



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, April 2**
10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
- Monday, April 3**
5:00 pm Lenten Vespers
- Tuesday, April 4**
9:00 am Lenten Matins (Morning Service)
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
- Wednesday, April 5**
6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Lenten Fellowship Meal following Liturgy
- Thursday, April 6**
9:00 am Lenten Matins (Morning Service)
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
- Friday, April 7**
7:00 pm Moleben for the Sick
- Saturday, April 8: Lazarus Saturday**
9:30 pm Divine Liturgy (Children's Bfast after)
4:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil
- Sunday, April 9: Palm Sunday**
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

Sunday of St Mary of Egypt
McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org April 2, 2023

Announcements

➤ **Thank you to everyone** who came to help clean and prepare the temple for the Holy Pascha! Thank you also to our prosphora baking crew for your continued quiet labors from which we all partake. May God richly bless all of you for your efforts!

➤ **Pro-Life Ministry Drive:** We will be sponsoring Baby and Mom bags for the Women's Choice Network. Beginning on Palm Sunday, April 9th, we will have 20 baby bags and 20 mom bags to distribute. The bags should be filled with items for new moms and babies (preferably gender neutral). Thank you for your generosity!

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

➤ **Flowers donations:** With Pascha approaching, we will decorate the church and icons with flowers. Would you please consider giving a special donation earmarked for flowers? Thank you and may God bless you!

➤ Thank you to everyone who came to our first round of **Regional Synaxes**. Special thanks to our hosts: the Hoffman, Lewis, and Graff families. Our next gatherings will be in the month of May. We hope to see you there!

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** Known to be hospitalized: (none) Home: 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, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton and Doris Wasilko; special intentions. From **Kristie Mertz** for the departed servant, Steve Tokich; for the health of Katarina. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of Doris. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of Doris. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of family, friends, John, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Daniel, and Mary. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova and for the health & salvation of our families. From **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Blaha** for the departed parents and brother, Robert, and newly departed Serge and Janet; for the health of family, friends, siblings, & serving soldiers; special intentions, birthdays, & peace. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Luba, Slava, Bruce, Daina, Marina, and Valentina; for the health of Veronica, Tatyana, Nina, Kristofer, Daniel, Bobby, and Ray. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the health of husband, George and Doris Wasilko.

Thank You

➤ to our **April** donor Lindy Hamilton for all categories for donating all categories (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$50, Incense \$10).

This Week in Church School

Lesson: Today's lesson: Great Schism and Crusades

- Questions to ask/review:**
- What year did the Eastern (Orthodox) and Western (Roman Catholic) Churches separate (1054 AD)?
 - What led to this sad event?
 - What did the Western Church add to the creed?
 - What power did the Bishop of Rome claim to have?
 - What were the Crusades? Why did they begin?
 - What happened in the 4th crusade (1204 AD)?
 - What was the outcome of the Crusades?

- Suggested Activities at Home:**
- Build castles and forts. Discuss the Crusades and some unintended consequences.
 - Explores pictures from the Holy Land today.

Prayer: Lord, may all who worship you be united to your holy Church.



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, April 2

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 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.

Tone 8 Troparion (St. Mary of Egypt)

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ. By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal.// Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

Tone 1 Kontakion (Resurrection)

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master!

Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:// “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

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

Tone 3 Kontakion (St. Mary of Egypt)

Having been a sinful woman, thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ. Having attained angelic life, thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross.// Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 Kontakion of the 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 1 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

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

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (St. Mary of Egypt)

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel. (Ps. 67:35a)

Epistle of the Sunday (Hebrews 9:11-14)

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats

and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Gospel of the Sunday (Mark 10:32-45)

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.”

And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

They said to Him, “Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.”

But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

They said to Him, “We are able.”

So Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on

My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared.”

And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

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

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child – our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! (Ps. 111:6) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

