



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, March 26

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Monday, March 27

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

Tuesday, March 28

9:00 am Lenten Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, March 29

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Lenten Fellowship Meal following Liturgy

Thursday, March 30

9:00 am Lenten Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Friday, March 31

7:00 pm Akathist to the Mother of God

Saturday, April 1

9:00 am - Noon Church Clean-Up Day

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, April 2

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School after

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

Leavetaking of the Annunciation

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

March 26, 2023

Announcements

➤ Thank you to all those who made the visitation of the wonderworking Icon of St Anna and the **St Tikhon's Seminary choir** on the Great Feast of the Annunciation such a beautiful day. We had a full church and many visitors from around Pittsburgh. What a blessing it was!

➤ If you did not have an opportunity to give a gift to **St Tikhon's Seminary**, please consider giving one by noting it for "St Tikhon's." Thank you!

➤ This Saturday, April 1, beginning at 9:00 am we will have our annual **Church Clean-up** day to prepare for Pascha. Please consider giving a few hours to ready our temple for the feast of feasts!

➤ Three **new wooden icon stands** have been built for our church. We are in need of donors for each of them. The small stands are \$250 and the large stand is \$400 (total \$900). If you can donate one or all, please see Fr Thomas. Thanks!

➤ Northwest and East: You are invited to our first **St. Nicholas Regional Synaxes!** The term synaxis (plural is synaxes) is a traditional Orthodox word that refers to a gathering of believers. The purpose of our regional synaxes is to provide opportunity for spiritual growth, make our faith more intentionally woven into our daily lives, and build spiritual interconnectedness amongst members. We will join in a short prayer service, discussion, and then a meal. Everyone is welcome and encouraged regardless of age, family size, etc!. If you did not receive an email, please contact Deacon Luke or Melissa Graff for your information about your region.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* John Mahalchak (son), Natalie Tooch. *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 servants, newly departed, Serge Daniels and Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; special intentions. From **Kristie Mertz** for the departed servant, Steve Tokich; for the health of Katarina. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, newly departed Serge Daniels, and Aunt Julia Falick; for the health of Doris. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, newly departed Serge Daniels, and Aunt Julia Falick; for the health of Doris; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Suzy Polny! From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of family, friends, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Daniel, and Mary; for a successful recovery from surgery for son, John. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova. From **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Blaha** for the departed servants Dad, Pete on his birthday, mothers, Dorothy & Betty, Robert, and newly departed Serge Daniels, MaryAnn and Janet; for the health of Dad, Leo, family, friends, siblings, & serving soldiers; special intentions, birthdays, & peace. From **Dawna Beckett** for the departed servant, Micahel Petkash; for the health of Pearl (Paraskevya) Petkash, Karen Larrimer, and Christopher Beckett. From **Edith Humphrey** for the departed servant, Kim Cunningham. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the health of husband, George. From **John Kowalcheck** for the health of Olga Cozza. From **the Pravlochaks** for the health of

Thank You

brother, David and granddaughter, Christina.

➤ to our **March** donor: Donya Yewisiak (Altar Candles \$25) in loving memory of brother, Leonard Soroka.

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

Lesson: Today's lesson: Cyril and Methodius, Baptism of Russia

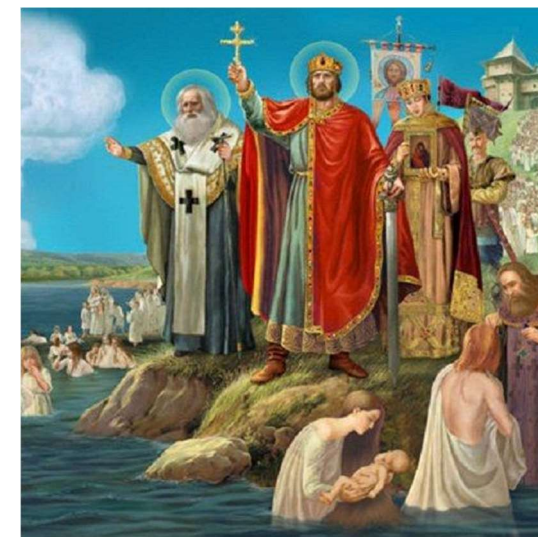
Questions to ask/review:

- Who were Cyril and Methodius?
- Where did they travel to spread the Gospel?
- Who created the Cyrillic alphabet? How did this alphabet help the Church grow?
- Who was Olga? Who was Vladimir?
- Where did Vladimir send a group of his men? Why?
- What happened at the Dnieper River?

Suggested Activities at Home:

- Use the Cyrillic alphabet this week. Make "secret messages" to decode.
- Play missionary. Have your child make up an alphabet for an unknown language and "translate" some key Scripture verses.
- Discuss Slavic and Russian traditions within our Church or within your own family.

Prayer: Lord, bring the word of Your gospel to all the lands where You are not yet known.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, March 26

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 (Feast)

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery!

The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace.

Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos:

“Rejoice, O Full of Grace,//

the Lord is with thee!”

Tone 4 Troparion (Archangel)

Gabriel, Commander of the heavenly hosts, we who are unworthy beseech thee:

by thy prayers encompass us beneath the wings of thine immaterial glory,

and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry out to thee://

“Deliver us from all harm, for thou art the Commander of the Powers on high!”

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 8 Kontakion (Archangel)

Supreme Commander Gabriel, thou art the glorious intercessor and servant

before the all-radiant, worthy, all-powerful, infinite and awesome Trinity.

Ever pray now that we may be delivered from all tribulations and torments,//

so that we may cry out to thee: “Rejoice, protection of thy servants!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 8 Kontakion (Feast)

O victorious leader of triumphant hosts!

We, thy servants delivered from evil sing our grateful thanks to thee, O Theotokos.

As thou dost possess invincible might set us free from every calamity!//

so that we may sing: “Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!”

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

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

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Feast)

From day to day / proclaim the salvation of our God! (Ps. 95:2a)

Instead of “It is truly meet...,” we sing:

O earth, announce good tidings of great joy: O heavens, praise the glory of God!

Since she is a living Ark of God let no profane hand touch the Theotokos.

But let the lips of believers unceasingly sing to her,

praising her in joy with the angel’s song:

“Rejoice, O Lady, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!”

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. (Ps. 131:14) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

On the Annunciation

The Angel announced as Son to the Virgin, the Great Angel of the Father’s great counsel. On the twenty-fifth the Angel spake of joy unto Mary.

When the All-Holy Virgin was entering her fifteenth year, after having spent eleven years of living and serving in the Temple of Jerusalem, the priests informed her that, according to the Law, she could not remain in the Temple but must be betrothed and enter into marriage. The All Holy Virgin surprised the priests when she told them that she had dedicated her life to God and that she desired to remain a virgin until death. Then, Zacharias, the high priest and father of the Forerunner, under the inspiration of God, betrothed the Virgin Mary to Joseph of Nazareth to preserve her virginity and to care for her. When the fullness of time had come, as prophesied by Daniel the Prophet, and when God was pleased to fulfill His promise to the banished Adam and to the Prophets, the Archangel Gabriel appeared in the chamber of the All-Holy Virgin. As some priestly writers wrote, precisely at that same moment when she held open the book of the Prophet Isaiah and was contemplating his great prophecy: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son! (7:13)” Gabriel appeared in all of his angelic brightness and saluted her: “Rejoice, highly favored one! The Lord is with thee,” and the rest in order as it is written in the Gospel of Luke. This annunciation and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Virgin, leading to the incarnation of our Lord, began the salvation of mankind and restoration of all creation.

The Archangel Gabriel was chosen by the Lord to announce to the Virgin Mary about the Incarnation of the Son of God from Her, to the great rejoicing of all mankind. Therefore, on the day after the Feast of the Annunciation, the day on which the All-Pure Virgin is glorified, we give thanks to the Lord and we venerate His messenger Gabriel, who contributed to the mystery of our salvation.

Gabriel, the holy *Archistrategos* (Leader of the Heavenly Hosts), is a faithful servant of the Almighty God. He announced the future Incarnation of the Son of God to those of the Old Testament; he inspired the Prophet Moses to write the Pentateuch (first five books of the Old Testament), he announced the coming tribulations of the Chosen People to the Prophet Daniel (Dan. 8:16, 9:21-24); he appeared to Saint Anna (July 25) with the news that she would give birth to the Virgin Mary.

The holy Archangel Gabriel remained with the Holy Virgin Mary when She was a child in the Temple of Jerusalem, and watched over Her throughout Her earthly life. He appeared to the Priest Zachariah, foretelling the birth of the Forerunner of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist.

The Lord sent him to Saint Joseph the Betrothed in a dream, to reveal to him the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God from the All-Pure Virgin Mary, and warned him of the wicked intentions of Herod, ordering him to flee into Egypt with the divine Infant and His Mother.

When the Lord prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before His Passion, the Archangel Gabriel, whose very name signifies “Man of God” (Luke. 22:43), was sent from Heaven to strengthen Him.

The Myrrh-Bearing Women heard from the Archangel the joyous news of Christ’s Resurrection (Mt.28:1-7, Mark 16:1-8).

Mindful of the manifold appearances of the holy Archangel Gabriel and of his zealous fulfilling of God’s will, and confessing his intercession for Christians before the Lord, the Orthodox Church calls upon its children to pray to the great Archangel with faith and love. Through the intercessions of the Most Holy Theotokos and of all Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.