

## 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 29

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School/Mtg

### Tuesday, January 31

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

### Wednesday, February 1

7:00 pm Festal Vigil

### Thursday, February 2: Meeting of the Lord

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

10:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

### Saturday, February 4

12:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Choir Rehearsal

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, February 5

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

### Zacchaeus Sunday

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

January 29, 2023

## Announcements

➤ **The Annual Parish Meeting** will be held in the parish hall today 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.

➤ **St Nicholas Prayer Group:** We are starting an intercessory prayer network at our parish! This will operate similarly to the Nativity Psalter Group and will be an online network of those who wish to offer up prayer, on their own time, for their fellow parishioners and others in need. Every two weeks, a one-page list of names will be sent to the group, which everyone can print and put in their prayer corners. Anyone in the parish can submit names and prayer requests to the list. All names will stay on the list for one month unless a longer time period is requested. Please contact Dn. John if you wish to be included, or have names you wish to submit for prayer! dnjohn@orthodoxpittsburgh.org.

## 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, Uncle Mike Dyczko and John Shaytar; for the health of George Shaytar; Many Years to Donya Yewisiak on her birthday. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, Uncle Mike Dyczko; for the health of Donya on her birthday. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed, Danny; for the health of Nancy and George; special intentions. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, Uncle Mike Dyczko; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Donya! From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends, family, John, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Daniel, and Mary. From **the Pravlochaks** for the departed servant, Leigh Urda; for the health of Christina. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, Sally, Ann, Mat. Millie, and parents; for the health of family, friends, Mary Ann, 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!

## This Week in Church School

**Today's Lesson:** St. Mary of Egypt

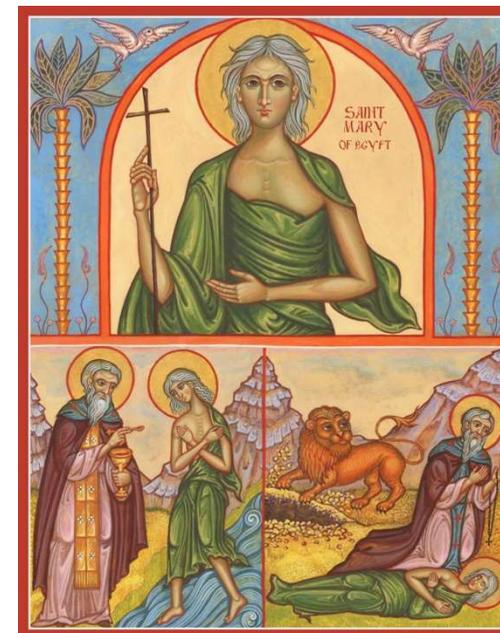
**Questions to ask/review:**

- Who was Mary?
- Why was she not able to enter a church? How did she react?
- Where and how did St. Mary live most of her life?
- Who found St. Mary? What did she want from the priest Zossima?
- How did Zossima find out St. Mary had died? How was she buried?
- What can we learn from the life of St. Mary? What does she teach us about ourselves and the importance of repentance?

**Suggested Activities at Home:**

- Discuss and practice repentance intentionally during daily life in your family.
- Review how to prayerfully prepare for confession and plan when to go again.

**Prayer:** Lord, forgive me and lead me to true repentance. Amen.



**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.**

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, January 29

## **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 4 Troparion** (St. Ignatius)

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, thou didst become a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God;

by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood.//

O Hieromartyr Ignatius, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

## **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!

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

## **Tone 4 Kontakion** (St. Ignatius)

Today thou didst rise from the east,

enlightening all of creation with thy teachings,// and thou art crowned with martyrdom, Godbearing Ignatius.

*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 8 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

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

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (1 Timothy 4:9-15)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

## **Gospel of the Sunday** (Luke 19:1-10)

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.

And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

## **Communion Hymn**

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

# Preparing for Lent

To prepare us for Great Lent, the Orthodox Church starts announcing its approach a full month before it actually begins. Lent is a time of repentance, and repentance is a re-examination, a re-appraisal, a deepening, a shaking upside down. Repentance is the sorrowful uncovering of one's neglected, forgotten, soiled "inner" person. The first announcement of Lent, the first reminder, comes through a short Gospel story about an entirely unremarkable man, "small of stature," whose occupation as a tax collector marked him, in that time and society, as greedy, cruel and dishonest.

Zacchaeus wanted to see Christ; he wanted this so much that his desire attracted the attention of the Lord Jesus. Desire is the beginning of everything. As the Gospel says, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). Everything in our life begins with desire, since what we desire is also what we love, what draws us from within, what we surrender to. We know that Zacchaeus loved money, and by his own admission we know that to get it he had no scruples about defrauding others. Zacchaeus was rich and he loved riches, but within himself he discovered another desire, he wanted something else, and this desire became the pivotal moment of his life.

This Gospel story poses a question to each of us: what do you love, what do you desire—not superficially, but deeply? "Behold, I stand at the door and knock," the New Testament says (Revelation 3:20). Do you hear this quiet knock? Desire. The soul taking a deep breath. The little man, Zacchaeus, with his eyes to the ground focusing on earthly desires, encounters Christ and now ceases to be little as his victory over himself begins. Here is the start, the first step from exterior to interior, toward that mysterious homeland which all human beings, unknown often to themselves, long for and desire.

