



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

Tuesday, November 14

7:00 pm – Virtual Catechism (via Skype)

Wednesday, November 15

****Nativity Fast Begins****

6:30 pm – Daily Vespers

7:00 pm – Bible Study (Acts of the Apostles)

Saturday, November 18

NO GREAT VESPERS

Sunday, November 19

9:15 am – Adult Education Class

10:00 am - Divine Liturgy

Church School after Communion

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 12, 2017

Announcements

➤ **“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 November hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, Nov 29. Italian Hoagies and wraps are \$6.00 each and the Turkey hoagies and wraps are \$6.50 each. Orders can be placed by calling 412-974-9912, faxing 724-926-4052 or emailing rjmbmsam1@verizon.net. Orders are due on Sunday evening, Nov 26. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm Nov 29 at the church hall

➤ **Our Annual St Nicholas Day Dinner** will be held on Sunday, December 3. **Advance Ticket Purchase is required.** Prices are \$12 for adults, \$5 for ages 5-12, and ages 4 and under are free. No tickets will be available the day of the dinner. See Sandi Tirpak for tickets!

Prayers

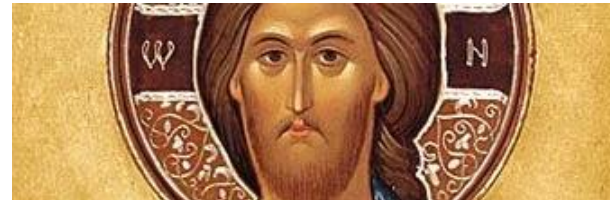
➤ **Ill and infirm: Known to be Hospitalized:** Jack Saban (VA). *Home:* Jan Widel, Donya Yewisiak, Sandi Tirpak, Georgiann Robes, George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Olga Bednar, Stephanie Kowal, John Shaytar, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **Vigil Lights from 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 and Alexandra Anne Kowalcheck. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family; May God bless all our Veterans! **From Georgiann Robes** for the departed servant, Beverly Porvaznik. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha; for Steve & Lynn Yurkowski on their Wedding Anniversary. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants (parents), Charles & Mary; for the health of Doris, Marsha & Chuck. **Candle lit:** for the health of Andre, Roman, Luba & Slava.

Thank You

➤ **Sandi Tirpak** would like to thank everyone for their prayerful support during her recent surgery. Also those who brought food, gifts, cards, phone calls, and even your thoughts. May our Lord Bless all of you.

➤ Thank you to our November bulletin donors: **Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** given in blessed memory of Deacon Joseph Mell.



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.

Prayer Ropes

A prayer rope (Russian: чётки - *chotki*) is a loop made up of complex woven knots formed in a cross pattern, usually out of wool or silk. Prayer ropes are part of the practice of Orthodox Christians and are employed by monastics and lay persons to count the number of times one has prayed the Jesus Prayer ("Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner"). The typical prayer rope has thirty three (or more) knots, representing the thirty three years of Christ's life.

The prayer rope is commonly made out of wool, symbolizing the flock of Christ. The traditional color of the rope is black (symbolizing mourning for one's sins).

When praying, the Christian normally holds the prayer rope in the left hand, either held with the thumb and forefinger of the right hand when praying, or leaving the right hand free to make the Sign of the Cross. When not in use, the prayer rope is traditionally wrapped around the left wrist so that it continues to remind one to pray without ceasing. If this is impractical, it may be placed in the (left) pocket, but should not be hung around the neck or suspended from the belt.

Orthodoxy regards the prayer rope as the sword of the Spirit, because prayer which is heartfelt and inspired by the grace of the Holy Spirit is a weapon that defeats the Devil.

The invention of the prayer rope is attributed to Saint Pachomius in the fourth century as an aid for monks to accomplish a consistent number of prayers and prostrations, in accordance with Saint Paul's injunction to "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).



Hymns and Readings for Today

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee!

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 6

When Christ God the Giver of Life raised all the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of All, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

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 27:9) Tone 6

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Epistle of the Sunday (Eph 2:4-10)

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised

us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 10:25-37)

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"

So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?"

And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Communion Hymns (Ps 148:1)

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

Nativity Fast

On **Wednesday, November 15** we begin, together, the Nativity Fast, sometimes called the St Philip's Fast, or sometimes called by the Western term, Advent. The Nativity Fast is a 40 day preparation to prepare our bodies, minds, and hearts for the Christmas feast.



We're encouraged to do the following things with God's help and through our effort:

- Eat less and give that money to the poor.
- Increase our prayer, scripture reading, silence and church attendance.
- Make a sincere confession and receive communion as often as possible.
- Fast from meat, (fish with backbones on weekdays), dairy, olive oil and wine (fish with backbones, wine, and olive oil are permitted every Saturday and Sunday before Dec 20, and on Nov 16 & 30, Dec 4, 6, 12 & 20.)

The fasting guidelines are maximal and are meant to be a goal combined with prayer and charity. Everyone should do what they can to strengthen their spiritual life, but not fast to discouragement.

A Prayer for Enemies: Lord Jesus Christ, Who didst command us to love our enemies, and those who defame and injure us, and to pray for them and forgive them; Who Thyself didst pray for Thine enemies, who crucified Thee: grant us, we pray, the spirit of Christian reconciliation and meekness, that we may heartily forgive every injury and be reconciled with our enemies. Grant us to overcome the malevolence and offences of people with Christian meekness and true love of our neighbor. We further beseech Thee, O Lord, to grant to our enemies true peace and forgiveness of sins; and do not allow them to leave this life without true faith and sincere conversion. And help us repay evil with goodness, and to remain safe from the temptations of the devil and from all the perils which threaten us. in the form of visible and invisible enemies. Amen.

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: Calling of the Fishermen

Questions to ask/review:

- When did Jesus first meet Andrew? (he was a follower of John the Baptist)
- Who was Andrew's brother? (Simon, later named Peter by Jesus)
- Who were the sons of Zebedee, also brothers? (James and John)
- What do you think Peter said/thought when he saw all the fish in his net?
- What is a disciple? (a person who follows the teachings of a teacher)
- How do you think the disciples felt leaving their homes and families?
- Was/is it easy being a disciple?
- What is the difference between the words disciple/apostle? (Disciples are students/followers, Apostles are people sent forth spread the Gospel) –
- Which disciple never became an apostle? (Judas Iscariot)
- How many of the 12 disciples can you name? (Peter, Andrew, James, John, Matthew, Philip, Bartholomew, Simon the Zealot, James (the Less), (Doubting) Thomas, Jude, Judas)

Suggested activities at home:

- Read the story(ies) together before bed (Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 1:16-20, Luke 5:1-11).
- Study the icons of the disciples in church and discuss what we can learn from the icons.
- With older children, work on memorizing the names of the 12. Draw a poster of symbols that give clues about the life of each disciple.
- Prayer: Jesus, may I answer you when you call me as the disciples did. Amen.