

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized (none); Home:* Bob Brewster, John Mahalchak (son). Nancy Shaytar, Natalie Tooch, William Warnak. *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-Memory Eternal; for the health of family. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, brother, Raymond; for the health of Fr. Thomas; Happy Birthday to Jan Widel & Sandi Tirpak! From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, brother, Raymond; for the health of Fr. Thomas, Mat. Nancy, and the Wasilko family; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Jan Widel & Sandi Tirpak! From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, brother, Raymond; Happy Birthday, Jan Widel and Sandi Tirpak. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the newly departed servant, Susan, and James; for the health of Sonia, Donya, and Jan on their birthdays, Fr. Thomas, Bless our military and especially, our parish; special intentions. From **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Blaha** for the departed servants, Aunt MaryAnn, Estelle, and newly departed; for the health of family, friends, siblings, serving soldiers- Fr. Tom, Paul, and Sandra; for special intention, peace, and birthdays. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Fr. Tom, Reader Michael, and the Hamilton & Scott families. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for her departed father, John (40 day); for the health of Fr. Tom, Melanie, Jackie, and Natalie; special intentions. From **John Mahalchak Family** for the departed servants, grandfather, Dimitri Mahalchak, and Margaret; for the health of friends and family, John, Cheryl, John, Daniel, Mary, Gregory and Cindy. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servants, husband, George. From **Yelena & Henry Paclawski** for our beloved son, Dylan (Jan. 6, 2021). From **Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Nancy Shaytar, Jan Widel, and Sandi Tirpak-God Grant them Many Years on their birthdays. From **The Muney Family** for the departed servant, Presbyter Thomas. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilko; for the protection of our families in their travels.

➤ **The monthly donation sheet** for 2025 is available at the candle desk. Please note that the monthly donation for bulletins has been reduced to \$30 since we have discontinued the Vestal color covers.

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: Job and Ruth
Scripture reference: Book of Job and Book of Ruth

Questions to ask/review:

- Who was Job? What are some nice things that Job possessed?
- How did Job suffer?
- How did Job respond?
- Did his friends help him? Why did his friends fail to help him?
- How would you have reacted if they had been your friends?
- What or who do you think causes suffering in the world?
- Why did God allow Job to suffer? Why does God allow suffering in the world?
- Why did Ruth stay with Naomi?
- What is the role of the mother-in-law, then and now?
- How did Ruth meet Boaz? Why was Ruth in the fields?
- What custom made Boaz Ruth's husband? How do we choose a husband today?
- Who cares for the widow and the elderly today?
- List the positive qualities of Ruth, of Naomi, of Boaz.
- Why is it important that Ruth became an ancestor of Jesus?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Write a card, pray for, or visit with someone who has endured suffering recently.
- Do extra chores this week with joy like Ruth.

Prayer: Lord, may we serve you with joyful hearts. OR Lord, help us to bring comfort to those who are suffering



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, January 12

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

Tuesday, January 14 *No Services or Office Hours*

Thursday, January 16 *No Services or Office Hours*

Saturday, January 18

3:30 pm Exploring Orthodoxy

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Parish Vigil

Sunday, January 19

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

Sunday After the Theophany of Christ

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

January 12, 2025

Announcements

➤ This week we will be introducing all parishioners to **our new online giving portal, ChurchTrac**. We are encouraging everyone to consider moving to this secure and easy method of financially supporting our parish. The amount of bookkeeping time has increased greatly with the number of parishioners. Handling cash and checks is fraught with security and accuracy issues. Online giving reduces bookkeeping time and gives everyone an instant status of their giving at any time. However, those who wish to maintain giving via envelopes will be provided with envelopes for home and at church. Complete information will be provided this week. Please see Kristie Mertz if you have questions or for more information.

➤ Please note that **there are no daily services this week**. Fr Thomas will be at a retreat with Ancient Faith Ministries. Please contact him directly **via text** for any emergencies at 412-206-5012. Regular schedule next weekend.

➤ **2025 Calendars** are available in the vestibule. Thank you to Szal Funeral Home of McKees Rocks for their continued support.

➤ The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 26. Only members in good standing may participate. Reports are due to Deb Burgess by today.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, January 12

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 1 Troparion (Feast)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself// and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

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 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 4 Kontakion (Martyr Tatiana)

In thy sufferings thou didst shine brightly in the royal purple of thy blood, and like a beautiful dove thou didst fly to heaven, passion-bearer Tatiana.// Therefore, always pray for those who honor thee!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 Kontakion (Feast)

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises: “Thou hast come and revealed Thyself,// O unapproachable Light.”

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (Sunday After)

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

Epistle Ephesians 4:7-13 (Sunday After)

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore He says:

“When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”

(Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the

body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Gospel Matthew 4:12-17 (Sunday After)

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Hymn to the Theotokos (Feast)

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honorable than the heavenly hosts!

No tongue knows how to praise thee worthily, O Theotokos; even Angels are overcome with awe praising thee. But since thou art good, accept our faith; for thou knowest our love inspired by God! Thou art the defender of Christians, and we magnify thee.

Communion Hymn

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all mankind. (*Titus 2:11*) Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

For as in the Ark of Noah the love of God toward man is signified by the dove, so also now the Spirit, descending in the form of a

dove, bearing as it were the fruit of the olive, rested on Him to whom the witness was borne. For what reason? That the faithfulness of the Father’s voice might be made known, and that the prophetic utterance of a long time past might be ratified. And what utterance is this? The voice of the Lord (is) on the waters, the God of glory thundered; the Lord (is) upon many waters. And what voice? This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. This is He who is named the son of Joseph, and (who is) according to the divine essence my Only-begotten. This is my beloved Son — He who is hungry, and yet maintains myriads; who is weary, and yet gives rest to the weary; who has not where to lay His head, and yet bears up all things in His hand; who suffers, and yet heals sufferings; who is smitten, and yet confers liberty on the world; who is pierced in the side, and yet repairs the side of Adam.

But give me now your best attention, I pray you, for I wish to go back to the fountain of life, and to view the fountain that gushes with healing. The Father of immortality sent the immortal Son and Word into the world, who came to man in order to wash him with water and the Spirit; and He, begetting us again to incorruption of soul and body, breathed into us the breath (spirit) of life, and endued us with an incorruptible panoply. If, therefore, man has become immortal, he will also be God. And if he is made God by water and the Holy Spirit after the regeneration of the layer he is found to be also joint-heir with Christ after the resurrection from the dead. Wherefore I preach to this effect: Come, all you kindreds of the nations, to the immortality of the baptism. I bring good tidings of life to you who tarry in the darkness of ignorance. Come into liberty from slavery, into a kingdom from tyranny, into incorruption from corruption. And how, says one, shall we come? How? By water and the Holy Spirit. This is the water in conjunction with the Spirit, by which paradise is watered, by which the earth is enriched, by which plants grow, by which animals multiply, and (to sum up the whole in a single word) by which man is begotten again and endued with life, in which also Christ was baptized, and in which the Spirit descended in the form of a dove.