

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized (none); Home:* Bob Brewster, John Mahalchak (son). Nancy Shaytar, Natalie Tooch, *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka.

➤ **Vigil** From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and newly departed, William Warnak; for the health of family. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, brother, Raymond; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, brother, Raymond and newly departed William Warnak. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, William Warnak. From **Tatiana Yewisiak and Dave Hogle** for the health of Rosemary Hogle. From **Jim & Leslie Wokutch** for mother, Anna Jean on her 92nd birthday (2/9/25). From **Mr. and Mrs. Richard Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, brother, Godfather, George, Julia, Kim, Dorothy, and newly departed, Aunt Eva; for the health of Mae, newly illumined Andronicus, family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for special intention, peace, and birthdays-John, Eli, Trent, and Andrew. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton and Scott families; for special intentions.

➤ **Thank you to our February donors:** From **Donya Yewisiak** (Altar candles \$25) in memory of father, Fr Vladimir Soroka on his birthday. From **Kristie Mertz** (Incense \$10) for daughter Katarina on her birthday.

Lent and Pascha 2025

Sunday, February 23 – Meatfare Sunday
Sunday, March 2 – Cheesefare Sunday
Monday, March 3 – First Day of Great Lent
Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 20 – Holy Pascha
Sunday, June 8 – Pentecost

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: Solomon

Scripture reference: I Kings 1-3, 6-7, II Chronicles 3- 9, Proverbs

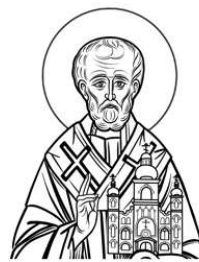
Questions to ask/review:

- Who was Solomon? Who was his mother? His father?
- Who tried to steal Solomon's throne before David was even dead?
- What did the people shout when Solomon was anointed king?
- What animal did Solomon ride to be anointed king?
- Who was the prophet of David and Solomon?
- How did God appear to Solomon? What did Solomon ask for? Why?
- What actions demonstrated Solomon's wisdom?
- What great achievement did God allow Solomon to accomplish?
- Describe the design of Solomon's temple. What was the purpose of the inner/outer courts and the Holy of Holies?
- What three books of the Bible did Solomon write? How is each book different?
- When is the book of Proverbs read in the church? What are some themes from the Book of Proverbs?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Build a model of Solomon's temple out cardboard or another material
- Challenge each member of the family to memorize a memorable verse from Proverbs.

Prayer: Lord, gives us the wisdom of Solomon. Amen.



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 scan 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, February 16

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

Tuesday, February 18

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, February 20

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, February 22

No Class or Confessions

5:00 pm Vespers (Reader's Service)

6:00 pm Talent Show/Social Hour

Sunday, February 23

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

Prodigal Son

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

February 16, 2025

Announcements

➤ Calling all artists, actors, comedians, and musicians! **The St. Nicholas Talent Show** will take place on Saturday, February 22 after vespers. Please join your fellow parishioners for a night of fun and fellowship. If you are interested in performing, please contact Fred Zelesnik at 412-538-8052 or fred1zelesnik@yahoo.com.

➤ **Spring Young Adult Retreat** – March 14-16, 2025. Our Archdiocese is pleased to cosponsor the upcoming Spring Young Adult Retreat along with the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Y2AM, the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. This retreat will take place at beautiful Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA, and is **open to young adults ages 18-35**. Join Fr. Timothy Paproski for an enriching weekend exploring the theme "Living the Liturgy"—why the Divine Liturgy is central to Orthodox spiritual life and how we can live and share it beyond the church walls. Register now: <https://tinyurl.com/2z7kjpjh> Location: Camp Nazareth, 339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137

➤ Please see Kristie Mertz on how to utilize our new online giving platform <https://orthodoxpittsburgh.churchtrac.com/>. We encourage everyone who can to begin using online, recurring giving for your offerings.

➤ **Dome Fundraiser!** With many thanks to Mike Puhac, he has made 40 dozen (!) pierogi for sale as a dome fundraiser. You can purchase them today. Please see Kristie Mertz or Matushka Joni Soroka to get yours today.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, February 16

Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,

Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:

“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Thy Kingdom!//

Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

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.

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 has been blest as a great initiate of the grace of God.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Lenten Triodion)

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou hadst given me.

Therefore I cry to Thee like the Prodigal:

“I have sinned before Thee, O compassionate Father; // receive me a penitent, and make me as one of Thy hired servants!”

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

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

Epistle 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (Sunday)

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Gospel Luke 15:11-32 (Sunday)

Then He said: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many

days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.’ ”

“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

“Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’

“But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with

him. So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’

“And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’ ”

Communion Hymn

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

On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, dedicated as the second service of the Triodion by the divine Fathers for the following reason. There are some who recognize much in themselves that is unbecoming, who live a life of great dissipation from their youth, whose lives are full of drunkenness and immorality, who having fallen thus into the depths of evil, become despondent, giving birth to pride, from whence they have no desire to advance to any of the virtues, preferring their bondage to evil and falling ever deeper into evil. Having a fatherly love for even these individuals, and desiring to lead them out of their despair, the Holy Fathers prescribed this parable for the second preparatory Sunday in order to tear up the passion of despair by the roots, to lead them to acceptance of the virtues, and to demonstrate to sinners the abundance of God's compassion upon sinners and prodigals in His great goodness and love for mankind. For there is no sin which cannot be overcome by the knowledge of His love for mankind, and this is what is presented in this parable of Christ.