



## 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, March 24

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

4:30 pm PO Vespers (Holy Trinity GO N. Hills)

### Monday, March 25: Annunciation

9:30 am Vespers Divine Liturgy

### Tuesday, March 26

9:00 am Lenten Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

### Wednesday, March 27

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Lenten Fellowship Meal following Liturgy

### Thursday, March 28

9:00 am Lenten Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

### Friday, March 29

7:00 pm Panikhida for All the Departed

### Saturday, March 30

4:00 pm Community Food Pantry

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, April 1

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, Rector  
Deacon Luke Loboda, Attached  
Deacon John Skowron, Attached  
Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

### Sunday of Orthodoxy

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

March 24, 2024

## Announcements

➤ The **Pan-Orthodox Vespers** will be held today at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in the North Hills beginning at 4:30 pm. The Pan-Orthodox Choir under the direction of Fr Thomas will sing the responses. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

➤ You are invited to join the **Lenten Prayer Partners program** between the youth (3rd grade and above) and adults in our parish. The goal is to create a structured opportunity for youth to have fellowship with adult members of our parish. Each youth will be paired with an adult to share weekly prayer requests and answer simple get-to-know-you questions. This is not a large time commitment and enriches our church community! If you are interested in participating, please contact Dn. Luke or Mat. Ashley ([ashley.loboda@gmail.com](mailto:ashley.loboda@gmail.com), #412-715-2163).

➤ **We are pleased to announce that an anonymous donor has pledged \$25,000 as a matching donation challenge to kick off the dome restoration fund.** This particular matching challenge will end on Pascha.

We prayerfully ask that you consider giving a generous donation to help meet this matching challenge by Pascha (May 5, 2024).

While we do not have the exact cost for the front three domes, our estimate is \$350,000-400,000. **Our goal is to raise at least \$150,000 this year.**

➤ **Church School Parents!** Our students have received a coin box to support global missions through OCMC. Please encourage your child to participate and return by Pascha. Thanks!

## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized* (none); *Home:* John Mahalchak (son). William Warnak, Nancy Shaytar, 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 servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, Serge Daniels, David Wasilko, and Aunt Julia Falick. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilкова and Elena Olesya Mayorova on her birthday. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, Serge Daniels, nephew David Wasilko, and Aunt Julia Falick. From **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Blaha** for the departed servants, (parents) parents, brother, Serge, Uncle John, and Priscilla; for the health of siblings, family, friends, & serving soldiers; special intention for Mark & Jennifer; special intention and peace. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, Aunt Julia Falick, nephew David Wasilko, and Serge Daniels (3/17/23). From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton, Elizabeth Hamilton, and Victoria Scott (birthday 3/21). From **the John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Gregory, Cindy, Mary, Sarah, Ivy, Scarlet, and Kayla Elizabeth. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Slava, Galina, Valentina, Bruce, Diana, Luba; for the health of Tatyana, Veronika, Daniel, Joe, Boby, Tomas, and Kristofer. From **Irene Kulchock** for the departed servants, George Kosak, Stephen Pravlochak, and Bridget Kulchock.

## Thank you

➤ to our **March donors:** **Charles Wasilko** (Altar Candles \$25) in thanksgiving on his birthday. John Mahalchak Family (Incense \$10) for the health of family and friends.

## This Week in Church School

**Today's lesson:** Eucharist

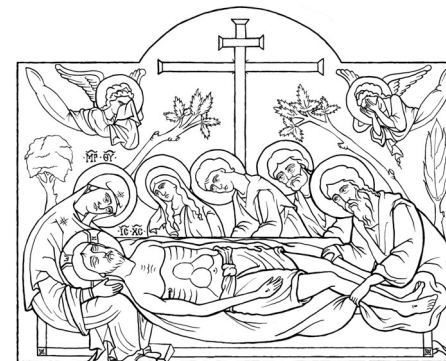
### Questions to ask/review:

- What does the word Eucharist mean?
- Why do we celebrate the Eucharist?
- Why are bread and wine used?
- Do they truly become His body and blood or only a symbol?
- How do they become His body and blood?
- How should we prepare to receive the Eucharist?
- What can happen if they are taken unworthily?

### Suggested Activities at home:

- Read, discuss, and compare St. Basil's and St. John's Anaphora prayers.
- As a family, pray some communion preparatory prayers together before liturgy.

**Prayer:** Lord, bless us with the miracle of Your Body and Blood, this week and every week.



**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.**

**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, March 24

## **Tone 1 Troparion** (*Resurrection*)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,  
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:

“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Thy Kingdom!//

Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

## **Tone 2 Troparion** (*Sunday of Orthodoxy*)

We verenate Thy most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.

Of Thine own will Thou wast 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,// by coming to save the world.”

*(Icon Procession takes place)*

## **Tone 4 Troparion** (*Forefeast*)

Today is the prelude of joy for the universe! Let us anticipate the feast and celebrate with exultation:

Gabriel is on his way to announce the glad tidings to the Virgin;  
he is ready to cry out in fear and wonder://  
“Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee!”

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

## **Tone 8 Kontakion** (*Sunday of Orthodoxy*)

No one could describe the Word of the Father;

but when He took flesh from thee, 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.

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

## **Tone 8 Kontakion** (*Forefeast*)

Thou art the beginning of salvation for all of us on earth, Virgin Mother of God.

For the great Archangel Gabriel, God’s minister, was sent from heaven to stand before thee to bring thee joy://

Therefore, we all cry to thee: “Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!”

## **Tone 4 Prokeimenon** (*Song of the Fathers*)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!  
*(Song of the three Holy Children, v. 3)*

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

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, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

## **Gospel** of the Sunday (*John 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.”

## **Hymn to the Theotokos** (*Liturgy of St Basil*)

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child –  
our God before the ages.  
He made your body into a throne,  
and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens.  
All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace.  
Glory to you!

## **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*) Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (*Ps. 32:1*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!