



## 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, November 12

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

### Tuesday, November 14

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

### Thursday, November 16

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

### Saturday, November 18

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, November 19

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

### Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

November 12, 2023

## Announcements

Looking ahead:

### Great Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos

Monday, November 20 7:00 pm Festal Vigil

Tuesday, November 21 9:30 am Festal Liturgy

➤ **Prayer Ministry:** Did you know we have a parish prayer list of people that you can help pray for? A paper copy is in the vestibule. Contact Dn John to receive the updates and/or to have someone placed on the list.

➤ **Annual Parish Christmas Card:** It's time once again for this parish project which benefits our monthly community food pantry. We ask each parishioner/family to generously donate \$10 to have their name(s) listed on the card which will be sent to all parishioners in early December. Please see Jan Widel or Marsha Wasilko to participate. Deadline is Sunday, November 26, 2023. Thank you! **We also have a limited quantity of boxed Orthodox Christmas cards available.**

➤ You're warmly invited to hear Dr Edith M. Humphrey talk about C.S. Lewis as the next speaker in the Light from the Church on the Hill lecture series at **St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Canonsburg, PA.** Her talk on "Discovering the Mystery of the Atonement in the Stories of C.S. Lewis" will be on **Tuesday, December 12.** Vespers that evening is at 6 pm; afterwards there will be some refreshments, followed by **her presentation at about 7 pm.**

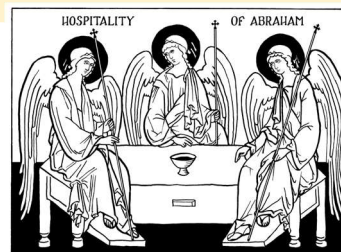
## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** Known to be hospitalized (none); Home: John Mahalchak (son), Donya Yewisiak. Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home: Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka.

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family and Donya Yewisiak. From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of Donya Yewisiak and the Wasilko family. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health Donya Yewisiak. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton and Donya Yewisiak; special intentions. From **the Pravlochaks** for the health of Donya Yewisiak and our family. From **Alexandria Tirak** for the health of Donya and Carol (many years); special intentions. From **Nancy Shaytar & George M. Shaytar** for the departed servant, George; for the health of Donya Yewisiak and brother-in-law, Bob.

## Thank You

➤ to our **November donors Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** (all categories Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Altar Candles \$25, Communion Wine \$40, Incense \$10) in memory of Deacon Joseph Mell



**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:** St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians

**Verse (younger classes):** Colossians 3:13—"forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."

### Questions to ask/review:

- Has anyone ever done anything mean or nasty to you?
- Have you ever done anything mean or nasty to others?
- Think of specific examples. Have you forgiven that person? Have you been forgiven?
- Have you said you are sorry when you do something that hurts someone?
- Why is it important to forgive?
- How many times should we forgive someone?

**Verse (older classes):** Colossians 3:23- "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men."

### Questions to ask/review:

- What makes this letter unique for Paul?
- What are examples of humble and quiet service? In the Scriptures? In your life?
- Have you ever been frustrated because someone was recognized for a good deed but you were not? What does Jesus say about this situation?
- When we do a good deed, who are we serving? Why?

### Suggested Activities at home:

- Pray the Lord's Prayer and discuss forgiveness.
- Each day, be sure your child has forgiven anyone he has been hurt by and is forgiven by anyone he has hurt.
- Using the forgiveness bouquets from Church School; the child should give a flower anytime he needs forgiveness this week.
- Look at other Bible stories of forgiveness, such as Joseph and his brothers.
- Do something kind and charitable, expecting nothing in return.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to forgive others. OR Lord, make me your humble servant. Amen.

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, November 12

## **Tone 6 Troparion** (Resurrection)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body.

Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.

Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.

O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

## **Tone 4 Troparion** (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. John)

By endurance thou didst gain thy reward, venerable Father;

thou didst persevere in prayer unceasingly;

thou didst love the poor and provide for them in all things. //

Blessed John the Merciful, intercede with Christ God that our souls may be saved!

## **Tone 6 Kontakion** (Resurrection)

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,

He bestowed resurrection on the human race. //

He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

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

## **Tone 8 Kontakion** (Ven. Nilus)

By thy vigilant prayer thou didst cut away the undergrowth of the body's insurgent passions.

As thou hast boldness before the Lord, free me from every danger so that I may cry to thee: //

“Rejoice, universal father Nilus!”

*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 6 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

## **Epistle of the Sunday (Ephesians 2:4-10)**

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

## **Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 10:25-37)**

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?”

So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.”

But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”

And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

## **Communion Hymn**

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

**Saint Anthony the Great said:** "On our neighbor depends life and death (of the soul). By winning our brother we win God; by offending our brother we sin against Christ." Saint John Kolovos, one of the greatest Fathers of the Egyptian skete, said: "It is not possible to build a house by beginning from the top, but the structure must be begun from the foundation and built up to the roof. When asked what the foundation meant, he replied: 'The foundation is our neighbor. We must win him and begin with him. On him are based all the Commandments of Christ.' Saint Mark the Ascetic said: 'It is impossible to be saved otherwise than through one's neighbor.'" This is what is held and taught by all the Holy Fathers; this is the general Christian teaching, the teaching of the Church, the teaching of Christ.

Direct all your attention to the acquisition of love for your neighbor as the basis of your life and your monastic task. Love your neighbor according to the dictates of the commandments of the Gospel, not at all according to the dictates and impulses of your heart. The love planted by God in our nature was damaged by the fall and cannot act correctly. On no account allow it to act! Its actions have lost their purity; they are abominable in God's sight, like a polluted sacrifice. The fruits of its actions are soul-destroying, deadly. Love your neighbor in the following way: Do not get angry with him and do not bear resentment or a grudge against him. Do not allow yourself to say to your neighbor any reproachful, abusive, sarcastic or caustic words. Maintain peace with him as far as possible. Humble yourself in his presence. Do not try to have your revenge on him directly or indirectly. Whenever possible, yield to him. Get out of the habit of arguing and quarrelling, and reject it as sign of pride and self-love. Speak well of those who speak evil of you. Pay good for evil. Pray for those who cause you various offences, wrongs, temptations, persecutions (St. Matthew 5:21-48). Whatever you do, on no account condemn anyone; do not even try to judge whether a person is good or bad, but keep your eyes on that one evil person for whom you must give an account before God--yourself (St. Matthew 7:11).