



# 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

## Wednesday, October 24

6:30 pm Daily Vespers  
7:00 pm Bible Study

## Thursday, October 25

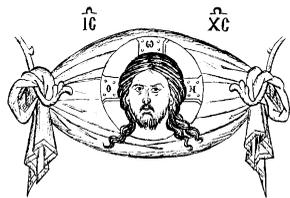
7:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Choir Rehearsal

## Saturday, October 27

10:00 am to 1:00 pm Pan Orthodox Choir  
5:00pm Vespers and Cathedral Vigil

## Sunday, October 28

9:15 am Adult Education  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Church School after Communion



**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*  
Mat. Janet Mihalick, *Choir Director*

## 21st Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org  
October 21, 2018

# Announcements

➤ Congratulations to Aaron and Alexandra Summers on the baptism of their daughter, **Isabelle Helen**, today. May God grant her good health, peace, and salvation, and to the entire Summers family: many blessed years!

➤ **Our October hoagie sale** is being held on Wednesday, October 31. Italian Hoagies and wraps are \$6.50 each and the Turkey hoagies and wraps are \$7.00 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, October 28. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm October 31 at the church hall.

➤ From **Suzy Polny**: To one and all, thank you from your Basket Auction Committee for your generous donations. Each item, basket and Gift Card contributed to the success of the auction.



# Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm: Known to be Hospitalized; (None). Home:** Georgiann Robes. Heidi Lewis (40 days). *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 Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha. **From Lily** for the health of Lily, Sergie, Stela and Nina. **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of Elizabeth and Jane. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of my family; special intentions. **From John & Olga** for the health and salvation of our family and Anatoly & Galina Vilkov. **From Dawna Beckett** for the departed servants, Olga Petkash & Donald Petkash.

# Thank you

➤ to **Michelle Bittner** for donating the October monthly Bulletin (\$60) in memory of Michael and Helen Hruch. Also to the **Robes Family** for donating the Holy Bread (\$50) in honor of Teresa's birthday and Robbie and Teresa's anniversary. To the **Robes Family** for donating the Communion Wine (\$40) in memory of Thomas V Robes Sr on the occasion of his birthday. To **Donya Yewisiak** for donating the Altar Candles (\$25) to the **Fr Thomas and Mat Joni Soroka** for donating the Incense (\$10) on the occasion of daughter Melanie's birthday..



**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.**

# On Lazarus and the Rich Man

"We must observe also, that among the heathen the names of poor men are more likely to be known than of rich. Now our Lord mentions the name of the poor, but not the name of the rich, because God knows and approves the humble, but not the proud." **St Gregory the Great, Pope of Rome**

"Lazarus is interpreted, "one who was assisted." For he was poor, and the Lord helped him. **St John Chrysostom**

"This discourse concerning the rich man and Lazarus was written after the manner of a comparison in a parable, to declare that they who abound in earthly riches, unless they will relieve the necessities of the poor, shall meet with a heavy condemnation. But the tradition of the Jews relates that there was at that time in Jerusalem a certain Lazarus who was afflicted with extreme poverty and sickness, whom our Lord remembering, introduces him into the example for the sake of adding greater point to His words." **St Cyril of Jerusalem**

"But the insolence and pride of the wealthy is manifested afterwards by the clearest tokens, for it follows, and no one gave to him. For so unmindful are they of the condition of mankind, that as if placed above nature they derive from the wretchedness of the poor an incitement to their own pleasure, they laugh at the destitute, they mock the needy, and rob those whom they ought to pity." **St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan**

"And here we must remark what fearful sufferings are heaped upon the rich man in flames. For in addition to his punishment, his knowledge and memory are preserved. He knew Lazarus whom he despised, he remembered his brethren whom he left. For that sinners in punishment may be still more punished, they both see the glory of those whom they had despised, and are harassed about the punishment of those whom they have unprofitably loved." **St Gregory the Great, Pope of Rome**

# Hymns and Readings for Today

Oct 21, 2018

## **Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 4**

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the 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 earthborn from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master He has risen on the third day!

## **Kontakion of the Theotokos Tone 6**

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.

## **Prokeimenon (Psalm 104) Tone 4**

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

## **Epistle (Galatians 2:16-20)**

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have

believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not!

For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

## **Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 16:19-31)**

The Lord said this parable: There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them

hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'

## **Communion Hymns (Ps 148:1)**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



## Today in Church School

**Today's lesson:** The Apostle Peter

### **Questions to ask/review:**

- Peter was one of the Lord's greatest disciples and apostles. How are the terms "disciple" and "apostle" different?
- Give examples of Peter's role in spreading the Gospel in the early Church.
- What are some miracles done by Peter in the book of Acts?
- Why was Peter put into prison? How did he escape?
- Peter was the first bishop of what city? Why is this significant?
- Christ told Peter that "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven". What did Christ mean?
- How did Peter die? Why?

### **Suggested Activities at home:**

- Tell as bedtime stories or make a picture book of Peter's many stories in the Gospels: –the calling of the fishermen (Matthew 4), the healing of Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8), walking on water (Matthew 14), the Transfiguration (Matthew 17), the Last Supper (John 13), the denial (Matthew 26), the Resurrection (Luke 24).
- Point out crosses and remind your child that Peter died on an upside-down cross.
- Prayer: Lord, fill me with the same deep love for You that Peter had.

## **From a Sermon on Lazarus and the Rich Man**

As I look at this parable, I certainly find much that I need to pay closer attention to. I sense that I am probably not the Lazarus character here, so unless I get to be Father Abraham, that only leaves one other guy that might be me. It's not too cool to think of myself as the Rich Man in this parable, but aside from the "dressing in purple and dining sumptuously every day" bit, in every other way the resemblance is uncanny. I am almost always far more concerned with my own life and pleasure than with the real needs of others. It is easy for me to look past those in need and ignore them. I don't mean to paint an entirely negative picture of myself; sometimes I am the very model of spirituality. When I hear of someone's great need I may fall piously to my knees and pray, "Oh Lord, raise someone up to help that person! Someone else, Lord, because Thou knowest how busy I am". Yes, it is very easy for me to be too busy, too protective of my own time, and too blind and unfeeling, just as the Rich Man was with poor Lazarus.

And when you get down to it, God really isn't asking that much of me. He simply wants me to stop living as if I were the center of my own little universe. He wants me to see that a life spent tending to myself only is not a true life at all. God is a good Father, and like all good fathers He wants His children to outgrow the narcissism of childhood and learn to love and to care for others. That is such a hard lesson for many of us to learn, isn't it? We tend to live for ourselves or our own families, for work and for play, and make so little time for anything or anyone else. God wants us to give of ourselves for others, lest we wind up like the Rich Man in a place of torment caused entirely by our own selfishness.

Yes, this parable is vitally important to our life and instruction. Good works of charity are necessary to our salvation. It is sad that many believers today deny this, thinking all the while that they are protecting the "true gospel". What is even sadder however is when Christians know that works of love and mercy are important, but still don't make the time to do them. No one is saved apart from Christ. But neither can any Christian expect to ignore the needs of others and be awarded heaven strictly on the basis of his pure "faith alone". We need faith in Jesus, and we need to allow that faith to mature in us, leading us to works of mercy, works that show forth Christ in us, works that ultimately validate our faith and give it life. May such living faith be found in each of us. (*Fr Michael Reagan*)