



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 19

10:00 am Church School

10:45 am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, February 21

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, February 22

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, February 23

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, February 25

4:00 pm Community Food Pantry

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

6:00 pm Social Night

Sunday, February 26

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

7:00 pm Forgiveness Vespers

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 Last Judgment

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

February 19, 2023

Announcements

➤ **Today is Meatfare Sunday**, when, after today, we say “farewell” to meat until the Holy Pascha. This week is called Cheese week, and in many Orthodox cultures it is a festival of dairy-related foods. In Slavic countries, this week is called *Maslenitsa*, featuring a dairy pancake (*blin*) filled with sweet and savory stuffings. These are wonderful and rich ways for us to prepare for the amazing season of Great Lent, where we prepare our minds, hearts, and bodies through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, to celebrate the Great and Holy Day of our Lord's Resurrection from the Dead. We encourage everyone to enter into the fasting period (even this week's partial fast) with a spirit of joy and thanksgiving to God.

➤ Thank you to the men of the parish who are sponsoring today's **Meatfare Luncheon!**

➤ Everyone is invited next Sunday for our **annual Blini Luncheon** after the Divine Liturgy sponsored by the St Nicholas Sisterhood.

➤ We are over 50% toward our goal to have **the three new icons** on the ceiling fully sponsored. 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..." Please see Kristie Mertz or Fr Thomas if you would like to donate toward our beautiful temple icons.

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 health of the Wasilko family and George Shaytar. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters Doris and Marsha. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the health of husband, George. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova and for the health and salvation of our families. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; special intentions. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the newly departed, Donna; for the health Archpriest Basil, Mat Juliana, Nicholas, and Andrea; special intentions. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants Sally, Ann, Mat. Millie, and parents, Kim, Aunt Ene and Calvin, and newly departed, Donald and Maryann; for the health of family, friends, siblings & serving soldiers-for special intention, peace, safe journey & birthdays, for special intention and peace.

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).

The **2023 Lenten Schedule** will be sent via email to all parishioners early this week.

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: The Councils I

Questions to ask/review:

- Who presides over the councils? Why are they called? What example was set by the Jerusalem council in the book of Acts?
- What is meant by “heresy”?
- What was decided at each of the Seven Ecumenical Councils?
- How did each decision clarify our understanding of God and our salvation?
- What was added to the Nicene Creed by the Second Ecumenical Council?
- What was the role of St. Cyril of Alexandria in the Third Ecumenical Council?
- Why were the teachings of Nestorius dangerous to the Church?

Suggested Activities at Home:

- Use the icon of the Theotokos in your icon corner to begin a discussion of the importance of Mary being the “Mother of God”. This name reminds us that Christ was both God and man.

Prayer: Lord, we honor your mother, Mary the Theotokos, as we are taught by Your servant St. Cyril of Alexandria.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, February 19

Tone 3 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

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 1 Kontakion (*from the Triodion*)

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory,

all things shall tremble,

and the river of fire shall flow before Thy

judgment seat;

the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed;

then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,//

and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand,

O Righteous Judge!

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (*from the Triodion*)

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, His

understanding is beyond measure. (*Ps. 146:5*)

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2)

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 25:31-46)

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

“Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Communion Hymn

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

On the Last Judgment

The Lord will suddenly come from Heaven like lightning, preceded by His honorable Cross, and a river of boiling fire will go before Him, cleansing the entire earth of pollution. The Antichrist will immediately be seized, and he and his minions will be handed over to the eternal fire. As the Angels sound their trumpets, the entire human race will be gathered together from the ends of the earth, and from all the elements, in Jerusalem, because this is the

center of the world, and there are set thrones for judgment, but with their souls and bodies all transformed into incorruption and having a single form, the elements themselves having been transformed into a superior state, and by a single word the Lord will separate the righteous from the sinners; those who have done good will depart, gaining eternal life, whereas the sinners will go to eternal punishment, and never will there be an end to their torments.

It should be known that Christ will not be looking at that time for fasting, bodily hardships, or miracles, good though these things are, but for things that are far superior, namely, almsgiving and compassion. To the righteous and the sinners He will speak of six virtues: “For I was an hungred, and ye gave Me food; I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took Me in; naked, and ye clothed Me; I was sick, and ye visited Me; I was in prison, and ye came unto Me; for inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.” Everyone can do these things according to his own ability. Then every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The torments which the Holy Gospel recounts are these: “there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched; and cast him into the outer darkness.” Clearly accepting all these things, the Church of God believes that the abiding of the Saints with God and the perpetual effulgence of His light and their ascent to Him are the delight of Paradise and the Kingdom of Heaven, and that alienation from God and the consumption of souls by the awareness that, through carelessness and temporal pleasure, they have been deprived of Divine illumination are the torment, the darkness, and the like.

In Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ God, count us worthy to hear Thy desired voice, number us with those on Thy right hand, and have mercy on us. Amen