



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.. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

This Week

Tonight

7:00 pm – Forgiveness Vespers

Monday, February 19 – Clean Monday/Lent Begins

7:00 pm Canon of St Andrew of Crete

Tuesday, February 20

7:00 pm Canon of St Andrew of Crete

Wednesday, February 21

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Lenten Fellowship Meal

Thursday, February 22

7:00 pm Canon of St Andrew of Crete

Friday, February 23

7:00 pm Akathist to Our Sweetest Lord Jesus

Saturday, February 24

4:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, February 25

10:00 am Divine Liturgy
4:30 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox – Mt Lebanon
123 Gilkeson Rd, Pittsburgh PA 15228
The Pan Orthodox Choir of Pittsburgh
under the direction of Fr Thomas
will sing the responses

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

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org Feb 18, 2018

Announcements

➤ **The 2018 Lenten Schedule** is now published. Please give prayerful consideration to your increased participation in the beautiful and meaningful services of the Lenten season. Let us journey together to the Holy Pascha! **Great Lent begins on Monday, February 19 and Pascha is on Sunday April 8.** (Western Easter is on Sunday, April 1. **Begin the Lenten journey with your church family at Forgiveness Vespers on tonight at 7:00 pm.** *If you've never attended, it's an experience you'll never forget.*

**Note: The schedule is subject to change. Please consult the online calendar on our website for the latest information. Any changes will also be communicated via email and an updated version of the calendar issued.

➤ **Our annual Blini** (Russian crepe) dinner will be held on today after the Divine Liturgy. Tickets will be sold at the door. Adults \$8 / Children (5-13) \$4. You won't want to miss this!

➤ **Church School Students** are asked to bring an icon from home for next week's procession commemorating the Triumph of Orthodoxy. Icons will be provided for those who did not bring on.

➤ **Our February hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, February 28. 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@verizion.net. Orders are due on Sunday evening, February 25. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm February 28 at the church hall.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be Hospitalized* (none). *Home:* Georgiann Robes. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Olga Bednar, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary and (brother) Raymond. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary, (brother) Ray and John Shaytar. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servants, John Shaytar, Emma Sipes, and Kathy Cvetkovich; for the health of our family. **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Slava, Galina, Valentina, Bruce and Marina; for the health of Daina, Sergei, Tatyana, Veronika, Adick and Svetlana. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servant, (brother) Nicholas; for the health of my family; special intentions. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, (brother) John. **From Natalie Aitken Tooeh** for the departed servant, Lee Aitken on the 3rd anniversary of his death. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servant, John Shaytar.

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.*

Thank You

➤ to Bob and Mary Beth Madalinsky for sponsoring the bulletin for the month of February. May God richly bless them!

On Forgiveness

St Cyril of Jerusalem

'And forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors.' For we have many sins. For we offend both in word and in thought, and very many things we do worthy of condemnation; and 'if we say that we have no sin' (1 John 1.8), we lie, as John says. [...] The offenses committed against us are slight and trivial, and easily settled; but those which we have committed against God are great, and need such mercy as is His only. Take heed, therefore, lest for the slight and trivial sins against you, you shut out for yourself forgiveness from God for your very grievous sins. (Catechetical Lectures, 23.16)

For God seeks nothing else from us, save a good purpose. Say not, How are my sins blotted out? I tell thee, By willing, by believing. What can be shorter than this? But if, while thy lips declare thee willing, thy heart be silent, He knoweth the heart, who judgeth thee. Cease from this day from every evil deed. Let not thy tongue speak unseemly words, let thine eye abstain from sin, and from roving after things unprofitable. (Procatechesis)

St John Cassian (the Roman)

Hence, in whatever state a person is, he sometimes finds himself making pure and intense prayers. For even from that first and lowest sort, which has to do with recalling the future judgment, the one who is still subject to the punishment of terror and the fear of judgment is occasionally so struck with compunction that he is filled with no less joy of spirit from the richness of his supplication than the one who, examining the kindnesses of God and going over them in the purity of his heart, dissolves into unspeakable gladness and delight. For, according to the words of the Lord, the one who realizes that more has been forgiven him begins to love more. (The Conferences)

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.

Hymns and Readings for Today

February 18, 2018

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

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 4

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master,//
He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion of the Triodion Tone 6

O Master, Teacher of Wisdom, Bestower of virtue,
Who teaches the thoughtless and protects the poor:
Strengthen and enlighten my heart.
O Word of the Father,
Let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee:
Have mercy on me, a transgressor,
O Merciful Lord.

Prokeimenon Tone 8 (Ps 76)

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

Epistle of the Sunday (Rom 13:11-14:4)

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor

of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Gospel of the Sunday (Mt 6:14-21)

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

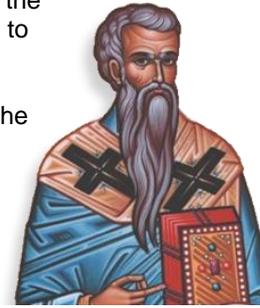
“Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Beginning of Lent

We know indeed, dearly-beloved, your devotion to be so warm that in the fasting, which is the forerunner of the Lord's Easter, many of you will have forestalled our exhortations. But because the right practice of

abstinence is needful not only to the mortification of the flesh but also to the purification of the mind, we desire your observance to be so complete that, as you cut down the pleasures that belong to the lusts of the flesh, so you should banish the errors that proceed from the imaginations of the heart. For he whose heart is polluted with no misbelief prepares himself with true and reasonable purification for the Paschal Feast, in which all the mysteries of our religion meet together. For, as the Apostle says, that all that is not of faith is sin Romans 14:23, the fasting of those will be unprofitable and vain, whom the father of lying deceives with his delusions, and who are not fed by Christ's true flesh. As then we must with the whole heart obey the Divine commands and sound doctrine, so we must use all foresight in abstaining from wicked imaginations. For the mind then only keeps holy and spiritual fast when it rejects the food of error and the poison of falsehood, which our crafty and wily foe plies us with more treacherously now, when by the very return of the venerable Festival, the whole church generally is admonished to understand the mysteries of its salvation. For he is the true confessor and worshipper of Christ's resurrection, who is not confused about His passion, nor deceived about His bodily nativity. For some are so ashamed of the Gospel of the Cross of Christ, as to impudently nullify the punishment which He underwent for the world's redemption, and have denied the very nature of true flesh in the Lord, not understanding how the impassible and unchangeable Deity of God's Word could have so far condescended for man's salvation, as by His power not to lose His own properties, and in His mercy to take on Him ours. And so in Christ, there is a twofold form but one person, and the Son of God, who is at the same time Son of Man, is one Lord, accepting the condition of a slave by the design of loving-kindness, not by the law of necessity, because by His power He became humble, by His power passible, by His power mortal; that for the destruction of the tyranny of sin and death, the weak nature in Him might be capable of punishment, and the strong nature not lose anything of its glory...



Relying, therefore, dearly-beloved, on so great a promise, be heavenly not only in hope, but also in conduct. And though our minds must at all times be

set on holiness of mind and body, yet now during these 40 days of fasting bestir yourselves to yet more active works of piety, not only in the distribution of alms, which are very effectual in attesting reform, but also in forgiving offenses, and in being merciful to those accused of wrongdoing, that the condition which God has laid down between Himself and us may not be against us when we pray. For when we say, in accordance with the Lord's teaching, Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors Matthew 6:12, we ought with the whole heart to carry out what we say. For then only will what we ask in the next clause come to pass, that we be not led into temptation and freed from all evils : through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen. (*St Leo the Great*)

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: Forgiveness/The Paralytic

Questions to ask/review:

- Where was Jesus? Where were the friends with the man?
- How did they get into the house?
- What did Jesus do? How did he heal the man? (healed his soul by forgiving his sins)
- How do you think the man felt? His friends?
- Why do you think his friends brought him to Jesus?
- How can we be like these friends to our own friends and family?
- How did Jesus show Himself to be God in this healing? Who forgives sins? (God alone)

Suggested activities at home:

- Read the scripture together: Luke 5: 17-26, Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12.
- Prepare for Great Lent with your child. Discuss the fast, what plans your family has to observe it. Prepare them to attend Lenten services as a family.
- Attend Forgiveness Vespers with your child.
- Using dolls or other toy figures, role play the paralytics' friends heroically bringing him into various buildings.
- Prayer: Lord, Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Amen.