



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 18

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Tuesday, February 20

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, February 22

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, February 24

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

4:00 pm Community Food Pantry

4:30 pm Confession

5:00 pm Parish Vigil

6:00 pm Social Night/Talent Show

Sunday, February 25

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-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

February 18, 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.

➤ 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!"

➤ **We are pleased to announce that an anonymous donor has pledged \$25,000 as a matching donation challenge to kick off the dome restoration fund.** This particular matching challenge will end on Pascha.

We prayerfully ask that you consider giving a generous donation to help meet this matching challenge by Pascha (May 5, 2024).

While we do not have the exact cost for the front three domes, our estimate is \$350,000-400,000. **Our goal is to raise at least \$150,000 this year.**

Looking ahead:

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, Nancy Shaytar, 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 servants, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family and Nancy Shaytar. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha, and Nancy Shaytar. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, Dorothy, Kim, Irene, 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 departed servant, Ann Marie Kowalcheck; for the health of Galina Vilkova. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Kayla Elizabeth, and Sarah. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, parents, John & Amelia, and Nicholas (birthday); for the health of John, Donya, Sonya, and Nancy; special intentions.

Thank you

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



The Apostle Zacchaeus was a rich publican (tax collector) at Jericho. Since he was short of stature, he climbed a sycamore tree in order to see the Savior passing by. According to the Apostolic Constitutions, after the Ascension of the Lord, St. Zacchaeus accompanied St. Peter on his travels. Tradition says he followed St. Peter to Caesarea, where Peter appointed him the Bishop of Caesarea in Palestine, where he died in peace.

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Baptism

Questions to ask/review:

- What is the scriptural basis for the sacrament of Baptism?
- What feast remembers the baptism of Jesus?
- Why do we baptize infants? What is the role of Godparents (sponsors)?
- What is the order of the service? What is the meaning of each action?
- What is the purpose of the exorcism prayers?
- Why must we be put into the water 3 times?
- What does the baptized wear white?
- What song do we sing after they are baptized?
- Is baptism a "free pass" to salvation? Why not?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Role play a baptism with a baby doll. Review and discuss the significance of each part of the service.
- Look at pictures from the baptisms of others in the family.
- Contact your Godparents this week and spend time together to keep your relationship strong.

Prayer: Lord, may you keep me renewed with your light, as the day of my baptism.

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.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, February 18

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 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 3 Troparion (St. Leo)

Thou wast the Church’s instrument in strengthening the teaching of true doctrine; thou didst shine forth from the West like a sun dispelling the errors of heretics.//
Righteous Leo, entreat Christ God to grant us
His great mercy!

Tone 4 Kontakion (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell,
and as Master,//
He has risen on the third day!

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 3 Kontakion (St. Leo)

Seated upon the throne of the priesthood,
glorious Leo,
thou didst shut the mouths of the spiritual liars.
With divinely inspired teachings of the honored Trinity,
thou didst shed the light of the knowledge of God upon thy flock.//
Therefore, thou art glorified as a divine initiate of the grace of God.

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Timothy 4:9-15)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Epistle of the Sunday (Luke 19:1-10)

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.”

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”

And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Communion Hymn

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

The True Good

Mark the wise dispensation of God. That He might put mankind to shame, He has made certain things common, as the sun, air, earth, and water, the heaven, the sea, the light, the stars; whose benefits are dispensed equally to all as brethren. We are all formed with the same eyes, the same body, the same soul, the same structure in all respects, all things from the earth, all men from one man, and all in the same habitation. But these are not enough to shame us. Other things then (as we have said) He has made common, as baths, cities, market-places, walks. And observe, that concerning things that are common there is no

contention, but all is peaceable. But when one attempts to possess himself of anything, to make it his own, then contention is introduced, as if nature herself were indignant, that when God brings us together in every way, we are eager to divide and separate ourselves by appropriating things, and by using those cold words mine and yours. Then there is contention and uneasiness. But where this is not, no strife or contention is bred. This state therefore is rather our inheritance, and more agreeable to nature. Why is it, that there is never a dispute about a market-place? Is it not because it is common to all? But about a house, and about property, men are always disputing. Things necessary are set before us in common; but even in the least things we do not observe a community. Yet those greater things He has opened freely to all, that we might thence be instructed to have these inferior things in common. Yet for all this, we are not instructed.

But as I said, how can he, who is rich, be a good man? When he distributes his riches, he is good, so that he is good when he has ceased to have it, when he gives it to others; but while he keeps it himself, he is not good. How then is that a good which being retained renders men evil, being parted with makes them good? Not therefore to have wealth, but to have it not, makes one appear to be good. Wealth therefore is not a good. But if, when you can receive it, you receive it not, again you are good.

If then we are good, when having it, we distribute it to others; or when offered to us we refuse it, and if we are not good, when we receive or gain it, how can it be a good thing in itself? Call it not therefore a good. You possess it not, because you think it a good, because you are anxious to possess it. Cleanse your mind, and rectify your judgment, and then you will be good. Learn what are really goods. What are they? Virtue and benevolence. These and not that, are truly good. According to this rule, the more charitable you are, the more good you will be considered. But if you are rich, you are no longer good. Let us therefore become thus good, that we may be really good, and may obtain the good things to come in Jesus Christ. (*Chrysostom*)