



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 19

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
Trisagion for the Departed

Monday, November 20

7:00 pm Festal Vigil

Tuesday, November 21: Entrance of the Theot.

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

10:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, November 23: Thanksgiving

No Services or Office Hours

Saturday, November 25

4:00 pm Community Food Pantry

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, November 26

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-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org November 19, 2023

Announcements

➤ **LAST CALL! 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.**

➤ All women of the parish are invited to a **St Nick's Women Holiday Party** on Friday, December 15 at 6:00 pm (come anytime) at the home of Karlie Lewis in Fox Chapel. Contact Karlie for more info!

➤ **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.

No Bible Study this week due to the holiday. Our St Nicholas Day Dinner will be on December 10

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, God Bless our Veterans; God Bless America! From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, U.S. Veterans, Aunt Mary Hollenbach, and Carol Kowalcheck. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, Godmother, Mary Hollenbach and Carol Kowalcheck. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton and Scott & Hamilton families. From **Jeff & Luann Kopycinski** for the departed servant, mother, Dorothy. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of Donya Yewisiak, John Naiser, and Melanie. From **Nancy Shaytar & George M. Shaytar** for the departed servant, George; for the health of Dave Kunca and Donya Yewisiak. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha.** From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilкова and Alexandra & Dmitri on their birthdays. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Rob, Dillon, Polina, Galina, Slava, Bruce, Valentina, Luda, Marina, Andrei, and Diana; for the health of Tony, Beth, Christopher, Thomas, Tatyana, Adrianna, Edward, and Joe's wife. From **Svetlana Sarkarova** for the departed servants, Aleksej, Marina, Nickolay, Anna, and Evgenia; for the health of Roman, Svetlana, Yuri, Michael, and Nina.

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 First and Second Letter to the Thessalonians

Verse (younger classes): I Thessalonians 5:18 – "in everything give thanks"

Questions to ask/review:

- What are you thankful for?
- Why should we be thankful?
- How does your family celebrate Thanksgiving?
- How can you show your thanks to God on Thanksgiving?

Verse (older classes): I Thessalonians 3:9- "For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God"

Questions to ask/review:

- How was Paul a spiritual father to the Thessalonians?
- How does Paul show his love for his children in the Lord?
- What other examples are there in the Scriptures of a loving mentor/student relationship?
- Is there someone in your own life who has had an impact on you spiritually?
- Does your life cause them joy? Do they pray for you?

Suggested Activities at home:

Write to your Godparent(s), a spiritual mentor, or anyone you are thankful for in your life. Pray for them, thank them, and ask for their prayers.

Prayer: Lord, help us to remember to thank you every day of our lives. OR Lord, thank you for my spiritual fathers and mothers. Amen.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, November 19

Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change
weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ
God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

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 4 Troparion (St. Barlaam)

Armed with youthful fervor,
thou didst endure martyrdom in old age and
didst glorify Christ.
Thou didst offer Him thy right hand as a whole
burnt offering
and thy holy soul as a blameless sacrifice.//
Intercede that all that be granted forgiveness,
Great-martyr Barlaam.

Tone 7 Kontakion (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men
captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying
its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and
cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

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

Tone 3 Kontakion (St. Barlaam)

Though weak with old age thou didst vanquish
the Evil One
in thy mighty contest, O Barlaam.
Thou didst endure the rack like one without a
body,
and didst steadfastly endure the burning of thy
hand.//
Therefore, God the Word has crowned thee with
a crown of glory.

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 7 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Ps. 28:11)

Epistle of the Sunday (Ephesians 2: 14-22)

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar

off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 12:16-21)

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’” ’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

“So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Communion Hymn

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

Thanksgiving

"When you sit down to eat, pray. When you eat bread, do so thanking Him for being so generous to you. If you drink wine, be mindful of Him who has given it to you for your pleasure and as a relief in sickness. When you dress, thank Him for His kindness in providing you with clothes. When you

look at the sky and the beauty of the stars, throw yourself at God’s feet and adore Him who in His wisdom has arranged things in this way. Similarly, when the sun goes down and when it rises, when you are asleep or awake, give thanks to God, who created and arranged all things for your benefit, to have you know, love and praise their Creator." - St. Basil the Great

"Let us give thanks to God continually. For, it is outrageous that when we enjoy His benefaction to us in deed every single day, we do not acknowledge the favor with so much as a word; and this, when the acknowledgment confers great benefit on us. He does not need anything of ours, but we stand in need of all things from Him.

In point of fact, thanksgiving adds nothing to Him, but it brings us closer to Him. For if, when we recall the benefactions of men, we are the more warmed by affection for them; much more, when we continually bring to mind the benefits of the Master towards us, shall we be more earnest with regard to His commandments.

For this cause Paul also said, 'Be thankful.' For the best preservative of any benefaction is the remembrance of the benefaction, and a continual thanksgiving for it." - St. John Chrysostom

"You should continually and unceasingly call to mind all the blessings which God in His love has bestowed on you in the past, and still bestows for the salvation of your soul. You must not let forgetfulness of evil or laziness make you grow unmindful of these many and great blessings, and so pass the rest of your life uselessly and ungratefully.

For this kind of continual recollection, pricking the heart like a spur, moves it constantly to confession and humility, to thanksgiving with a contrite soul, and to all forms of sincere effort, repaying God through its virtue and holiness. In this way the heart meditates constantly and conscientiously on the words from the Psalms: ‘What shall I give to the Lord in return for all His benefits towards me?’ (Psalm 116:12)." - St. Mark the Ascetic