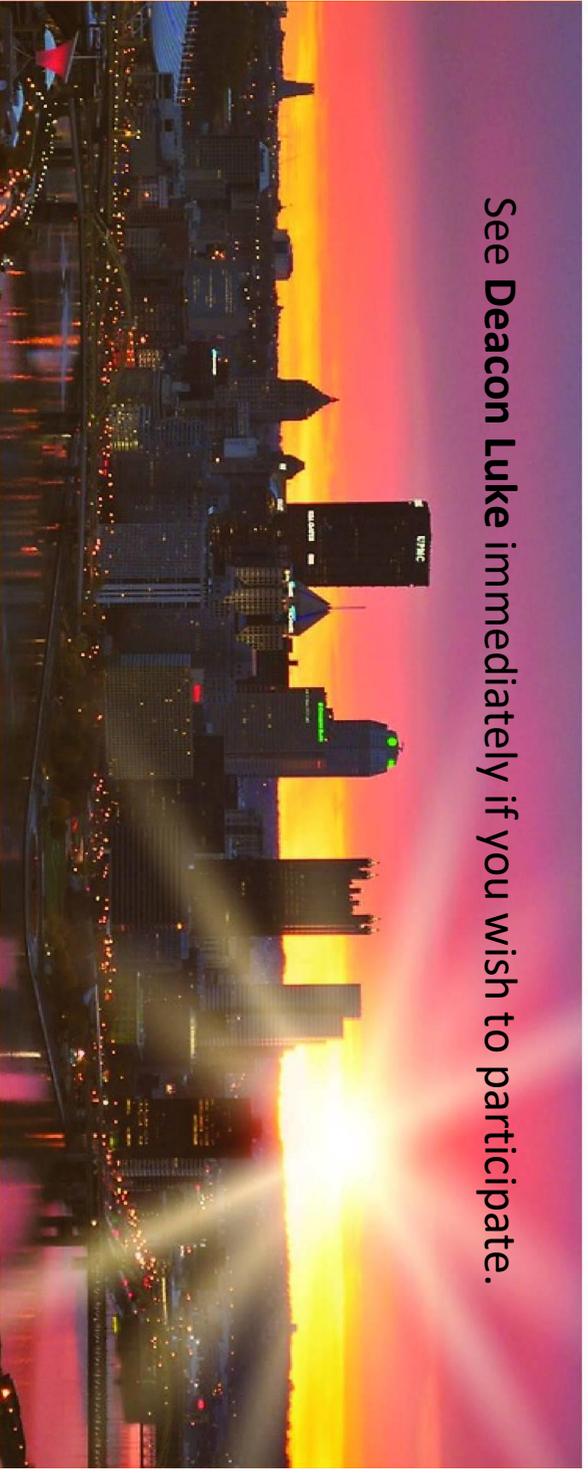
When:
Saturday, November 11th
11 am – 2 pm

Where:
St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral
8290 Thompson Run Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237



2017 Light on the Hill Celebration
Benefiting FOCUS Pittsburgh

See **Deacon Luke** immediately if you wish to participate.



Thursday November 16, 2017. 6:30 pm • Senator John Heinz History Center
Keynote speaker - Lynne Hayes-Freeland
Heavy Appetizers & Hors D'oeuvres and Dessert
Business Attire • Donations requested during the event.

To RSVP go to: focus-Pittsburgh.com/gala2017