



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, January 28

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Tuesday, January 30

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, February 1

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Festal Vigil

Friday, February 2: Entrance of XC into the Temple

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

Saturday, February 3

Noon to 2:00 pm Pan Orthodox Choir Reh.

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Parish Vigil

Sunday, February 4

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

Thirty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org January 28, 2024

Announcements

➤ Our **annual Yearly Parish Meeting** will be held today after the Divine Liturgy. Only adult parish members in good standing (participants in the sacramental life of the church and financially supporting) may vote in the meeting. Any questions about eligibility should be directed to Fr Thomas.

➤ On Thursday evening and Friday morning of this week, we will celebrate **the Entrance (or Meeting or Presentation) of Christ into the Temple**. This great feast is celebrated 40 days after the Nativity of Christ. On this day, we bless candles. **The faithful are encouraged to bring candles from home to be blessed** and take them back with you as a reminder that Christ is “a light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people, Israel.”

➤ As we begin 2024, our parish will be entering into the next phase of our **dome replacement project**. **We ask you to prayerfully consider giving specifically to these enhancement projects, above and beyond your regular giving**. These projects will certainly require our sacrificial giving in order to have a suitable place of worship now and for years into the future. We hope that you will consider contributing a substantial gift during the next year to help defray the cost of the replacement of the domes. May God bless you!

Looking ahead:

Monday, March 18 – Great Lent Begins

Sunday, March 31 – Western Easter

Sunday, May 5 – Holy Pascha

Prayers

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

➤ From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and newly departed, Sylvia Hanna; for the health of family and Donya Yewisiak. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, Uncle Mike Dyczko; for the health of Nancy Shaytar; Many Years to Donya on her birthday. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, Uncle Mike Dyczko; Happy Birthday to Larry Polny and Donya Yewisiak. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, Godfather, Michael Dyczko; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Larry Polny and Donya Yewisiak! From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, brother, Laura, Sally, Ann, and Mat. Millie and the newly departed Uncle Jack and Betty; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for special intentions, peace, anniversaries, and birthdays. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova and for the health and salvation of our family. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends and family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, and Sarah.

Thank you

➤ to our **January donors:** Matushka Nancy MNell and Gregory Mell (All categories: Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Altar Candles \$25, Communion Wine \$40, Incense \$10) in loving memory of the departed servant of God, 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: Second Letter of St Peter and the Letter of Jude

Verse (younger classes): II Peter 3:10- “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...”

Questions to ask/review:

- Tell the parable of the Last Judgment.
- What help does God expect us to give to others?
- What can you do this week to help the needy?

Verse (older classes): II Peter 1:5-7- “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.”

Questions to ask/review:

- How does our spiritual life grow like a child grows?
- How do the traits listed in the verse build upon one another?
- Where are you now in your growth toward spiritual adulthood?
- Think of some specific events in the last few days or weeks that show evidence of one or more of the above traits. Are you growing or stagnating?

Suggested Activities at home:

Make bags for the homeless. Include food, drink, and a note with a prayer. Keep them in the car to hand out to those asking for help.

Everyone in the family chooses one of the traits from II Peter 1:5-7. Monitor your behavior this week and work to improve at that trait. Share with one another how you did.

Prayer: Lord, help me to serve you by serving others. OR Lord, help me to grow in spiritual maturity. Amen.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, January 28

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 (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 (New Martyrs)

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy, praising her new martyrs and confessors; hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood.// By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

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 Nicholas)

O Saint you revealed yourself in Myra as a priest, for you fulfilled the Gospel of Christ by giving up your soul for your people, and saving the innocent from death.// Therefore you are blessed as one well learned in the grace of God.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 Kontakion (New Martyrs)

Today the new martyrs of Rus’ stand in white robes before the Lamb of God, and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory: “Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor, and power, and strength be to our God// unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

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

Epistle of the Sunday (Colossians 3:4-11)

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion,

evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 22:35-46)

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?”

They said to Him, “The Son of David.”

He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying:

‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool” ’?

If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?” And no one was able to answer Him a

word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

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!

You Will Also Appear

If therefore we shall then be manifested (appear), let us not grieve, when we do not have honor: if this life be not life, but it be hidden, we ought to live this life as though dead. Then shall you also, he says, with Him be manifested in glory. In glory, he said, not merely manifested. For the pearl too is hidden so long as it is within the oyster. If then we be treated with insult, let us not grieve; or whatever it be we suffer; for this life is not our life, we are strangers and sojourners. For you died, he says. Who is so witless, as for a corpse, dead and buried, either to buy servants, or build houses, or prepare costly raiment? None. Neither then do ye; but as we seek one thing only, namely, that we be not in a naked state, so here too let us seek one thing and no more. Our first man is buried: buried not in earth, but in water; not death-destroyed, but buried by death’s destroyer, not by the law of nature, but by the governing command that is stronger than nature. For what has been done by nature, may perchance be undone; but what has been done by His command, never. Nothing is more blessed than this burial, whereat all are rejoicing, both Angels, and men, and the Lord of Angels. At this burial, no need is there of vestments, nor of coffin, nor of anything else of that kind. Would you see the symbol of this? I will show you a pool wherein the one was buried, the other raised; in the Red Sea the Egyptians were sunk beneath it, but the Israelites went up from out of it; in the same act he buries the one, generates the other. (*Chrysostom*)