

Prayers

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

➤ **Vigil** From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Doris Wasilko** for the for the health of Cynthia and Gary. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of Cynthia & Gary Bottomley. From **John Mahalchak Family** for the health of friends and family, John, Cheryl, John, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Margaret, and Joseph Alon; safe travels for wife, Cheryl. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova. From **the Pravlochaks** for the health of Mat. Nancy, son, Michael, granddaughter, Christina, and family. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, husband, George.

➤ **Thank you to our March donors:** From **Anonymous** (Bulletins \$30). **Anonymous** (Holy Bread (\$50)). From **Donya Yewisiak** (Altar candles \$25) in memory of Reader Leonard Soroka. From **the Robes Family** (Communion Wine \$40) for the health of Nicholas Robes on his birthday. From John Mahalchak (Incense \$10).

Lent and Pascha 2025

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: Elisha

Scripture reference: II Kings

Questions to ask/review:

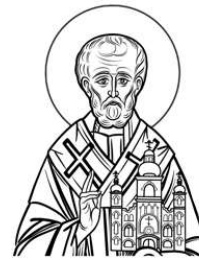
- How did Elijah and Elisha meet?
- Describe the relationship between Elijah and Elisha.
- What did Elisha witness when Elijah died?
- What miracles were done through Elisha?
- God spoke to Naaman through Elisha. Did Naaman want to obey God?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Elisha healed the sick and raised the dead. Pray for the sick this week and write them a card.

Prayer: Lord, give us Your love for the sick as You did Elisha.

On this day we commemorate the fall of Adam the first-created from partaking of the fruit of Paradise, which our holy and divine Fathers have appointed for the Sunday before Great Lent in order to demonstrate the great healing effect of the fast upon human nature and the great harm of intemperance and disobedience. Setting aside the countless instances of these vices in the world, the Fathers have put forth a vivid example in first-created Adam, who suffered great harm in his total failure to fast and brought this harm upon our nature. He did not keep the first commandment of a beneficial fast which God had required of mankind, but yielding to the desires of his belly and of the serpent through Eve, he not only did not become godlike, but he gave rise to death, bringing perdition upon all our race. For the sake of Adam's intemperance the Lord fasted for forty days and was obedient. It was for this reason that the holy Apostles conceived this present forty-day fast, so that as Adam forfeited incorruption through his intemperance, we may regain it through abstinence., the Fathers exhort us who are observing this commemoration to avoid Adam's sin and to shun intemperance in all things.



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, March 2

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

7:00 pm Forgiveness Vespers

Monday, March 3: Clean Monday

7:00 pm Canon of St Andrew of Crete

Tuesday, March 4

9:00 am Lenten Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Canon of St Andrew of Crete

Wednesday, March 5

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Lenten Fellowship Meal following Liturgy

Thursday, March 6

9:00 am Lenten Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

****5:00 pm** Canon of St Andrew of Crete

6:00 pm OVC Dinner and Gathering in Hall

Friday, March 7

7:00 pm Akathist to Our Sweetest Lord Jesus

Saturday, March 8

12:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Choir Rehearsal

5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, March 9

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School after

4:30 pm PO Vespers (Holy Cross GO, South Hills)

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*

Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*

Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*

Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Forgiveness Sunday / Cheesefare

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

March 2, 2025

Announcements

➤ Everyone is invited downstairs today for our annual **Cheesefare Luncheon**. Many thanks to the women of our parish!

➤ We are pleased to announce that an anonymous donor has pledged **\$50,000 as a matching donation challenge** to raise needed funds for the dome restoration project which is slated for Q3 of 2025.

We prayerfully ask that you consider giving a **generous donation** to help meet this matching challenge by Pascha, April 20, 2025.

More will be sent out this week via email.

➤ 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.

➤ Please note the time change for this **Thursday's Canon of St Andrew service to 5:00 pm**. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Our parish is hosting the Orthodox Volunteer Corps at 6:00 pm.

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.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, March 2

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to 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.

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'erable 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 6 Kontakion (Lenten Triodion)

O Master, Teacher of wisdom,

Bestower of virtue,

Who teachest the thoughtless and protectest the

poor,

strengthen and enlighten my heart!

O Word of the Father,

let me not restrain my mouth from crying to

Thee:

“Have mercy on me, a transgressor,//

O merciful Lord!”

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Lenten Triodion)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our

God! (Ps. 75:10a)

Epistle Romans 13:11-14:4 (Sunday)

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is

high time to awake out of sleep; for now our

salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand.

Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness,

and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk

properly, as in the day, not in revelry and

drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in

strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ,

and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its

lusts.

Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to

disputes over doubtful things. For one believes

he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats

only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise

him who does not eat, and let not him who does

not eat judge him who eats; for God has

received him. Who are you to judge another's

servant? To his own master he stands or falls.

Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able

to make him stand.

Gospel Matthew 6:14-21 (Sunday)

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your

heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you

do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will

your Father forgive your trespasses.

“Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the

hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they

disfigure their faces that they may appear to

men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they

have their reward. But you, when you fast,

anoint your head and wash your face, so that

you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to

your Father who is in the secret place; and your

Father who sees in secret will reward you

openly.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth,

where moth and rust destroy and where thieves

break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves

treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor

rust destroys and where thieves do not break in

and steal. For where your treasure is, there your

heart will be also.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in

the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Alleluia, Alleluia,

Alleluia!

If your heart has been softened either by

repentance before God or by learning the

boundless love of God towards you, do not be

proud with those whose hearts are still hard.

Remember how long your heart was hard and

incorrigible. Seven brothers were ill in one

hospital. One recovered from his illness and got

up and rushed to serve his other brothers with

brotherly love, to speed their recovery. Be like

this brother. Consider all men to be your

brothers, and sick brothers at that. And if you

come to feel that God has given you better

health than others, know that it is given through

mercy, so in health you may serve your frailer

brothers. (Prologue, 31 March) -St Nikolai of

Serbia (Velimirovic)

Often during the day I have been a great sinner,

and at night, after prayer, I have gone to rest,

justified and whiter than snow by the grace of

the Holy Spirit, with the deepest peace and joy

in my heart! How easy it will be for the Lord to

save us too in the evening of our life, at the

decline of our days! O save, save, save me, most

gracious Lord; receive me in Thy heavenly

Kingdom! Everything is possible to Thee! (My

Life in Christ, Part 1, p. 27) -St John of

Kronstadt)

Making a Good Confession

Great Lent is the time of year that we evaluate

the condition of our spiritual lives. In the

disciplines of prayer, fasting, and charity, we

rebuild that which was lost and use this time to

grow as disciples of Christ.

Repentance is at the very heart of our life as

Christians. We are called to a life of continual

repentance for rather obvious reasons – we

continually sin! Confession is the opportunity for

an examination of our own spiritual condition, to

admit it to another person (our confessor) and

receive the forgiveness of our sins as promised by

our Savior (Jn 20:23).

Great Lent is a time when everyone should

approach the sacrament of Confession. Your

normative confessor is your parish priest.

However, under various circumstances and with a

prior blessing, one may seek another confessor.

Please consider these things before approaching the sacrament of Confession:

- **Prepare yourself before** you confess through prayer, and by examining your words, thoughts, and deeds against the teachings of Christ and the Apostles. There are many written Orthodox examinations online that you can use to help.
- Enumerate your transgressions against **God, others, and yourself.**
- Do not speak about those who participate with you in sins. **Speaking of the weaknesses of others is evil.** Confess only your sins.
- **Please try your best to keep your confession brief,** especially when others are waiting. Extended discussions and self-analysis are inappropriate during confession.
- After you have received the absolution, **return to your place with peace** and thanksgiving, being assured that your confessed sins have been forgiven by God.