



Whether you're searching for a new church home or just visiting, we're 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 use the QR Code as your offering today. Please join us downstairs following the service. We want to get to know you! God bless you!



## This Week

**Sunday, November 24**

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

**Tuesday, November 26**

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

**Thursday, November 28: Thanksgiving**

No Services or Office Hours

**Saturday, November 30**

4:00 pm Community Food Pantry

No Services

**Sunday, December 1**

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*

**Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org November 24, 2024

## Announcements

➤ A **Christmas Concert** benefitting local charities will be held today at 4:00 pm featuring local Orthodox parish choirs and the **Pan-Orthodox Choir of Pittsburgh**. St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, 2110 Haymaker Rd, Monroeville, PA 15146. Refreshments will be served after the concert. All are encouraged to attend.

➤ Would you please consider a special **financial offering to help defray the costs of flowers** for the Nativity holiday? Thank you for your love of God's House!

➤ **Our annual St Nicholas Day Dinner** will be held on Sunday, December 8 after the Divine Liturgy. There is no cost. See you there!

➤ **The Sacrament of Holy Unction** (anointing for the healing of the sick) will be held on Sunday, December 8 at 6:00 pm at St Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Allison Park.

➤ Last Call! **Parish Christmas Card Project** benefits the monthly community food pantry. We ask each parishioner/family to donate \$10 to have their name(s) listed on the card which will be sent to parishioners in early December. Please see Jan Widell or Marsha Wasilko to participate. Deadline is next Sunday, December 1, 2024.

**I will praise the name of God with a song and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.** (Ps 69/70:30)

## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized* Bob Brewster (Presbyterian Oakland); *Home:* Sonia Blaha, John Mahalchak (son). William Warnak, Nancy Shaytar, Natalie Toooh. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* 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 servants, Carol Kowalcheck, Aunt Mary Hollenbach, and Grandfather Theodore Dyczko. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, Carol Kowalcheck, Godmother, Mary Hollenbach, and Grandfather Theodore Dyczko. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, Carol Kowalcheck, Aunt Mary Hollenbach, and Grandfather Theodore Dyczko. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the newly departed servant, Charles, for Amelia and Helen; for the health of Nicholas and Andrea; special intentions. From **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Blaha** for the departed servants, mother, Betty, grandfather, Michael, grandmother, Victoria, Kum Duchin, and David; for the health of family, friends, siblings, serving soldiers & infant, Josie; for special intention, peace, anniversaries, and birthdays, especially Godchild, Natasha. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton & Scott families. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the departed servant, mother, Barbara; for the health of father, John; special intentions. From **John Mahalchak Family** for the health of friends and family, John, Cheryl, John, Daniel, Mary, Kayla Elizabeth, Priya Elizabeth, Gregory, Cindy, Joseph, and Margaret. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servants, husband, George; for the health of Donya Yewisiak.

## Thank You

➤ to our **November** donors: John Mahalchak Family (\$10 – Incense) for the health of family and friends and in memory of departed family and friends.

## This Week in Church School

**Today's lesson:** Moses

**Scripture reference:** Exodus and Numbers

**Questions to ask/review:**

- Who was Moses? Why did his mother put him in a river in a basket? What do we know about his youth?
- How did God call Moses to serve him?
- What happened at the burning bush? Who is like the burning bush?
- How did Pharaoh treat Israel? Why?
- Name as many of the plagues as you can. How would each have affected the people?
- God asked Moses to do something very difficult. Has God ever asked you to do anything you felt was very hard?
- Who was Aaron? What role did God assign for him?
- Moses was afraid to go to Pharaoh. How does fear affect our ability to trust God? How can we overcome our fear? How did Moses?
- What was the last plague? What did God command the Israelites to do? What is the meaning of this for us Christians?
- What happened at the Red Sea?
- What struggles did Israel face in the wilderness? Can you give examples?
- How did God reveal his 10 commandments to Moses? What happened when Moses brought them to the people?
- What is the role of the Law? What is the importance of rules in our lives? How can laws be made more hurtful than helpful?
- When Israel finally reaches the promised land (Canaan), why can't Moses go?

**Suggested Activities at home:**

- Practice learning the 10 commandments and memorizing them.
- Make paper baskets or build pyramids with blocks.
- Create a poster that illustrates each of the plagues.

**Prayer:** Lord, speak to us as You did to Moses. OR Lord, help us to obey You and not to be stubborn like Pharaoh. OR Lord, give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.

**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, November 24

## **Tone 5 Troparion** (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

## **Tone 4 Troparion** (Feast)

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: “Rejoice, O Fulfillment// of the Creator’s dispensation!“

## **Tone 4 Troparion** (St. Catherine)

By thy virtues as by rays of the sun thou didst enlighten the unbelieving philosophers, and like the most bright moon thou didst drive away the darkness of disbelief from those walking in the night; thou didst convince the queen, and didst also chastise the tyrant, God-summoned bride, blessed Catherine. Thou didst hasten with desire to the heavenly bridal chamber of the fairest Bridegroom Christ, and thou wast crowned by Him with a royal crown;// Standing before Him with the Angels, pray for us who keep thy most sacred memory!

## **Tone 5 Kontakion** (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death.

Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man,// and we cry to Thee: “O Lord, save us!”

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

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

Let all of us who love to honor the martyrs form a great choir in praise of the most wise Catherine, for she preached Christ and trampled the serpent// despising the knowledge of the orators.

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

## **Tone 4 Kontakion** (Feast)

The most pure Temple of the Savior; the precious Chamber and Virgin; the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, is presented today to the house of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, therefore, the angels of God praise her:// “Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!“

## **Tone 5 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever. (Ps. 11:7)

## **Tone 3 Prokeimenon** (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. (Lk. 1:46-47)

## **Epistle** Galatians 6:11-18 (Sunday)

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised

that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

## **Gospel** Luke 13:10-17 (Sunday)

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.” And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, “There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.”

The Lord then answered him and said, “Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?” And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

## **Tone 4 Hymn to the Theotokos** (Feast)

The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed.// How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

Since she is a living Ark of God let no profane hand touch the Theotokos. But let the lips of believers unceasingly sing to her, praising her in joy with the angel’s song:// “Truly, thou art more exalted than all, O pure Virgin!”

## **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. (Ps. 115:4) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**T**he Holy Great Martyr Katherine was the daughter of Konstos, the governor of Alexandria, Egypt during the reign of Emperor Maximian (305-313). Living in the capital, the center of Hellenistic knowledge, and possessed of a rare beauty and intellect, Katherine received an excellent education, studying the works of the greatest philosophers and teachers of antiquity. After several dreams of the Lord and His Mother, she received holy baptism.

At that time Emperor Maximian was in Alexandria for a pagan festival. Introducing herself, the Saint confessed her faith in the One True God, and exposed the errors of the pagans. The beauty of the maiden captivated the Emperor. In order to convince her of the superiority of pagan wisdom, the Emperor ordered fifty of the most learned philosophers and rhetoricians of the Empire to dispute with her, but the Saint got the better of the wise men, so that they came to believe in Christ themselves. Saint Katherine made the Sign of the Cross over the martyrs, and they bravely accepted death for Christ and were burnt alive by order of the Emperor.