



Welcome!

Whether you are searching for a new church home or just visiting, we are 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!

Schedule This Week

Sunday, November 26

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Tuesday, November 28

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, November 30

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, December 2

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, December 3

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

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

Deacon John Skowron, Attached

Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

November 26, 2023

Announcements

➤ **LAST CALL! Annual Parish Christmas Card: Deadline is TODAY.** Please see Marsha Wasilko or Jan Widel. **We also have a limited quantity of boxed Orthodox Christmas cards available.**

➤ Looking Ahead

Patronal Feast of St Nicholas of Myra

Tuesday, December 5 7:00 pm Festal Vigil

Wednesday, December 6 9:30 am Festal Liturgy

Fr Alexander Rentel, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America will be with us

➤ Everyone is cordially invited to our **St Nicholas Day Dinner on December 10** (free of charge) after the Divine Liturgy. It is a day for us to come together to give thanks for the year behind us and reflect on the years ahead. **Additionally, we are looking for helpers to prepare some of the food on Saturday, December 9 at 3:00 pm.** Please see Tom Hoffman or Clayton Harris for more details.

➤ You're warmly invited to hear Dr Edith M. Humphrey talk about C.S. Lewis as the next speaker in the Light from the Church on the Hill lecture series at **St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Canonsburg, PA.** Her talk on "Discovering the Mystery of the Atonement in the Stories of C.S. Lewis" will be on **Tuesday, December 12.** Vespers that evening is at 6 pm; afterwards there will be some refreshments, followed by **her presentation at about 7 pm.**

➤ All women of the parish are invited to a **St Nick's Women Holiday Party** on Friday, December 15 at 6:00 pm (come anytime) at the home of Karlie Lewis in Fox Chapel. Contact Karlie for more info!

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized (none); Home:* John Mahalchak (son), Donya Yewisiak. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka.
➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and newly departed, Carole Lupka; for the health of family and Donya Yewisiak. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, Aunt Mary Hollenbach, Carol Kowalcheck, and Carole Lupka; for the health of Suzy Polny and Donya Yewisiak. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, Carole Lupka and Didi Dyczko; for the health of Donya, Paul Fuller, and Suzy Polny. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, Grandfather, Theodore Dyczko; for the health of Donya. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the departed servant, Carole Lupka; for the health of Elaine and Scott & Hamilton families. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servant, Carole Lupka. From **Chuck & Jan Widel** for the health of Donya. From **Nancy Shaytar & George M. Shaytar** for the departed servant, George; for the health of Donya, Suzy, Bob, and Barbara. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the newly departed servant, godfather, George, and Aunt Martha; in memory of Michael, Duchin, and Betty; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and Richard; for special intentions, peace, and birthdays. From **John & Olga** for the departed servants, Carol Ann Kowalcheck and Anatoly Vilkov; for the health of Galina Vilkova. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Rob, Dillon, Polina, Galina, Slava, Valentina, Luby, Andrei, and Diana; for the health of Tony, Beth, Christopher, Thomas, Tatyana, Adrianna, Tatiana, Daniel, Veronika, and Olga. From **John Mahalchak** for the health of friends and family; for John Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Mary, Daniel, and Mark.

Thank You

➤ to our **November donors Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** (all categories Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Altar Candles \$25, Communion Wine \$40, Incense \$10) in memory of Deacon Joseph Mell

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: St. Paul's First and Second Letter to Timothy

Verse (younger classes): II Timothy 2:10- "Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus..."

Questions to ask/review:

- Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd. What does that mean?
- What dangers do we, His sheep, face? How does He protect us?
- Give examples from the Scriptures of God saving someone from danger.
- How can we "run" to our shepherd when we need help?
- How do our bishop and priest act as shepherds?

Verse (older classes): II Timothy 1:5- "I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also."

Questions to ask/review:

- These epistles are called "pastoral". What does that mean?
- Who was Timothy? What was Paul's relationship with him?
- Why is family important? Why should we love our family?
- What is your role in your family? How can you serve God through your family life?
- When your family faces struggles, how can you help?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Sing the song "I just want to be a sheep." (lyrics and music can be found easily on the internet)
- Share your family tree and family history with your child..

Prayer: Jesus, our Good Shepherd, help us follow you to your Kingdom. Amen. OR Lord, bless our family and strengthen our love. Amen.

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 Sunday, November 26

Tone 8 Troparion (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!

Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 4 Troparion (St Nicholas)

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.

Tone 1 Troparion (Ven. Alypius)

Thou wast a pillar of patient endurance, having imitated the forefathers, O Venerable One:

Job in suffering and Joseph in temptations.

Thou didst live like the Bodiless Ones while yet in the flesh, Alypius, our father.//

Beseech Christ God that our souls may be saved!

Tone 8 Kontakion (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.

Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,//

and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Tone 8 Kontakion (Ven. Alypius)

The Church glorifies and praises thee today, O Alypius, as a perfect example of virtue and the boast of ascetics.//

Through thy prayers, grant remission of sins to all who venerate thy life and thy struggles!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 Kontakion of the Theotokos

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.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)

Epistle of the Sunday (Ephesians 4:1-6)

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 13: 10-17)

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.” And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, “There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.”

The Lord then answered him and said, “Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?” And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

“Trials are of two kinds. Either affliction will test our souls as gold is tried in a furnace, and make trial of us through patience, or the very prosperity of our lives will oftentimes, for many, be itself an occasion of trial and temptation. For it is equally difficult to keep the soul upright and undefeated in the midst of afflictions, as to keep oneself from insolence and pride in prosperity.”
St. Basil the Great – “I Will Pull Down My Barns” (The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers)

On Patience

“When patience greatly increases in our soul, it is a sign that we have secretly received the grace of consolation. The power of patience is stronger than the joyful thoughts that descend into the heart.”
St. Isaac the Syrian – “Ascetical Homilies” (Homily Forty-Eight)

“...It is patience that both commends us to God, and saves us for God. It is that same patience which tempers anger, bridles the tongue, governs the mind, guards peace, rules discipline, breaks the onslaught of

lust, suppresses the violence of pride, extinguishes the fire of dissension, restrains the power of the wealthy, renews the endurance of the poor in bearing their lot, guards the blessed integrity of virgins, the difficult chastity of widows, and the indivisible love of husbands and wives. It makes men humble in prosperity, brave in adversity, meek in the face of injuries and insults. It teaches us to pardon our offenders quickly; if you yourself should offend, it teaches you to ask pardon often and with perseverance. It vanquishes temptations, sustains persecutions, endures sufferings and martyrdoms to the end. It is this patience which strongly fortifies the foundations of our faith. It is this patience which sublimely promotes the growth of hope. It directs our action, so that we can keep to the way of Christ while we make progress because of his forbearance. It ensures our perseverance as sons of God while we imitate the patience of the Father.”

St. Cyprian of Carthage – “The Good of Patience”

“...In proportion to your humility you are given patience in your woes; and in proportion to your patience the burden of your afflictions is made lighter and you will find consolation; in proportion to your consolation, your love of God increases; and in proportion to your love, your joy in the Holy Spirit is magnified. Once men have truly become His sons, our tenderly compassionate Father does not take away their temptations from them when it is His pleasure to 'make for them a way to escape' (1 Cor. 10:13), but instead He gives His sons patience in their trials. All these good things are given into the hand of their patience for the perfecting of their souls.”
St. Isaac the Syrian – “Ascetical Homilies” (Homily Forty-Two)

“Ask with tears, seek with obedience, knock with patience. For thus he who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”
St. John Climacus – “The Ladder of Divine Ascent” (Step 28)

“Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience.”
St. John Climacus – “The Ladder of Divine Ascent” (Step 5)