



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, April 28 Palm Sunday

10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy/Church School

7:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Monday, April 29 Holy Monday

7:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 30 Holy Tuesday

9:00 am Vespers

9:30 am – 12:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, May 1 Holy Wednesday

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, May 2 Great and Holy Thursday

9:30 am Vespersal Divine Liturgy

7:00 pm Matins with Passion Gospels

Friday, May 3 Great and Holy Friday

9:00 am Royal Hours

3:00 pm Great Vespers

7:00 pm Matins with Procession

Saturday, May 4 Great and Holy Saturday

9:00 am Vespersal Liturgy

9:15 pm Nocturn, Paschal Matins, and Liturgy
Blessing of Baskets and Fellowship

Sunday, May 5 Great and Holy Pascha

12:00 pm Paschal Vespers

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, Rector

Deacon Luke Loboda, Attached

Deacon John Skowron, Attached

Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dir's

Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

April 28, 2024

Announcements

➤ Please take a **bundle of pussy willows and palms** before the Divine Liturgy. They will be blessed immediately before the Liturgy as you hold them up. We will process around the Church during the Third Antiphon. Hold your palms in praise of the King of the Universe, the Lord Jesus Christ!

➤ Please consider giving a **donation to help defray the costs of flowers** for Holy Week and Pascha. We decorate the church in honor of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It is appropriate and right that we do this (Mt 26:12).

➤ We are in need of **red dyed hard boiled eggs** to distribute at Pascha. Please see the sign-up sheet on the door or speak with Matushka Joni.

➤ We will bless **Paschal baskets** after the Divine Liturgy on Pascha. Fill a basket with your favorite foods that you fasted from this Great Lenten season. It's fun to share with others a taste of your food! Food will also be provided at the Paschal fellowship

➤ **Dome Restoration Fund report:** We are happy to report that we have matched the \$25,00 gift to restore our domes. However, **we must raise \$150,000 by November**, so our efforts go on. Please consider a generous gift to help us raise money for this essential project. While we do not have the exact cost for the front three domes, our estimate is \$350,000-400,000. God bless all of our donors!

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.

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 servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, father, Charles. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, father, Charles. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, brother, Janet & Betty; for the health of family, friends, and serving soldiers; health and healing for Kiprian, Zena, David; for special intention, peace, anniversaries, and birthdays. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, husband George. From **Irene Kulchock** for the departed servants, Jan Pravlochak, Richard Kulchock, George Shaytar; for the health of Nancy Shaytar. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Kayla Elizabeth, Ivy, Scarlett, Sarah, Cynthia, and Evelyn. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Nina, Polina, Slava, Bruce, Galina, Luba, Daina, and Roman; for the health of Tatyana, Tomas, Veronika, Kristofer, Daniel, Tatiana, Svetlana, Roma, and Kristina. From **Kristie Mertz** for the health of Cheryl Herold; for the St. Constantine School.

Thank you

➤ to our **April donors: Alexandria Tirpak** (\$50 Holy Bread) for the health of family and friends and for all departed family members. **Mertz Family** (\$25 Altar Candles) for Theodor on his 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: Sacrament of Holy Unction

Questions to ask/review:

- Can Jesus really heal the sick? Did Jesus have to touch the person to heal him? (no)
- Are there miracles and healings today? (yes)
- How does the sacrament of Holy Unction differ from other forms of healing that may be promoted in today's culture?
- Don't we have doctors now we can go to if we are sick?
- Why doesn't Jesus heal everyone? Why do we get sick at all?
- Should we only call for Holy Unction when we are dying? (no)
- In what other ways can we as Christians serve those who are ill, especially those who are chronically ill?
- What happens at the sacrament of Holy Unction? Where in the Scriptures is this sacrament discussed?
- Why do some churches serve Holy Unction during Holy Week?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Make a list or refer to the parish prayer list and include the sick in your personal or family prayers.
- Send a card or phone call to someone who is sick.

Prayer: Lord help those who are sick and suffering according to Your will. Amen.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, April 28

First Antiphon (Psalm 115)

v. I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

v. Because He inclined His ear to me; therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

v. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me.

v. I suffered distress and anguish, so I called on the Name of the Lord.

v. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

v. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Second Antiphon (Psalm 116)

v. I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."

Refrain: O Son of God, who sat upon the foal, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

v. What shall I render to the Lord for all the things He has given me?

v. I will receive the cup of salvation, and call on the Name of the Lord.

v. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people.

v. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Third Antiphon (Psalm 117)

v. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

v. Let the house of Israel say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Refrain: Troparion of the Feast

v. Let the house of Aaron say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Let all those who fear the Lord say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Troparion of the Feast *Tone 1*

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy passion,

Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God.

Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: "Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!"

Another Troparion of the Feast *Tone 4*

When we were buried with Thee in baptism, O Christ God,

we were made worthy of eternal life by Thy Resurrection.

Now we praise Thee and sing:

"Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!"

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion of the Feast *Tone 6*

Sitting on Thy throne in Heaven, carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God, Accept the praise of angels and the songs of children, who sing:

"Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam!"

Prokeimenon of the Feast *Tone 4 (Ps 118)*

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

Epistle of the Feast (*Phil 4:4-9*)

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and

supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Gospel of the Feast (*Jn 12:1-18*)

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! The King of Israel!"

Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt."

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Celebrate the feast and come with gladness! Let us magnify Christ with palms and branches singing: "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!"

Communion Hymn (*Ps 148*)

Praise Him in Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

By holding palms (in Hebrew, the tender branch is called *vaion*, a palm branch), they were signifying Christ's imminent victory over death. For it was the custom to honor the victors of contests or battles with triumphal processions and to lead them around with branches from evergreens. The meaning of Hosanna is "Save now, we pray" or "Therefore, save." The colt prefigured the Gentiles. The ass's colt was still an untamed animal and impure according to the Jewish law. Christ's sitting and resting on the "Gentiles" showed our taming and obedience to the "law" of the Holy Gospel and Christ as Champion, Victor, and King of all the earth.

Today we not only welcome the Lord riding on a colt into the city of Jerusalem, but Christ who comes in power and glory as King of the age to come.