



SAINT NICHOLAS
ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

4:30 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Mt Lebanon

Monday, February 26

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

Tuesday, February 27

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

Wednesday, February 28

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

Thursday, March 1

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

Friday, March 2

7:00 pm Panikhida for All the Departed

Saturday, March 3

9:30 am Memorial Divine Liturgy
4:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, March 4

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

"All truths of Orthodoxy emerge from the one Truth and converge on one Truth, infinite and eternal. That Truth is the God-man Christ. If you experience any truth of Orthodoxy to its limit, you will inevitably discover that its kernel is the God-man Christ. In fact, all truths of Orthodoxy are nothing other than different aspects of the one Truth - the God-man Jesus Christ." -St Justin Popovich

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

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org Feb 25, 2018

Announcements

➤ **The Lenten season has begun.** The Church prescribes that we refrain from eating meat and dairy products throughout the entirety of Lent and Holy Week. While it is understood that some find the prescription challenging to attain (for this is indeed the very point – that we indulge too much in fleshly desires, and the challenge of the fast shows this!), **everyone is strongly encouraged to do something, and not to ignore the fast completely, which is both unchristian and unorthodox.** Be convinced to keep a fasting rule that is **challenging, but not discouraging.** Most importantly, as the Fathers remind us, we are also to “fast from sin as we fast from food.” May God strengthen you in your Lenten journey to enter the Lord's Pascha.

➤ **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@verizon.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.

International Orthodox Christian Charities Syrian Relief Dinner and Prayer Service at St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland on Sunday, March 4, 2018: IOCC Syrian Relief Dinner at 4:00 p.m. Contact Mat. Ashley Loboda for tickets!

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 servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and victims of Florida school shooting; for the health of family. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha. **From Doris Wasilko** for the health of Fr. Igor and the Wasilko family. **From John Kowalcheck & Olga Cozza** for the departed servant, Ann Marie Kowalcheck; for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov and Elizabeth Grace Kowalcheck on her birthday. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, (brother) John Shaytar; for the health of Maryanne Lugin.



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!

Triumph of Orthodoxy

(Excerpts from a sermon by Fr Alexander Schememann)
Do all the triumphs of Orthodoxy, all the victories, belong to the past? Looking at the present today, we sometimes feel that our only consolation is to remember the past. Then Orthodoxy was glorious, then the Orthodox Church was powerful, then it dominated. But what about the present? My dear friends, if the triumph of Orthodoxy belongs to the past only, if there is nothing else for us to do but commemorate, to repeat to ourselves how glorious was the past, then Orthodoxy is dead. But we are here to witness to the fact that Orthodoxy not only is not dead but also that it is once more and forever celebrating its own triumph — the triumph of Orthodoxy. We don't have to fight heresies among ourselves, but we have other things that once more challenge our Orthodox faith...

The past, the present, the future: At the beginning, one lonely man on the cross — the complete defeat. And if at that time we had been there with all our human calculations, we probably would have said: “That's the end. Nothing else will happen.” The twelve left Him. There was no one, no one to hope. The world was in darkness. Everything seemed finished. And you know what happened three days later. Three days later He appeared. He appeared to His disciples, and their hearts were burning within them because they knew that He was the risen Lord. And since then, in every generation, there have been people with burning hearts, people who have felt that this victory of Christ had to be carried again and again into this world, to be proclaimed in order to win new human souls and to be the transforming force in history.

Today this responsibility belongs to us. We feel that we are weak. We feel that we are limited, we are divided, we are still separated in so many groups, we have so many obstacles to overcome. But today, on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we close our eyes for a second and we rejoice in that unity which is already here: (continued below)

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

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.
granting the world great mercy!"

Troparion of the Feast *Tone 2*

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One,
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ
our God.
Of Thy good will Thou was pleased to ascend the
cross in the flesh
and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the
enemy.
Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:
Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,
for Thou didst come to save the world.

Kontakion of the Triodion *Tone 8*

No one could describe the Word of the Father;
but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos, He
accepted to be described,
and restored the fallen image to its former state by
uniting it to divine beauty.
We confess and proclaim our salvation in words
and images.

Prokeimenon *Tone 4 (Song of the Three Youths)*

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers and
praised and glorified is Thy name forever!

Epistle of the Sunday (*Heb 11:24-26, 32-12:2a*)

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to
be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing
rather to suffer affliction with the people of God
than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,
esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches
than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the
reward.

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail
me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and

Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the
prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms,
worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped
the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire,
escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness
were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned
to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received
their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance,
that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still
others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes,
and of chains and imprisonment. They were
stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were
slain with the sword. They wandered about in
sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted,
tormented— of whom the world was not worthy.
They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens
and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony
through faith, did not receive the promise, God
having provided something better for us, that they
should not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so
great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every
weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us,
and let us run with endurance the race that is set
before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and
finisher of our faith...

Gospel of the Sunday (*Jn 1:43-51*)

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee,
and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me."
Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew
and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him,
"We have found Him of whom Moses in the law,
and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth,
the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him,
"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip
said to him, "Come and see."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said
of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no
deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know

me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before
Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree,
I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him,
"Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King
of Israel!"

Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to
you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe?
You will see greater things than these." And He
said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter
you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God
ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Communion Hymn (*Ps 148, 32*)

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in
the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!
Praise befits the just

Triumph of Orthodoxy – Schememann (*cont*)

We are already in a triumph, and may God help us
keep that triumph in our hearts, so that we never give
up hope in that future event in the history of orthodoxy
when Orthodoxy will become the victory which
eternally overcomes all the obstacles, because that
victory is the victory of Christ Himself.

As we approach the most important moment of the
Eucharist, the priest says, "Let us love one another,
that with one mind we may confess...." What is the
condition of the real triumph of Orthodoxy? What is
the way leading to the real, the final, the ultimate
victory of our faith? The answer comes from the
Gospel. The answer comes from Christ Himself and
from the whole tradition of Orthodoxy. It is love. Let us
love one another, that with one mind we may confess .
. . . confess our faith, our Orthodoxy. Let us, from now
on, feel responsible for each other. Let us understand
that even if we are divided in small parishes, in small
dioceses, we first of all belong to one another. We
belong together, to Christ, to His Body, to the Church.
Let us feel responsible for each other, and let us love
one another. Let us put above everything else the
interests of Orthodoxy in this country. Let us
understand that each one of us today has to be the
apostle of Orthodoxy in a country which is not yet
Orthodox, in a society which is asking us: "What do
you believe?" "What is your faith?" And let us, above
everything else, keep the memory, keep the
experience, keep the taste of that unity which we are
anticipating tonight...

We have the promise of Christ, that the gates of hell
will never prevail against the Church. We have the
promise of Christ that if we have faith, all things are
possible. We have the promise of the Holy Spirit, that
He will fill all that which is weak, that He will help us at
the moment when we need help. In other words, we
have all the possibilities, we have everything that we
need, and therefore the victory is ours. It is not a
human victory which can be defined in terms of
money, of human success, of human achievements.
And that victory of Christ in us, of the one who for us
was crucified and rose again from the dead, that
victory will be the victory of His Church.

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: Miracles and Healings of Christ **Questions to ask/review:**

- What kinds of problems did Jesus heal?
- What kinds of people did Jesus heal?
- Did He heal the same way each time? Why may He have healed some differently?
- Did Jesus have to touch someone to heal them? (no, the centurion's servant was far away when healed)
- Can miraculous healing occur today? Why do we believe it can/does?
- What is the sacrament of Holy Unction?
- Why do people get sick? Why doesn't Jesus heal everyone? (the world is fallen and sinful, God uses suffering for good when possible)
- How can we, the Church, help those who are sick?

Suggested activities at home:

- Remember an ill friend or relative in your prayers this week.
- Light a candle in church for this person.
- Visit someone who is shut-in, ill, or in a nursing home; take something special (card, cookies, flowers) which you and your child have made.
- Pray each day for someone who is sick: O Lord Almighty, the Healer of souls and bodies, do thou now visit in thy Mercy your servant _____, who is ill, and get him up from his bed and cure him of his illness. Amen.
- Prayer: Dear Jesus, for the sick and the suffering, for captives and their salvation, Lord have mercy. Amen.