



## 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, February 11

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

### Tuesday, February 13

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

### Wednesday, February 14

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

7:00 pm Bible Study

### Thursday, February 15

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

### Saturday, February 17

Noon – 2:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Choir Reh.

4:30 pm Confession

5:00 pm Parish Vigil

### Sunday, February 18

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-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

February 11, 2024

## Announcements

➤ The **Regional Synaxes** are starting up again for 2024! Please see your email for the locations and details. The South and East will meet Friday February 23rd. Central will meet on Monday February 26th. These gatherings are a great way to meet with parishioners in your area, and you can also bring a guest! If you have any questions, including about which region you are in, see Deacon Luke.

➤ 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!

➤ During our monthly Social Night on **February 24 beginning at 6:00 pm**, we'll have a **Talent Show**, with emcee Fred Zelesnik: From the host: "Let us display our talent that God gave us. If you can sing, dance, or play an instrument (etc), please sign up. Thanks!"

### Looking ahead:

**Sunday, February 18** – Zacchaeus Sunday

**Week of February 25** – Fast Free (Publican/Ph)

**Sunday, March 10** – Meatfare Sunday

**Sunday, March 17** – Cheesefare Sunday

**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; for the health of family, and Donya Yewisiak. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, Brother, Raymond; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, brother, Fr. Daniel, Julia, George, Michael and the newly departed; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for special intention, peace, 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 & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Kayla Elizabeth, and Sarah. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton family, the Scott family, and Nancy Shaytar. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Roman, Bruce, Daina, Polina, Slava, Luba, Galina, and Sergi; for the health of Veronica, Daniel, Tatyana, Nina, Joe, Tomas, and Kristofer. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servant, Valentina Barsom; for the health of Nancy Shaytar. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, Nicholas, Nicholas, Amelia, and Amelia; for the health of Nicholas & family, Andrea & family, Richard & Lisa on their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary; special intentions.

## Thank you

➤ to our **February donors:** Kristie and Christoph Mertz (Altar Candles \$25) for the health of daughter, Katarina, on her birthday.

**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:** Introduction to Sacraments

### Questions to ask/review:

- What is another name for sacraments? (Holy Mysteries)
- -Is our whole life in the Church a sacrament? How so?
- -What are some sacraments that you have seen? Received?
- -What do we receive through sacraments? (God's grace...direct communion with God)
- -Name the seven sacraments that are generally recognized in the Church.

### Suggested Activities at home:

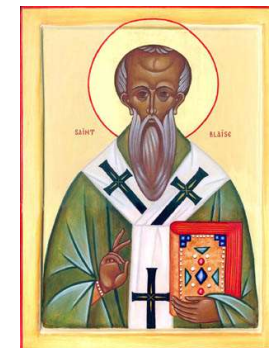
- Look at pictures of major milestones in the life of your family and discuss how the Church's sacraments were involved.

**Prayer:** O gracious Lord, thank you for sharing Yourself with us, through your Holy Church.

### The Hieromartyr Blaise

(Blasius), Bishop of Sebaste, was known for his righteous and devout life. Unanimously chosen by the people, he was consecrated Bishop of Sebaste. This occurred during the reign of the Roman emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Licinius (307-324), fierce persecutors of Christians. Saint Blaise encouraged his flock, visited the imprisoned, and gave support to the martyrs.

We pray to Saint Blaise for the health of domestic animals, and for protection from wild beasts.



# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, February 11

## **Tone 3 Troparion** (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice!  
Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.  
He has trampled down death by death.  
He has become the first born of the dead.  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to 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. Blaise)

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,  
thou didst become a successor to their throne.  
Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find  
the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one  
of God;  
by teaching the word of truth without error,  
thou didst defend the Faith, even to the  
shedding of thy blood.//  
O Hieromartyr Blaise, entreat Christ God to save  
our souls!

## **Tone 3 Kontakion** (Resurrection)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O  
Merciful One,  
leading us from the gates of death.  
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;  
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//  
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of  
Thy power.

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

## **Tone 3 Kontakion** (St Nicholas)

Thou didst appear as a priest in Myra, O Saint  
Nicholas  
Fulfilling the gospel of Christ, O ven'rable one.  
Thou didst lay down thy life for thy people,  
and didst rescue the innocent from death,  
Therefore thou hast been blest as a great initiate  
of the grace of God.

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

## **Tone 2 Kontakion** (St. Blaise)

Godly shoot, unfading flower,  
most fruitful branch of Christ the Vine,  
God-bearing Blaise, fill with joy those who in  
faith honor thy memory//  
as thou unceasingly intercedest for us all.

## **Tone 3 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing  
praises to our King, sing praises!

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (1 Timothy 1:15-17)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all  
acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the  
world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.  
However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that  
in me first Jesus Christ might show all  
longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are  
going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now  
to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God  
who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever  
and ever. Amen.

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (Matthew 15:21-28)

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to  
the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a  
woman of Canaan came from that region and  
cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O

Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely  
demon-possessed."

But He answered her not a word.

And His disciples came and urged Him, saying,  
"Send her away, for she cries out after us."

But He answered and said, "I was not sent  
except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Then she came and worshiped Him, saying,  
"Lord, help me!"

But He answered and said, "It is not good to  
take the children's bread and throw it to the  
little dogs."

And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs  
eat the crumbs which fall from their masters'  
table."

Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman,  
great is your faith! Let it be to you as you  
desire." And her daughter was healed from that  
very hour.

## **Communion Hymn**

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

## **The Father and the Son**

*Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to  
God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever  
and ever. Amen. (1 Tim 1:17)*

For these things, then, we glorify not the Son only,  
but the Father. Here let us argue with the heretics.  
Speaking of the Father, he says, To the only God. Is  
the Son then not God? The only immortal. Is the  
Son then not immortal? Or does He not possess  
that Himself, which hereafter He will give to us?  
Yes, they say, He is God and immortal, but not  
such as the Father. What then? Is He of inferior

essence, and therefore of inferior immortality?  
What then is a greater and a less immortality? For  
immortality is nothing else than the not being  
subject to destruction. For there is a greater and a  
less glory; but immortality does not admit of being  
greater or less: as neither is there a greater and a  
less health. For a thing must either be destructible,  
or altogether indestructible. Are we men then  
immortal even as He? God forbid! Surely not!  
Why? Because He has it by nature, but we  
adventitiously. Why then do you make the  
difference? Because the Father, he says, is made  
such as He is by no other: but the Son is what He  
is, from the Father. This we also confess, not  
denying that the Son is generated from the Father  
incorruptibly. And we glorify the Father, he means,  
for having generated the Son, such as He is. Thus  
you see the Father is most glorified, when the Son  
has done great things. For the glory of the Son is  
referred again to Him. And since He generated Him  
omnipotent and such as He is in Himself, it is not  
more the glory of the Son than of the Father, that  
He is self-sufficient, and self-maintained, and free  
from infirmity. It has been said of the Son, By  
whom He made the worlds. Hebrews 1:2 Now  
there is a distinction observed among us between  
creation and workmanship. For one works and  
toils and executes, another rules; and why?  
Because he that executes is the inferior. But it is  
not so there; nor is the sovereignty with One, the  
workmanship with the Other. For when we hear,  
By whom He made the worlds, we do not exclude  
the Father from creation. Nor when we say, To the  
King immortal, do we deny dominion to the Son.  
For these are common to the One and the Other,  
and each belongs to Both. The Father created, in  
that He begot the creating Son; the Son rules, as  
being Lord of all things created. For He does not  
work for hire, nor in obedience to others, as  
workmen do among us, but from His own goodness  
and love for mankind. But has the Son ever been  
seen? No one can affirm this. What means then, To  
the King immortal, invisible, the only wise God? Or  
when it is said, There is no other name whereby  
we must be saved: and again, There is salvation in  
no other? Acts 4:12 (St John Chrysostom)