



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 27

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Church School Following Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, November 29

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, November 30

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, December 1

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, December 3

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, December 4

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

St Nicholas Day Luncheon following Liturgy

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-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

November 27, 2022

Announcements

➤ Our Annual St Nicholas Day Luncheon will be held next Sunday, December 4. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this free event. Thank you to all those who sponsored (and who offered to sponsor) the dinner on behalf of the parish!

➤ Our annual Christmas Angel Tree Project has begun! It's easy! Take an angel ornament from the tree downstairs and bring back to our church new, unwrapped gifts for those in need. See Donya Yewisiak with any questions. Deadline to return the gifts is Sunday, December 11. There are eight gift requests remaining on the tree.

➤ The Orthodox Men's Group is holding a Nativity Fast Book Discussion on the book "Thinking Orthodox" by Dr Eugenia Constantinou. Please contact Deacon Luke if you're interested.

➤ Our parish has contracted with Kayafas Architects of Wheeling WV to draw up designs for the following projects: solutions to the roof water intrusion, restoration of the domes, adding interior stairs and an elevator for accessible entry to the church and parish hall, and refinishing the parish hall and hall interior lighting.

➤ Women's Night on Friday, Dec 16 at Apteka in Lawrenceville. Please RSVP by phone or text to Jessica Krchmar at 412-290-3526.

➤ Annual Parish Christmas Card. Deadline is today! Please see Jan Widel or Marsha Wasilko to participate. \$10 to have your family name listed. Proceeds go to our monthly Community Food Pantry.

Prayers

➤ Ill and infirm: *Known to be hospitalized*; (none). *Home:* George Shaytar. Natalie Toooh. *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, for Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From Doris M. Wasilko for the departed servants of the Wasilko family; for the health of Doris, Marsha, and Chuck. From Marsha Wasilko for the departed servant, grandfather, Theodore Dyczko. From Charles A. Wasilko for the departed servant, grandfather, Theodore Dyczko. From Donya Yewisiak for special intention. From John & Olga for the health of Galina Vilkova and for the health and salvation of our family. From the John Mahalchak family for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Daniel, and Mary. From Richard & Sonia Blaha for the departed servants, mother, Betty Blaha and brother, Robert; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for special intention and peace.

Thank You

➤ Thank you to our November donors: from Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10) in loving memory of Deacon Joseph Mell.

Please note that our candle desk can now take payments by debit or credit card. If you wish to give donations by debit (we not recommend charitable giving by credit), please ensure that you have your transaction noted as a donation.

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.

Church School This Week

Today's Lesson: Persecutions

Questions to ask/review:

- What does it mean to be persecuted?
- Where was the name "Christian" first used?
- Why did the Romans persecute Christians?
- Who was St. Ignatius? Tell his story.
- Who ordained the bishops of the early church? Who then did the bishops ordain?
- What are some examples of persecution that exist today?
- In other countries? In the USA?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Many children share their name with a martyr of the early Church. Review their life story with your child.
- For older children, share news articles with them of examples of persecution today in North Africa, China, and the Middle East.

Prayer: Lord, give me the trust and courage that you gave the martyrs.

➤ Don't forget to visit, like, and share our Social Media pages!

On the web at orthodoxpittsburgh.org

Facebook at facebook.com/orthodoxpittsburgh

YouTube at youtube.com/orthodoxpittsburgh

Instagram at [Instagram.com/orthodoxpittsburgh](https://instagram.com/orthodoxpittsburgh)

The Nativity Fast began on Tuesday, November 15. As we prepare ourselves for the Nativity of Christ, we abstain from meat and dairy, increasing prayer, and charity for others.

Monday, Dec 5 / 7:00 pm Vigil for St Nicholas
Tuesday, Dec 6 / 9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, November 27

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 4 Troparion (St. James the Persian)

Long-suffering James, thou didst astound all
by enduring horrible tortures with great
patience.
As the evil assembly performed the slaughter,
thou didst utter prayers of thanksgiving to the
Lord.
Through thy sufferings thou didst receive thy
crown,
and didst come to the throne of the heavenly
King, Christ God.//
Entreat Him to save our souls!

*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 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 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 (Ephesians 2:14-22)

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both
one, and has broken down the middle wall of
separation, having abolished in His flesh the
enmity, that is, the law of commandments
contained in ordinances, so as to create in
Himself one new man from the two, thus
making peace, and that He might reconcile them
both to God in one body through the cross,
thereby putting to death the enmity. And He
came and preached peace to you who were afar
off and to those who were near. For through
Him we both have access by one Spirit to the
Father.

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and
foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints
and members of the household of God, having

been built on the foundation of the apostles and
prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief
cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being
fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the
Lord, in whom you also are being built together
for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

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!

On Today’s Gospel

Now that the Incarnation of the Word was manifested
to destroy corruption and death, and the hatred of the
devil against us, is plain from the actual events; for it

follows, And behold there was a woman which had a
spirit of infirmity He says spirit of infirmity, because
the woman suffered from the cruelty of the devil,
forsaken by God because of her own crimes or for the
transgression of Adam, on account of which the
bodies of men incur infirmity and death. But God
gives this power to the Devil, to the end that men
when pressed down by the weight of their adversity
might betake them to better things. He points out the
nature of her infirmity, saying, And was bowed
together, and could in no wise lift up herself. But our
Lord, to show that His coming into this world was to
be the loosing of human infirmities, healed this
woman. Hence it follows, And when Jesus saw her, he
called her to him, and said to her, Woman, you are
loosed from your infirmity. A word most suitable to
God, full of heavenly majesty; for by His royal assent
He dispels the disease. He also laid His hands upon
her, for it follows, He laid his hands on her, and
immediately she was made straight, and glorified
God. We should here answer, that the Divine power
had put on the sacred flesh. For it was the flesh of
God Himself, and of no other, as if the Son of Man
existed apart from the Son of God, as some have
falsely thought. But the ungrateful ruler of the
synagogue, when he saw the woman, who before was
creeping on the ground, now by Christ’s single touch
made upright, and relating the mighty works of God,
sullies his zeal for the glory of the Lord with envy,
and condemns the miracle, that he might appear to be
jealous for the Sabbath. Now the ruler of the
synagogue is convicted a hypocrite, in that he leads
his cattle to watering on the Sabbath-day, but this
woman, not more by birth than by faith the daughter
of Abraham, he thought unworthy to be loosed from
the chain of her infirmity. Therefore He adds, And
ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham
whom Satan has bound lo, these eighteen years, to be
loosed from this bond on the sabbath-day? The ruler
preferred that this woman should like the beasts
rather look upon the earth than receive her natural
stature, provided that Christ was not magnified. But
they had nothing to answer; they themselves
unanswerably condemned themselves. Hence it
follows, And when he had said these things, all his
adversaries were ashamed. But the people, reaping
great good from His miracles, rejoiced at the signs
which they saw, as it follows, And all the people
rejoiced;. For the glory of His works vanquished
every scruple in them who sought Him not with
corrupt hearts.