



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, December 24

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm Communal Holy Supper

8:00 pm Vigil of the Nativity

Monday, December 25

10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, December 26

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

No Office Hours

Thursday, December 28

No Services or Office Hours

Saturday, December 30

4:00 pm Community Food Pantry

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Parish Vigil

Sunday, December 31

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Monday, January 1: Circumcision of XC/St Basil

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

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

Eve of the Nativity of Christ

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org December 24, 2023

Announcements

➤ We will have coffee hour downstairs today. **Next Sunday will be "Cookie Sunday"** at coffee hour so please bring any leftover desserts that you'd like to share! Thank you!

➤ As we prepare for the conclusion of 2023, we express our gratitude to all those who have prayerfully supported our parish over the past year through offering your time and talents and your financial gifts. **Please consider offering a year-end gift to support all of our ministries and needs.** As costs rise, we rely on your faithful and generous gifts. Thank you!

➤ There will be **no office hours this week, and no Matins on Thursday.**

➤ **Looking ahead:**

Great Feast of Theophany

Friday, January 5 7:00 pm Festal Vigil

Saturday, January 6 9:30 am Festal Liturgy
Great Blessing of Water



Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. *Isaiah 7:14*

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.

➤ 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 departed servant Fr. Igor Soroka;

for the health of the Wasilko family and Donya Yewisiak. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of cousin Michael on his birthday. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family;

Happy Birthday & Many Years to cousin, Michael! From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the departed servant, mother, Barbara Naiser(12/24/16); for the health of father, John Naiser and Donya Yewisiak. From **Melissa Booth** for the departed servant, Baby Knepp. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the newly departed servants, Olga and Carole; for the departed, parents, brother, Uncle Ed, and Aunt Rose; for the health of family, friends, siblings,

serving soldiers, Uncle Lou, and Monica; for special intentions, peace, and birthdays, especially Mary and Godchild, Anastasia. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servants, Fr. Igor Soroka and Barbara Naiser. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilкова and for the health and salvation of our family. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Daniel, and Mary.

➤ to our **December donors:** **Jan Widell** (Bulletin \$60) in memory of departed members of the Puskar and Morris families; **Donya Yewisiak** (Holy Bread \$50) in memory of Matushka Olga Soroka; **Mat. Joni Soroka** (Altar Candles \$50) in memory of Barbara Naiser; **Lindy Hamilton** (Communion Wine \$40) in memory of twin brother, Russell Hamilton; **John Mahalchak Family** (Incense \$10) for friends and family.

➤ to our **December donors:** **Jan Widell** (Bulletin \$60) in memory of departed members of the Puskar and Morris families; **Donya Yewisiak** (Holy Bread \$50) in memory of Matushka Olga Soroka; **Mat. Joni Soroka** (Altar Candles \$50) in memory of Barbara Naiser; **Lindy Hamilton** (Communion Wine \$40) in memory of twin brother, Russell Hamilton; **John Mahalchak Family** (Incense \$10) for friends and family.

➤ to our **December donors:** **Jan Widell** (Bulletin \$60) in memory of departed members of the Puskar and Morris families; **Donya Yewisiak** (Holy Bread \$50) in memory of Matushka Olga Soroka; **Mat. Joni Soroka** (Altar Candles \$50) in memory of Barbara Naiser; **Lindy Hamilton** (Communion Wine \$40) in memory of twin brother, Russell Hamilton; **John Mahalchak Family** (Incense \$10) for friends and family.

Thank you

➤ to our **December donors:** **Jan Widell** (Bulletin \$60) in memory of departed members of the Puskar and Morris families; **Donya Yewisiak** (Holy Bread \$50) in memory of Matushka Olga Soroka; **Mat. Joni Soroka** (Altar Candles \$50) in memory of Barbara Naiser; **Lindy Hamilton** (Communion Wine \$40) in memory of twin brother, Russell Hamilton; **John Mahalchak Family** (Incense \$10) for friends and family.

➤ to our **December donors:** **Jan Widell** (Bulletin \$60) in memory of departed members of the Puskar and Morris families; **Donya Yewisiak** (Holy Bread \$50) in memory of Matushka Olga Soroka; **Mat. Joni Soroka** (Altar Candles \$50) in memory of Barbara Naiser; **Lindy Hamilton** (Communion Wine \$40) in memory of twin brother, Russell Hamilton; **John Mahalchak Family** (Incense \$10) for friends and family.

➤ to our **December donors:** **Jan Widell** (Bulletin \$60) in memory of departed members of the Puskar and Morris families; **Donya Yewisiak** (Holy Bread \$50) in memory of Matushka Olga Soroka; **Mat. Joni Soroka** (Altar Candles \$50) in memory of Barbara Naiser; **Lindy Hamilton** (Communion Wine \$40) in memory of twin brother, Russell Hamilton; **John Mahalchak Family** (Incense \$10) for friends and family.

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.

O Great Wonder!

For with God we look not for the order of nature, but rest our faith in the power of Him who works.

What shall I say to you; what shall I tell you? I behold a Mother who has brought forth; I see a Child come to this light by birth. The manner of His conception I cannot comprehend.

Nature here rested, while the Will of God labored. O ineffable grace! The Only Begotten, Who is before all ages, Who cannot be touched or be perceived, Who is simple, without body, has now put on my body, that is visible and liable to corruption. For what reason? That coming amongst us he may teach us, and teaching, lead us by the hand to the things that men cannot see. For since men believe that the eyes are more trustworthy than the ears, they doubt of that which they do not see, and so He has deigned to show Himself in bodily presence, that He may remove all doubt.

Christ, finding the holy body and soul of the Virgin, builds for Himself a living temple, and as He had willed, formed there a man from the Virgin; and, putting Him on, this day came forth; unashamed of the lowliness of our nature.

For it was to Him no lowering to put on what He Himself had made. Let that handiwork be forever glorified, which became the cloak of its own Creator. For as in the first creation of flesh, man could not be made before the clay had come into His hand, so neither could this corruptible body be glorified, until it had first become the garment of its Maker.

For this He assumed my body, that I may become capable of His Word; taking my flesh, He gives me His spirit; and so He bestowing and I receiving, He prepares for me the treasure of Life. He takes my flesh, to sanctify me; He gives me His Spirit, that He may save me. (*Chrysostom*)

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, December 24

Tone 4 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 2 Troparion (Holy Fathers)

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tone 4 Troparion (Forefeast)

Mary was of David’s seed, so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem. She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man. The time for the birth was at hand. Since there was no room at the inn, the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen.//
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

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

Tone 1 Kontakion (Holy Fathers)

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha! The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb. The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him,//
and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Forefeast)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to the Eternal Word.

Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe! Glorify with the angels and the shepherds the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Forefathers)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever! (v. 3)

Epistle of the Sunday (Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40)

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command.

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms,

worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king.

David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!