



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, February 5

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School/Mtg

*No Services, Bible Study,
or Office Hours
this week*

Saturday, February 11

12:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Choir Rehearsal

4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, February 12

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

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

February 5, 2023

Announcements

➤ **Fr Thomas will be on vacation from Monday to Friday, February 6 to 10.** If you need to reach him for any emergencies, please send a text to 412-206-5012.

This week is fast free! Let's celebrate!

Men: will meet this Thursday evening TBD. (See Deacon Luke for info).

Women: will meet this Friday at 6:30 pm at Firebirds in Cranberry. RSVP to Jessica Krchmar 412-290-3526

➤ **We recently met** with a local congregation two blocks away who has a significant need for help with clothing and shoes for children of single mothers. You can help by donating to the cause. For specific information about the children, please see <https://bit.ly/3E4hQfI> and then leave your donations at our food pantry area. May God bless you for your compassion.

➤ **St Nicholas Prayer Group:** We are starting an intercessory prayer network at our parish! This 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: (none) 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 of the Wasilko & Dyczko families; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the departed servant, Barbara Naiser; for the health of family & friends; safe travels. From **Marsha Wasilko** for special thanks! From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova, and the health & salvation of our families. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton, family, and friends; special intentions. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, Pete, Dorothy, Betty, Robert, Baba Povich, and Fr. Hubiak; for the health of family, friends, siblings & serving soldiers-for peace & birthdays; special intentions. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servants, Valentina Barsom & David Namisnak.

Thank You

➤ to our **February** donors: Bob and Mary Beth Madalinsky for all categories (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10).



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: Three Hierarchs: Basil and Gregory the Theologian (*John Chyrs. next week*)

Questions to ask/review:

- What does it mean to be a hierarch? Theologian?
- Where did Basil and Gregory become friends? How did they serve God together?
- What achievements are St. Basil best known for?
- When do we celebrate St. Basil's liturgy? What is the most noticeable difference?
- What does St. Basil's Anaphora prayers tell us about God?
- What achievements are St. Gregory best known for?
- What did he (and Basil) teach about the Holy Spirit? (the Holy Spirit is divine, equal to the Father and Son)
- What did Gregory teach about theology? (one must be holy, in union with God, to understand and explain God to others)

Suggested Activities at Home:

- Role play a conversation between St. Basil and Gregory the Theologian; or imagine how each would introduce the other to a stranger.
- With an older child, read through the Liturgy of St. Basil next to the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom and compare the two.

Prayer: Lord, help me to serve You and Your people as did Your servants Basil and Gregory.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, February 5

Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

Tone 1 Troparion (Feast)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, ^Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, thou didst accept in thine arms the ^Redeemer of our souls,// Who grants us the Resurrection!

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

Tone 4 Kontakion (from the Lenten Triodion)

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears! Let us cry to our Savior: “Have mercy on us,// O only merciful One!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 1 Kontakion (Feast)

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb and didst bless Simeon's hands, ^O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians,// O only Lover of Man!

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee! (*Ps. 32:22*)

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (*Lk. 1:46-47*)

Epistle of the Sunday (2 Timothy 3:10-15)

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 18:10-14)

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

In place of the Hymn to the Theotokos (Feast)

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians, protect, preserve, and save those who hope in you!

We faithful saw the figure in the shadow of the Law and the Scriptures, every male [child] that opened the womb was holy to God. Therefore we also magnify the first begotten Son of the unoriginate Father the Son firstborn of the unwedded Mother!

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*) I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. (*Ps. 115:4*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

On Repentance

The devil approaches the God-man with temptations. Who among men is free of them?

He who goes according to the will of the evil one does not experience attacks, but is simply turned more and more toward evil. As soon as one begins to come to himself and intends to begin a new life according to God's will, immediately the entire satanic realm enters into action: they hasten to scatter good thoughts and the intentions of the repentant one in any way they can.

If they do not manage to turn him aside, they attempt to hinder his good repentance and confession; if they do not manage to do that, they contrive to sow tares amidst the fruits of repentance and disrupt his labors of cleansing the heart.

If they do not succeed in suggesting evil they attempt to distort the truth; if they are repulsed inwardly they attack outwardly, and so on until

the end of one's life. They do not even let one die in peace; even after death they pursue the soul, until it escapes the aerial space where they hover and congregate.

You ask, “What should we do? It is hopeless and terrifying!”

For a believer there is nothing terrifying here, because near a God-fearing man demons only busy themselves, but they do not have any power over him. A sober man of prayer shoots arrows against them, and they stay far away from him, not daring to approach, and fearing the defeat which they have already experienced.

If they succeed in something, it is due to our blundering. We slacken our attention, or allow ourselves to be distracted by their phantoms, and they immediately come and disturb us more boldly.

If you do not come to your senses in time they will whirl you about; but if a soul does come to its senses they again recoil and spy from afar to see whether it is possible to approach again somehow.

So be sober, watch, and pray—and the enemies will do nothing to you. + **St. Theophan the Recluse**

“When bad thoughts are planted in you, then cry to God: ‘Lord, my Maker and Creator. You see that my soul is in agony from bad thoughts. Have mercy on me.’ Teach yourself to root out thoughts immediately. But when you forget and don't root them out immediately, then offer repentance. Work on this, so that you get a habit.” + **St. Silouan the Athonite**

“If you are not willing to repent through freely choosing to suffer, unsought sufferings will providentially be imposed on you.” + **St. Thalassios the Libyan**