



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 22

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

Tuesday, January 24

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, January 25

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

7:00 pm Bible Study (Ephesians)

Thursday, January 26

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, January 28

12:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Choir Rehearsal

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

6:00 pm Social Night

Sunday, January 29

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School/Mtg

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

32nd Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

January 22, 2023

Announcements

➤ **The Annual Parish Meeting** will be held in the parish hall on Sunday, January 29 after the Divine Liturgy. Parish members who are considered in good standing (sacramental and financial participation in the parish) may participate in the meeting. Please see Fr Thomas with any questions.

St. Nicholas Food Pantry Donations: Please help support our monthly food pantry clients with donations of toiletries and personal items (toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, soap, chapstick, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, etc). Any donations can be placed in the church basement by the food pantry cupboards. Thank you for supporting our local community members and this ministry.

➤ A winter retreat on **Christian Ending and Burial** will be held on Saturday, January 28 from 9:15 am to 5:00 pm at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, 150 Elmtree Rd, New Kensington, PA 15068. Deacon Mark Barna and his wife Elizabeth, authors of "A Christian Ending," will be presenting the workshop at St. John's. The Barnas will be talking about practical things that we can do to prepare for our departure from this life and how we can offer funerals that are fully Orthodox, much more personal and significantly less expensive than most modern funeral services. **There is a cost of \$20 per person to participate in the event.** Please contact parkerthepriest@gmail.com or frdavidvernak@verizon.net for any questions.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized;* Home: Irene Kulchock, John Mahalchak (son), Natalie Toooh. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, George Shaytar, 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 A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, father, Charles, brother, Raymond, Grandmother, Susan Wasilko, and Dn. Joe Mell; Many Years to Larry Polny & Greg Mell on their birthdays. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, Dn. Joe Mell; for the health of Larry Polny and Greg Mell on their birthdays. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for safe travel Nicholas, Owen; for the health of Andrea and George; special intentions. From **Dawna Beckett** for the departed servants, Gregory Beckett on his 58th birthday and Leigh Urda-Memory Eternal; for the health of Christopher Beckett. From **Deb Burgess** for the newly departed, Roger (father) and Sue (mother). From **Jeff & Luann Kopycinski** for the health of Aunt Helen Armen. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servants, Maureen, and John Shaytar; for the health of husband, George. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph; for the health of George & Nancy Shaytar. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, Brother, Bob, Gabe, and Paul; for the health of family, friends, siblings & serving soldiers-for peace, anniversaries & birthdays; special intentions.

Thank You

➤ to our **January** donors: from **the John Mahalchak Family** (Altar Candles \$25) for the health of friends and family and a happy new year!

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: Nicene Creed and St. Athanasius

Questions to ask/review:

- How did we get the Bible?
- Why was the Council of Nicea called in 325? By whom?
- What is another name for the Council of Nicea? (First Ecumenical Council)
- What did Arius teach about Christ?
- Why is it so important to know that Christ was God? (if Christ was not both God and man, we are not saved through his death and resurrection)
- Who was Athanasius? Why is he called "the Great"?
- How does the Nicene creed explain the truth that Christ is God? ("begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father")
- What difficulties did Athanasius face after the council?

Suggested Activities at Home:

- Memorize the creed as appropriate for your child's age. The smallest children should learn the first line or two of the creed; everyone else should be able to say (or sing) the entire creed.
- Play "Creed Bounce." Have a beach ball ready. Sit or stand in a circle on the floor. Begin with the first few words of the Creed. Bounce the ball to your child(ren) who continues for another line. He bounces the ball to another etc. until the conclusion.

Prayer: Lord, may all Christians be one in the true faith you revealed to the council of Nicea. Amen.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, January 22

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 (New Martyrs)

Today the Church of Russia joyfully forms a
chorus,
praising her new martyrs and confessors;
hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers,
right-believing princes and princesses,
venerable men and women, and all Orthodox
Christians.

Having laid down their life for faith in Christ
during the days of godless persecution,
they preserved the truth by the shedding of
blood.//
By their protection, O long-suffering Lord,
preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of
the age.

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!”

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

Tone 3 Kontakion (New Martyrs)

Today the new martyrs of Rus’ stand in white
robes before the Lamb of God,
and with the angels they sing to God the hymn
of victory:
“Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise,
and honor,
and power, and strength be to our God//
unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

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 (Luke 18:35-43)

Then it happened, as He was coming near
Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road
begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he
asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus
of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out,
saying, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Then those who went before warned him that he
should be quiet; but he cried out all the more,
“Son of David, have mercy on me!”

So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be
brought to Him. And when he had come near, He
asked him, saying, “What do you want Me to do
for you?”

He said, “Lord, that I may receive my sight.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight;
your faith has made you well.” And immediately
he received his sight, and followed Him,
glorifying God. And all the people, when they
saw it, gave praise to God.

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!

God’s Work in our Lives

The Fathers of the Church in their writings point
out that although physically blind, the eyes of
Blind Bartimaeus soul were illumined by God’s
Grace because he had believed what he had
heard from others about Jesus. The saints also
lift up the blind beggar man Bartimaeus as an
example of earnest and humble prayer. Each
time we come to Christ in prayer, the Fathers
teach us to come to Him as blind beggars and

cry to Him, as Bartimaeus did, to receive new
light day by day, glorifying God.

This gospel urges us to go to God in prayer and
earnestly and persistently bring our physical
and spiritual needs before Him. “Ask, He said,
and you will receive; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you”.
(Matthew 7:7)

It may be true we do not always receive what
we ask for, but we must leave room for God to
act in our lives according to His perfect will for
us. Nevertheless, we do receive, a physical or
spiritual healing, an unexpected solution to a
personal problem, a new opportunity for
reconciliation with someone, a renewed
strength to face a distressful situation or some
other blessing that we need. For Jesus’ unfulfilling
promise is that, “everyone who asks will
receive, and anyone who seeks will find, and the
door will be opened to him who knocks”
(Matthew 7:8) Let us always remember this
promise as we go through life!

➤ **The scaffolding in our church** has presented us
with **an opportunity to re-acquaint ourselves** with
the traditional beauty of Orthodox worship in a
temple unhindered by a church full of rows of pews.
While **we know the space is currently limited**,
during this period, please keep in mind the following:

- The elderly, disabled, and pregnant or nursing
moms should have **priority for seating**.
- Coats, etc, can be hung up in the vestibule. But
please **keep valuables on your person**.
- Enjoy the **freedom** of not being pewed in.
Walking around to venerate icons, praying, and
lighting candles is a natural Orthodox activity,
even during services. But please do so quietly and
without distracting others.
- If you need to sit down for a few moments (or
more), **don’t be ashamed**. Feel free to do so. No
one is judging you.
- Children may have an adjustment period, but the
mostly universal experience of
parents/caregivers is that children become much
more focused without being pewed in.