



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, February 4

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Tuesday, February 6

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, February 8

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, February 10

No Vigil/Vespers on Saturday

Sunday, February 11

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.

Let us see also how a devil's mouth is made; that we may never frame that. How then is it made? By curses, by insults, by envy, by perjury. For when anyone speaks his words, he takes his tongue. What kind of excuse then shall we have; or rather, what manner of punishment shall we not undergo; when this our tongue, wherewith we are allowed to taste of the Lord's flesh, when we overlook, speaking the devil's words? (*Chrysos*)

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, Rector

Deacon Luke Loboda, Attached

Deacon John Skowron, Attached

Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Thirty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

February 4, 2024

Announcements

➤ There will be **no services** at our church this coming **Saturday, February 10.**

➤ As we begin 2024, our parish will be entering into the next phase of our **dome replacement project. We ask you to prayerfully consider giving specifically to these enhancement projects, above and beyond your regular giving.** These projects will certainly require our sacrificial giving in order to have a suitable place of worship now and for years into the future. We hope that you will consider contributing a substantial gift during the next year to help defray the cost of the replacement of the domes. May God bless you!

➤ During our monthly Social Night on **February 24 beginning at 6:00 pm**, we'll have a **Talent Show**, with emcee Fred Zelesnik: From the host: "Let us display our talent that God gave us. If you can sing, dance, or play an instrument (etc), please sign up. Thanks!"

Looking ahead:

Sunday, February 18 – Zacchaeus Sunday

Week of February 25 – Fast Free (Publican/Ph)

Sunday, March 10 – Meatfare Sunday

Sunday, March 17 – Cheesefare Sunday

Monday, March 18 – Great Lent Begins

Sunday, March 25 – Sun of Orthodoxy/Annunciation

Sunday, March 31 – Western Easter

Sunday, May 5 – Holy Pascha

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized* (none); *Home:* John Mahalchak (son). William Warnak, Donya Yewisiak. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Nancy Shaytar (Greentree), Michael Soroka.

➤ From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family, Donya Yewisiak and Nancy Shaytar. From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of Nancy Shaytar. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha, and Nancy Shaytar. From **Marsha Wasilko** for special thanks. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the newly departed Uncle Jack, James, Mary, Doris, and Betty; in memory of Baba Helen, parents, and brother; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for special intentions, peace, and birthdays—especially, sister, Christine, and Godchild, Mikayla. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova and for the health and salvation of our family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine, The Scott family, Elizabeth Hamilton, and Chuck Widel. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Bruce, Marina, Daina, Polina, Slava, Liba, Galina, and Robert; for the health of Veronica, Valentina, Daniel, Tatyana, Roma, Nina, Beth, Tatiana, Tomas, and Kristofer.

Thank you

➤ to our **February donors:** Kristie and Christoph Mertz (Altar Candles \$25) for the health of daughter, Katarina, on her birthday.

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: St John's Three Letters
Verse (younger classes): I John 4:16- "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

Questions to ask/review:

- How the Church is like a tree?
- Who is the trunk and root of the tree?
- How did Jesus show he loved us?
- What happens if a branch is torn off the tree?
- How can you show God's love to others? This week?

Verse (older classes): I John 1:1- "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life".

Questions to ask/review:

- Where have we "met" Apostle John in the Gospels?
- What is the basis of other religions such as Islam and Buddhism?
- How is our faith unique from these other faiths? (belief in a person, not teachings or ideas)
- Who witnesses to the Church the truth about the person of Jesus Christ?
- How do we know their witness is true and reliable?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Discuss and implement your plan to show God's love to others this week.
- Sing "A New Commandment" with your family at prayer time (or anytime!).
- Hand write a witness of Christ from the perspective of the Apostle John.

Prayer: Lord, give me the strength to love others as you have loved me. OR Jesus, thank you for showing me the truth about You.

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, February 4

Tone 2 Troparion (Resurrection)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Tone 1 Troparion (Feast)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness,
^Christ our God,
enlightening those who sat in darkness.
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,
thou didst accept in thine arms the ^Redeemer
of our souls,//
Who grants us the Resurrection!

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 8 Troparion (Ven. Isidore)

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Father,
for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ.
By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away;
but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal.//
Therefore thy spirit, venerable Isidore, rejoices with the angels.

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

Tone 2 Kontakion (Resurrection)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee,//
and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 1 Kontakion (Feast)

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb
and didst bless Simeon's hands, ^O Christ God.
Now Thou hast come and saved us through love.
Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians,//
O only Lover of Man!

Tone 2 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (*Ps. 117:14*)

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. (*Lk. 1:46-47*)

Epistle of the Sunday (Colossians 3: 12-16)

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns

and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 25:14-30)

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

“So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’

“But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at

my coming I would have received back my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Tone 3 Hymn to the Theotokos (Feast)

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians, protect, preserve, and save those who hope in thee!

In the shadow and letter of the Law, let us the faithful discern a figure: every male [child] that opens the womb is holy to God. Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of the Father Who has no beginning,// the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*) I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. (*Ps. 115:4*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

When therefore your tongue is as Christ's

tongue, and your mouth has become the mouth of the Father, and you are a temple of the Holy Spirit, then what kind of honor could be equal to this? For not even if your mouth were made of gold, no nor even of precious stones, would it shine like as now, when lit up with the ornament of meekness. For what is more lovely than a mouth that knows not how to insult, but is used to bless and give good words? But if you cannot bear to bless him that curses you, hold your peace, and accomplish but this for the time; and proceeding in order, and striving as you ought, you will attain to that other point also, and will acquire such a mouth, as we have spoken of. – *St John Chrysostom*