

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 **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, nephew, David Wasilko; Many Years to Suzy Polny on her birthday! From **Marsha Wasilko** Happy Birthday & Many Years to Suzy Polny! From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, nephew, David Wasilko; Happy Birthday Suzy Polny. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilкова. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton & Scott families; special intentions. From **Irene Kulchock** for the departed servants, Stephen Pravlochak, Bridget Kulchock, and Richard Kulchock; for the health of Vivian Moore. From **Edith M. Humphrey** for the health of the Summers family. From **M/M Richard Blaha** for the departed servants, father, Pete on his birthday, warrior Christopher, Kia, parents, family, and brother; for the health of wife, Sonia, family, friends, siblings, & serving soldiers for special intention, peace, and birthdays.

➤ **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) for the health of family and friends.

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.

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: Ezekiel

Scripture reference: Book of Ezekiel

Questions to ask/review:

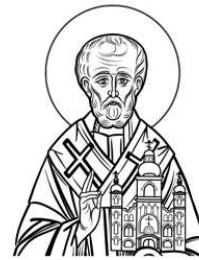
- Who was Ezekiel? What was happening in Israel during his life?
- Where did Ezekiel live while prophesying? Why did he live there?
- What happened to Solomon's temple during this time?
- Ezekiel lived in a very hard time for the Jewish people. How did Ezekiel respond? Did he lose hope in the Lord, his people, the whole world?
- What is the significance and meaning of Ezekiel's visions? The wheel? The dry bones?
- How does Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones help us understand the Resurrection?
- Have you had dreams? How are dreams different than visions?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Reread the vision(s) of Ezekiel and illustrate them (chapter 1 and 37). Make two drawings for each vision. Read the description once out loud and then draw the vision based on your memory. The second time, keep the scripture open and read carefully and quietly to draw a more precise drawing. Compare the two illustrations.

Prayer: Lord, give us strength and raise us up as you did the dry bones.

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.



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 23: St John of "The Ladder"

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Monday, March 31

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

Tuesday, April 1

9:00 am Lenten Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, April 2

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Lenten Fellowship Meal following Liturgy

Thursday, April 3

9:00 am Lenten Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Friday, April 4

No Services

Saturday, April 5

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Church Clean-Up

3:30 pm Exploring Orthodox Christianity

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Parish Vigil

Sunday, April 6: St Mary of Egypt

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

The Kabob Mob Fundraiser at Coffee Hour

5:00 pm Vespers at Holy Ghost, Ambridge

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*

Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*

Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*

Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent - St John of "The Ladder"

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

March 30, 2025

Announcements

➤ Noelle Sabbagh's mother, Liliane, is the owner and operator of a popular local food truck and catering company called Kabob Mob, specializing in Middle Eastern food. **Liliane has generously offered to donate all food sales for Sunday, April 6th's coffee hour** to our Roof and Dome Renovation project! We are very grateful for her support! Coffee Hour on Sunday April 6 will consist only of the food orders, so we ask that you place orders for your entire family (and consider ordering platters to take home also) by Wed, April 2. <https://buy.stripe.com/5kA3ex2xrgC4b8kfYZ>

➤ **Flower donations:** Please consider a special financial offering to help adorn the church with flowers for Pascha. Please earmark your gift for flowers. God bless you!

➤ There will be **no services** on Friday, April 4.

➤ Join us on Saturday, April 5 at 9:00 am at Church for our Clean-Up Day to get our property ready for the Paschal Feast!

➤ Our Community Food Pantry needs **paper bags**. Can you please set your used paper bags aside and donate them to our food pantry? Thanks!

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 30

Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change
weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ
God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//
granting 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.

Tone 1 Troparion (St. John Climacus)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the
body,
thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing
Father John.
Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through
fasting, vigil, and prayer,
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to
thee by faith.

Glory to Him Who gave thee strength!
Glory to Him Who granted thee a ^crown!//
Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Tone 7 Kontakion (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men
captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying
its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and
cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

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

Tone 4 Kontakion (St. John Climacus)

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of
abstinence,
to be a guiding star, showing the way to the
universe,//
O our father and teacher John.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 Kontakion (Theotokos)

Steadfast protectress of Christians,
constant advocate before the Creator,
do not despise the cry of us sinners,
but in your goodness come speedily to help us
who call on you in faith.
Hasten to hear our intercessions and to
intercede for us, O Theotokos
For you always protect those who honor you.

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The
Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Ps.
28:11)

Epistle of the Sunday (Hebrews 6:13-20)

For when God made a promise to Abraham,
because He could swear by no one greater, He
swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will
bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.”
And so, after he had patiently endured, he
obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by
the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for
them an end of all dispute. Thus God,
determining to show more abundantly to the
heirs of promise the immutability of His
counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two
immutable things, in which it is impossible for
God to lie, we might have strong consolation,
who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope
set before us.

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both
sure and steadfast, and which enters the
Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner
has entered for us, even Jesus, having become
High Priest forever according to the order of
Melchizedek.

Gospel of the Sunday (Mark 9:17-31)

Then one of the crowd answered and said,
“Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute
spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him
down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth,
and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples,
that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

He answered him and said, “O faithless
generation, how long shall I be with you? How
long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.”
Then they brought him to Him. And when he
saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him,
and he fell on the ground and wallowed,
foaming at the mouth.

So He asked his father, “How long has this been
happening to him?”

And he said, “From childhood. And often he has
thrown him both into the fire and into the water
to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have
compassion on us and help us.”

Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things
are possible to him who believes.”

Immediately the father of the child cried out and
said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my
unbelief!”

When Jesus saw that the people came running
together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying
to it, “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you,
come out of him and enter him no more!” Then
the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and
came out of him. And he became as one dead, so
that many said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him
by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

And when He had come into the house, His
disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we
not cast it out?”

So He said to them, “This kind can come out by
nothing but prayer and fasting.”

Then they departed from there and passed
through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to
know it. For He taught His disciples and said to
them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into
the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And
after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”

Hymn to the Theotokos (Liturgy of St Basil)

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 your body into a throne, and your
womb He made more spacious than the heavens.
All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace.
Glory to you!

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in
the highest! (Ps. 148:1) The righteous shall be in
everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil
tidings! (Ps. 111:6) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Do not be over-sophisticated in the words
you use in prayer, because the simple
and unadorned lisping of children has
often won the heart of their heavenly Father.

Try not to talk much when you pray, lest you
mind be distracted by searching for words. One
word from the publican suffered to placate God,
and a single utterance saved the thief. Talkative
prayer frequently distracts the mind and
deludes it, whereas repetition of a single word
or sentence makes for concentration. (**St John of
“The Ladder of Divine Ascent”**)