

## 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 From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and Mat. Susanne Senyo; for the health of family and Chuck Wasilko on his birthday~ Many Years. From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of Chuck on his birthday, Many Years! From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, John Polny; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Rdr. Charles! From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, John Polny. From **John Mahalchak Family** for the health of friends and family, John, Cheryl, John, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Margaret, Joseph, Margaret, Fred, Mary Pat, Gregory, and Cindy. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilкова. From **John Kowalcheck** for the health of Olga Cozza on her birthday. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, husband, George. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Slava, Luba, Lida, Diana, Bruce, Marina, and Bob; for the health of Tatyana, Veronika, Rachel, (child) Paloma, Will, Beth, and Sam. From **Dawna Beckett** for the departed servant, Gregory Beckett (22 yrs); for the health of Pearl Petkash. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton and Scott families; special intention. From **M/M Richard Blaha** for the newly departed, Aunt Eva and our departed parents, brother, and family; for the health of family, friends, siblings, & serving soldiers for special intention, peace, birthdays, anniversaries, and blessings for the newborn, Annice.

➤ **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).

***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:** Jonah

**Scripture reference:** Book of Jonah

**Questions to ask/review:**

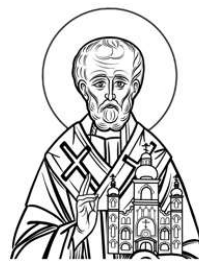
- Who was Jonah? What did God ask him to do?
- Why did Jonah disobey God?
- Are you ever asked to do something you dislike? What? Why?
- What were the consequences to Jonah for disobedience?
- What did Jonah do to escape the belly of the fish?
- How did the people of Nineveh respond to Jonah?
- Why does God often choose to show mercy even though we deserve punishment?
- Do we usually show mercy toward others, or do we like to see people get what they deserve?
- How can we begin to show more mercy toward others?

**Suggested Activities at home:**

- Look at pictures of whales and other large sea creatures.
- Show kindness to someone who you do not think is deserving.

**Prayer:** Lord, teach us to be merciful to those who love us and those who hate us. Amen.

*(icons continued)* and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them.



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 9**

**10:00 am** Divine Liturgy/Church School

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

**Monday, March 10**

**7:00 pm** Canon of St Andrew of Crete

**Tuesday, March 11**

**9:00 am** Lenten Matins (Morning Service)

**9:30 am-12:00 pm** Office Hours

**Wednesday, March 12**

**6:00 pm** Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Lenten Fellowship Meal following Liturgy

**Thursday, March 13**

**9:00 am** Lenten Matins (Morning Service)

**9:30 am-12:00 pm** Office Hours

**Friday, March 14**

**7:00 pm** Panikhida for the Departed

**Saturday, March 15**

**5:00 pm** Parish Vigil

**Sunday, March 16**

**10:00 am** Divine Liturgy / Church School

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*

Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*

Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*

*Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs*

**Sunday of Orthodoxy**

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

March 9, 2025

## Announcements

➤ Synaxis News: Our first parish Synaxis of 2025 will be held on Tuesday, March 18 in two locations, East Pittsburgh and South Hills. Check your email for locations and times!

➤ 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.

➤ Flower donations: Please consider a special financial offering to help adorn the church with flowers for Pascha, as well as the Sunday of the Cross, Annunciation, Palm Sunday. Please earmark your gift for flowers. God bless you!

**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 9

## **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 2 Troparion** (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Thine own will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:

“Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,// by coming to save the world.”

## **Tone 1 Troparion** (Holy 40 Martyrs)

Through the sufferings which Thy holy Forty Martyrs endured for Thy sake, O Lord, we beseech Thee, O Lover of ^mankind:// “Heal all of our infirmities!”

## **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 6 Kontakion** (Holy 40 Martyrs)

You have abandoned all earthly armies,

cleaving to the heavenly Master, O Forty Martyrs of the Lord.

Having passed through fire and water, O blessed ones,// you have fittingly received heavenly glory and many crowns.

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

## **Tone 8 Kontakion** (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

No one could describe the Word of the Father; but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty.// We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

## **Tone 4 Prokeimenon** (Song of the Fathers)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

## **Epistle** Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-12:2 (Sunday)

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

## **Gospel** John 1:43-51 (Sunday)

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”

Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?”

Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

## **Hymn to the Theotokos**

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child: our God before the ages. He made thy body into a throne, and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. Glory to thee!

## **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*) Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (*Ps. 32:1*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**F**or more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, (*cont...*)