



## 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, December 4

**10:00 am** Divine Liturgy/Church School  
St Nicholas Day Luncheon following Liturgy

### Monday, December 5

**7:00 pm** Festal Vigil

### Tuesday, December 6: St Nicholas of Myra

**9:30 am** Festal Liturgy  
Pot Luck Brunch in house after Liturgy

**10:30 am to 12:00 pm** Office Hours

### Thursday, December 8

**9:00 am** Daily Matins

**9:30 am to 12:00 pm** Office Hours

### Saturday, December 10

**4:00 pm** Choir Rehearsal

**4:30 pm** Confessions

**5:00 pm** Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, December 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.**

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*

Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*

Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*

*Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs*

### Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

December 4, 2022

## Announcements

➤ Our Annual **St Nicholas Day Luncheon** will be held today after the Liturgy. 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!

➤ Those who are participating in our annual **Christmas Angel Tree Project** the deadline to return the gifts is next Sunday, December 11. Thank you for your generosity!

➤ **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.

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



## 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 servant, Theodore Dyczko; for the health of Irene Kulchock and the Wasilko family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of Irene Kulchock. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of Irene Kulchock. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Alexandria Tirpak and Irene Kulchock; special intention. 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 Hamilton; special intentions. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, Betty, Angie, Grandpap Blaha and Julianna; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for family birthdays, special intention, and peace. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the health of husband, George. From **Edith Humphrey** for the departed servant, Bessie on the anniversary of departing.

## Thank You

➤ Thank you to our **December** donors: from **Sandi Tirpak** (Bulletin \$60) in memory of Amelia Kuck, (Communion Wine \$40) in memory of grandparents Nicholas, Marie, Frank, and Ann, (Incense \$10) in memory of parents Amelia and John; from Donya Yewisiak (Holy Bread \$50, Altar Candles \$50) in memory of Matushka Olga Soroka; in

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.

**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:** Dormition of the Mother of God and St. Nicholas

**Questions to ask/review:**

- Who did Christ entrust with the care of His mother?
  - Where were the disciples when the Theotokos died?
  - How were they able to be present at her burial?
  - Who was not present?
  - What did Thomas find when trying to see the Theotokos once more?
  - Why does his discovery gives us hope?
  - Why are flowers used to remember this event?
  - Where was St. Nicholas from?
  - What was his role in the Church?
  - Why is St. Nicholas known as a "Wonderworker"?
  - Give an example of an act of generosity done by St. Nicholas.
  - Compare Santa Claus to the real St. Nicholas.
- Suggested Activities at home:**
- Use flowers to beautify your house and discuss how flowers are used to remember the Dormition.
  - Sing St. Nicholas songs together, or perform the songs from the Yolka for visiting family members.
  - Do a charitable act as a family, or ask your child to consider how they can be generous like St. Nicholas.

**Prayer:** Theotokos pray for us to your Son and our God, that we may be saved.

**Prayer:** Lord, bless all the children of the world, through the prayers of our holy father, Nicholas

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

**On the web** at [orthodoxpittsburgh.org](http://orthodoxpittsburgh.org)

**Facebook** at [facebook.com/orthodoxpittsburgh](https://facebook.com/orthodoxpittsburgh)

**YouTube** at [youtube.com/orthodoxpittsburgh](https://youtube.com/orthodoxpittsburgh)

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

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, December 4

## **Tone 8 Troparion** (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!  
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//  
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

## **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** (St. Barbara)

Let us honor the holy Martyr Barbara,  
for, as a bird, she escaped the snares of the Enemy,//  
and destroyed them through the help and defense of the Cross!

## **Tone 8 Troparion** (St. John)

O Champion of Orthodoxy, teacher of purity and of true worship,  
the enlightener of the universe and the adornment of hierarchs;  
all wise Father John, thy teachings have gleamed with light upon all things.//  
Intercede before Christ God to save our souls!

## **Tone 6 Troparion** (St. Alexander)

In a time of fiery temptations for the Church of Russia,  
thou didst manifest Christ's love to thy flock through meekness and humility.  
As a good pastor thou didst lay down thy life for Him.//

Pray for us, Hieromartyr Alexander, that our souls may be illumined!

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

## **Tone 8 Kontakion** (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.  
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,//  
and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

*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 8 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (Ephesians 4:1-6)

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

## **Gospel of the Sunday** (Luke 17:12-19)

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

## **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

# On Giving Thanks

"He who shall preserve the life bestowed upon him, and give thanks to Him Who imparted it, shall receive also length of days forever and ever. But he who shall reject it, and prove himself ungrateful to his Maker, inasmuch as he has been created, and has not recognized Him Who bestowed the gift upon him, deprives himself of the privilege of continuance forever and ever. And, for this reason, the Lord declared to those who showed themselves ungrateful towards Him: 'If you have not been faithful in that which is little, who will give you that which is great?' (cf. Lk. 16:11) indicating that those who, in this brief temporal life, have shown themselves ungrateful to Him Who bestowed it, shall justly not receive from Him length of days

forever and ever." - St. Irenaeus, The Ante-Nicene Fathers Vol. 1

You should continually and unceasingly call to mind all the blessings which God in His love has bestowed on you in the past, and still bestows for the salvation of your soul. You must not let forgetfulness of evil or laziness make you grow unmindful of these many and great blessings, and so pass the rest of your life uselessly and ungratefully.

— St. Mark the Ascetic, Letter to Nicolas the Solitary, The Philokalia Vol. 1

"The truly intelligent man pursues one sole objective: to obey and conform to the God of all. With this single aim in view, he disciplines his soul, and whatever he may encounter in the course of his life, he gives thanks to God for the compass and depth of His providential ordering of all things. — St. Anthony the Great, The Philokalia

"Every genuine confession humbles the soul. When it takes the form of thanksgiving, it teaches the soul that it has been delivered by the grace of God." — St. Maximos the Confessor, Various Texts on Theology, the Divine Economy, and Virtue and Vice 3.62, The Philokalia: The Complete Text (Vol. 2)

"For if God does not for a moment tire of giving us good things, how can we tire of thanking Him for these good things?" — St. Nikolaj Velimirovic

"We must begin with thanksgiving for everything. The beginning of joy is to be content with your situation." - St. Ambrose of Optina

