

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 servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family and friend, Mary Lou. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, Mat. Sophie Daniels; Happy Birthday Suzy Polny. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton & Scott families; special intentions. From **Raisa Burd** for the departed servant, Tanya; for the health of family and friends. From **Nicholas Yurkowski** for the health of the Yurkowski family. From **M/M Richard Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, brother- Robert, Joseph, and earthquake victims; for the health of wife, Sonia, family, friends, siblings, & serving soldiers for special intention, peace, and birthdays. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servant, James-Memory Eternal; for the health of Nicholas, Andrea, Alexandra and their families; special intentions. From **Katarina Mertz** for the departed servant, Jill Griffin. From **John Mahalchak family** for the departed servants, George, John, Veronica, Anna, and Dimitri; for the health of John, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, John, Mary, Daniel, Mary Pat, Joseph, and Margaret.

➤ **Thank you to our April donors:** From **Anonymous** (Bulletins \$30). **Anonymous** (Holy Bread (\$50)). From **Lindy Hamilton** (Altar candles \$50 and Holy Bread \$50). From **the Robes Family** (Communion Wine \$40) for the health of Rachel Robes on her birthday. From **Kristie Mertz** (Incense \$10) for the health of son Theo on his birthday.

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: Three Youths in the Fire

Scripture reference: Book of Daniel

Questions to ask/review:

- Who were the three youths? What were their names?
- What did they refuse to do? Why?
- What does this story foreshadow that happens during Pascha?
- Who was in the fire with them?
- Describe the bravery and faith of the Holy Youths? Do we have the same bravery and faith?

Suggested Activities at home:

Read some of the 15 Old Testament readings (from Holy Saturday) before bed or during dinner.

Prayer: Lord help us to have the courage to stand up for our beliefs as the three youths did.

➤ We are pleased to announce that our **\$50,000 fundraising matching challenge is within reach, but we still need your contributions to realize our goal.** Please consider a generous donation to the Dome Restoration Fund and help us reach our goal by Pascha. We only have two more weeks! Thank you!

➤ 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.

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.



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, April 6: St Mary of Egypt

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

5:00 pm *Vespers at Holy Ghost, Ambridge*

Monday, April 7

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

Tuesday, April 8

9:00 am Lenten Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, April 9

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Lenten Fellowship Meal following Liturgy

Thursday, April 10

9:00 am Lenten Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Friday, April 11

7:00 pm Moleben (Prayer Service) for the Sick

Saturday, April 12: Lazarus Saturday

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Parish Vigil

Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

7:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*

Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*

Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*

Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent – St Mary of Egypt

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

April 6, 2025

Announcements

➤ Thank you to Liliane Sabbagh, the owner and operator of a popular local food truck and catering company, Kabob Mob, specializing in Middle Eastern food. **Liliane has generously offered to donate all food sales for today's coffee hour** to our Roof and Dome Renovation project! We are very grateful for her support!

➤ We are in need of people to **prepare food for our Children's Lazarus Saturday breakfast.** Please see Matushka Joni or Matushka Ashley.

➤ **Next Sunday's coffee hour (Palm Sunday) will be pot luck.** Please bring a dish to share. Fish IS permitted next Sunday on the great feast of the Entrance of our Lord.

➤ We are in need of someone to prepare (and donate) the **bread, wine, and figs for Holy Saturday.** Please see Fr Thomas if you wish to help. We also need **red dyed hard boiled eggs** for Pascha. Please see Matushka Joni

➤ **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!

➤ Thank you to everyone who worked so hard yesterday during our **Church Clean-up.** May God richly bless you!

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

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, April 6

Tone 8 Troparion (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, 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 8 Troparion (St. Mary of Egypt)

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother,
for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ.
By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away;
but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal.//
Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary,
rejoices with the angels.

Tone 8 Kontakion (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,//
and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

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

Tone 3 Kontakion (St. Mary of Egypt)

Having been a sinful woman,
thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ.

Having attained angelic life,
thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross.//
Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.

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 8 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)

Epistle of the Sunday (Hebrews 9:11-14)

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Gospel of the Sunday (Mark 10:32-45)

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside

again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.”

And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

They said to Him, “Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.”

But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

They said to Him, “We are able.”

So Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared.”

And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

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

This week of Great Lent, the Church celebrates the memory of St. Mary of Egypt. The story of St. Mary is the story of a repentant harlot. Why does the Church find this story so important? Why does the whole Orthodox world remember this woman? What message—across centuries and countries—does her life give us?

Her life tells us about how, from her early youth, she carried on an extremely debauched life and then, she became conscious of her sins and called out to the Mother of God and to the Lord for mercy.

It is the story of finding hope. Mary had a reality, which, for the time being, suited her. As the poet said, “wine and men were her atmosphere.” But she had no future; she only had what one prefers not to think about. Soon her charms would wilt—especially soon due to her unhealthy lifestyle—and men would lose all interest in her, turning their attention to new victims with social temperaments, and she would become lonely, cast off, and lacking means for sustenance. But in turning to God she found hope—hope not only that her earthly life would be filled with dignity and meaning, but most importantly that before her is eternal life.