



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, January 30

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Tuesday, February 1

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Festal Vigil

Wednesday, February 2: Presentation of XC

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

Thursday, February 3

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, February 5

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Pan Orthodox Choir

5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, February 6

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*

32nd Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

January 30, 2022

Announcements

➤ Our **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held today after the Divine Liturgy. Only adult parishioners in good standing may vote in the meeting. Please see Fr Thomas for any questions.

➤ This Tuesday night and Wednesday morning we will celebrate the **Great feast of the Presentation of Christ into the Temple**. On this day, the faithful may bring candles to be blessed.

➤ The Pittsburgh **International Orthodox Christian Charities** will hold several events that we encourage you to support:

- **International Soup Sampling** on Saturday, February 5, 2022 from 11 am to 2 pm. Sample five soups for \$10. Take home a quart of your favorite for \$10.
- **Youth Health Kit Drive and Assembly** on the same day, February 5, 2022. Youth groups are invited to attend, but should coordinate with AVATorthodox@gmail.com

Both events will be held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 986 Providence Road, Pittsburgh PA 15237 (in the North Hills).

➤ **Important upcoming dates:**

- Feb 13 – Publican and Pharisee (fast free week)
- Feb 27 – Meatfare Sunday
- Mar 6 – Cheesefare (Forgiveness) Sunday
- Monday, Mar 7 – Beginning of Great Lent
- Apr 17 – Palm Sunday (*Western Easter*)
- Apr 24 – Holy Pascha
- Jun 12 – Pentecost

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka, Olga Tryszyn

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, Garnette Kerchum and Godfather, Michael Dyczko; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Donya! From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, Uncle Mike Dyczko. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, Uncle Mike Dyczko; for the health of Greg Mell and Donya on their birthdays. From **Kristie Mertz** for the health of my family. From **Daniel Michael Glozzer** for the departed servants, Bonnie Glozzer and Gloria; for the health of me, Rico, Dave, and Ronald; to reach theosis and the kingdom of Heaven. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, Cheryl, John, Gregory, Kayla Elizabeth, and Cindy. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova and for the health and salvation of our family.

Thank You

➤ to our January donors, **Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10) in memory of Deacon Joseph Mell and for the health of their family.

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.

This Week in Church School

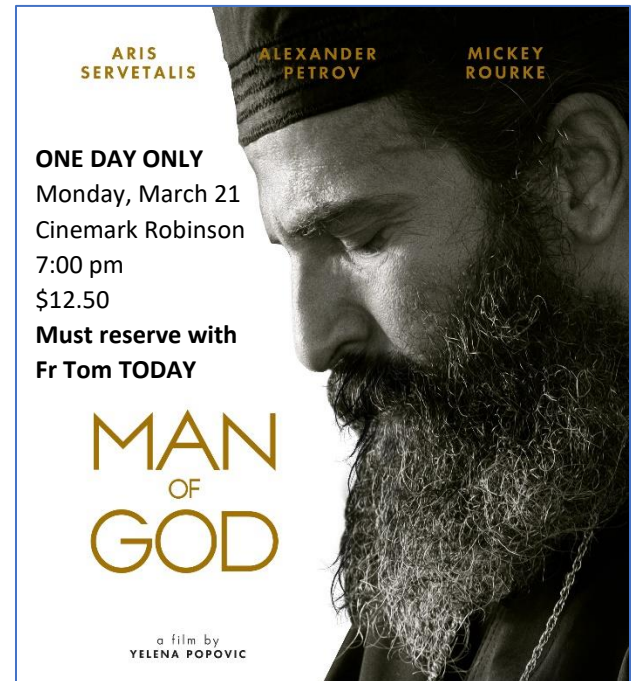
Today's lesson: The Parable of the Sower
Questions to ask/review:

- What is a parable? In this parable, who is the sower? What are the seeds? What is the soil?
- What kind of people are hard, rocky ground? Would seeds grow well there?
- What kind of people are easily dried out by the hot sun? Would seeds grow well there?
- What kind of people are so shallow the birds can eat the seeds?
- What kind of things might be thorns that take over our lives?
- What kind of people are rich soil?
- How can we be like the rich soil? What can we change with God's help?

Suggested activities at home:

- Read the scripture before bed: Mark 4:1-20 and Luke 8:5-15.
- Plant seeds in your garden at home. Review and discuss the parable as you both examine the soil.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, enrich the soil of our hearts so that your Word may grow within us. Amen.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, January 30

Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change
weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ
God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

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 (Three Hierarchs)

Let us who love their words come together with
hymns,
and honor the three great torch-bearers of the
^triune Godhead:
Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and
John Chrysostom!
These men have enlightened the world with the
rays of their divine doctrines.
They are sweetly flowing rivers ^of wisdom,
and have filled all creation with springs of
heavenly knowledge.
They ceaselessly intercede for us//
before the Holy Trinity.

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

Tone 7 Kontakion (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men
captive,

for Christ descended, shattering and destroying
its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and
cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 Kontakion (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 7 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The
Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Ps.
28:11)

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Timothy 1:15-17)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all
acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the
world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.
However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that
in me first Jesus Christ might show all
longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are
going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now
to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God
who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever
and ever. Amen.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 15:21-28)

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to
the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a
woman of Canaan came from that region and
cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O

Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely
demon-possessed.”

But He answered her not a word.

And His disciples came and urged Him, saying,
“Send her away, for she cries out after us.”

But He answered and said, “I was not sent
except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

Then she came and worshiped Him, saying,
“Lord, help me!”

But He answered and said, “It is not good to
take the children’s bread and throw it to the
little dogs.”

And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs
eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’
table.”

Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman,
great is your faith! Let it be to you as you
desire.” And her daughter was healed from that
very hour.

Communion Hymn of Sunday

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in
the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Their proclamation has
gone out into all the earth, and their words to
the ends of the universe. (Ps. 18:4) Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia

During the reign of the Emperor Alexios Komnenos
(1081-1118), a controversy arose in Constantinople
among men learned in the Faith and zealous for
virtue **about the three holy Hierarchs and
Fathers of the Church, Basil the Great, Gregory
the Theologian and John Chrysostom.**

Some argued for Saint Basil [known as Basilians]
above the other two because he was able, as none
other, to explain the mysteries of the Faith, and
rose to angelic rank by his virtues. Organizer of
monastic life, leader of the entire Church in the

struggle with heresy, austere and demanding
shepherd as to Christian morals, in him there was
nothing base or of the earth. Hence, said they, he
was superior to Saint Chrysostom who was by
nature more easily inclined to absolve sinners.

The partisans of Saint Chrysostom [known as
Johnites] retorted that the illustrious Archbishop
of Constantinople had been no less zealous than
Saint Basil in combating vices, in bringing sinners
to repentance and in raising up the whole people
to the perfection of the Gospel. The golden-
mouthed shepherd of matchless eloquence has
watered the Church with a stream of homilies in
which he interprets the divine word and shows its
application in daily life with more accomplished
mastery than the two other holy Doctors.

According to a third group [known as Gregorians],
Saint Gregory the Theologian was to be preferred
to the others by reason of the majesty, purity and
profundity of his language. Possessing a sovereign
mastery of all the wisdom and eloquence of ancient
Greece, he had attained, they said, to such a pitch
in the contemplation of God that no one had been
able to express the dogma of the Holy Trinity as
perfectly as he.

With each faction setting up one of the Fathers
against the other two in this way, the whole
Christian people were soon caught up in the
dispute, which, far from promoting devotion to the
Saints in the City, resulted in nothing but ill-
feeling and endless argument.

Then one night the three holy Hierarchs appeared
in a dream to Saint John Mauropous, the
Metropolitan of Euchaita (5 Oct.), separately at
first, then together and, speaking with a single
voice, they said: "As you see, the three of us are
with God and no discord or rivalry divides us.
Thus, the three parties made peace and every one
urged St John to lose no time in composing the
service of the joint feast. With fine discernment, he
selected January 30 as appropriate to the
celebration, for it would set the seal to the month
in which each of the three Hierarchs already had a
separate commemoration.