

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 12

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School/Mtg

Tuesday, February 14

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, February 16

9:00 am Daily Matins

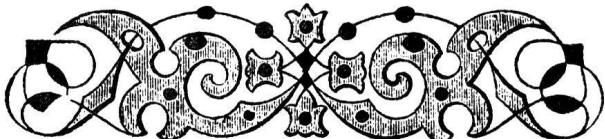
9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, February 18

NO VIGL THIS SATURDAY

Sunday, February 19

10:45 am Divine Liturgy **NOTE TIME CHANGE**



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 Prodigal Son

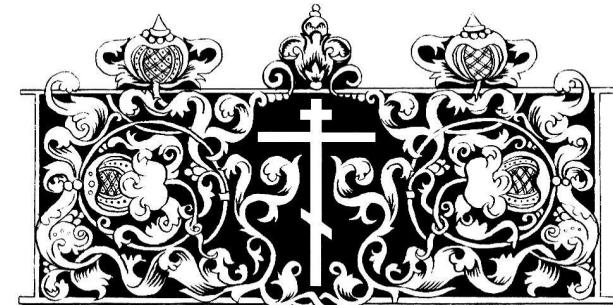
McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org February 12, 2023

Announcements

➤ Please note time change next weekend: Divine Liturgy will begin at **10:45 am** on **Sunday, February 19**. Fr Thomas apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause. There will be no services on Saturday evening.

➤ 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. **Sunday, February 19 will be the last day for this collection.**

➤ Please see the insert in today's bulletin updating the sponsorship **status of the three new icons** on the ceiling. Please consider making a donation to sponsor this important work! You can make donations for up to three years to complete your sponsorship. O Lord, sanctify those who love the beauty of Thy house, and glorify them in return by the Divine Power..."



Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** Known to be hospitalized: (none) **Home:** Irene Kulchock, John Mahalchak (son), Natalie Tooth. **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 servant, brother, Raymond; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the health of husband, George. From **Cathy Namisnak** for the departed servant, David Namisnak. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova and Mathilde (Mary) Kowalcheck. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; special intentions. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, Fr. Hubiak, Deda Povich, Julia, and newly departed, Donnie Marisco; for the health of family, friends, siblings & serving soldiers-for special intention, peace, safe journey & birthdays, especially Godfather, George. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, daughter, Amelia and brother, Nicholas; for the health of daughter, Andrea and son, Richard; special intentions. From **the Pravlochaks** for the health of family members and grandchildren.

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: St. John Chrysostom

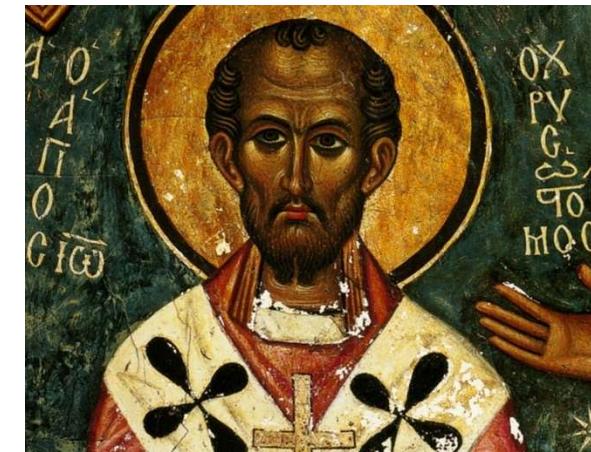
Questions to ask/review:

- What does the name "Chrysostom" mean? How did St. John get this name?
- St. John became the bishop of what city?
- What works made St. John a famous bishop?
- Why did St. John sometimes upset people? (he was willing to speak the truth about Christ and the way of life demanded by Him)
- The current liturgy was largely structured by St. John. Outline the various parts of the liturgy.
- What famous sermon of St. John do we hear every year? (Paschal sermon)

Suggested Activities at Home:

- Review the structure of the liturgy. Play a "Pictionary" game to identify important items used in the liturgy. Some items to include are: altar, iconostasis, antimins, 7-branch candles, tabernacle, Gospel, fans, table of Oblation, diskos, star, chalice, spoon, sponge, spear, prosphora, veils, censer.

Prayer: Lord, help me to use my tongue to speak only Your words.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, February 12

Tone 2 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Tone 4 Troparion of 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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever an unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 Kontakion (from the Lenten Triodion)

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father;
and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me.

And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal:
“I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father;
receive me as a penitent, //
and make me as one of Thy hired servants!”

Tone 2 Prokeimenon (*Resurrection*)

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (Ps. 117:14)

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for

foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 15:11-32)

Then He said: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread

enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.’’

“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

“Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’

“But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’

“And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your

brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

Communion Hymn

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

On Scripture

The sacred Scripture, taken as a whole, is like a human being. The Old Testament is the body and the New is the soul, the meaning it contains, the spirit. From another viewpoint we can say that the entire sacred Scripture, Old and New Testament, has two aspects: the historical content which corresponds to the body, and the deep meaning, the goal at which the mind should aim, which corresponds to the soul. If we think of human beings, we see they are mortal in their visible properties but immortal in their invisible qualities.

So with Scripture. It contains the letter, the visible text, which is transitory. But it also contains the spirit hidden beneath the letter, and this is never extinguished and this ought to be the object of our contemplation. Think of human beings again. If they want to be perfect, they master their passions and mortify the flesh. So with Scripture. If it is heard in a spiritual way, it trims the text, like circumcision.

Paul says: ‘Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day.’ [2 Cor. 4:16] We can say that also of Scripture. The further the letter is divorced from it, the more relevance the spirit acquires. The more the shadows of the literal sense retreat, the more the shining truth of the faith advances. And this is exactly why Scripture was composed.

— St. Maximos the Confessor