

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 **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, parents, Charles and Mary; for the health of Chuck Widel and Nancy Mell. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of Mat. Nancy Mell and friend, Mary Lou. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of Chuck Widel and Nancy Mell. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilкова. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton & Scott families. From **Susie & Rick Port** for the departed servant, Paula. From **Jim & Leslie Wokutch** for the departed servants, mother, Olga Mell and brother, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of Mat. Nancy Mell. From **M/M Richard Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, brother, Uncle John, family, friends, George, and Mary; for the health of Uncle (Dr.) John on his 100th birthday, family, friends, siblings, & serving soldiers for special intention, peace, birthdays, and anniversary. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servant, daughter, Amelia; for the health of Nicholas on his birthday; special intentions. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Chuck Widel. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, John, Mary, Daniel, Joseph, and Margaret; for special intention & strength.

➤ **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.

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.

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: Daniel

Scripture reference: Book of Daniel

Questions to ask/review:

- What was the name of the first king Daniel and his friends served?
- What were the names of Daniel's three friends in Hebrew?
- What honor did the king give to Daniel and his friends?
- What did the king's first dream mean?
- What was the end of Nebuchadnezzar?
- Who was the second king Daniel served? Was he good or evil?
- What miracle did this king see?
- Who was the third king Daniel served?
- What did the king do to punish his wicked counselors?
- Tell the story of Daniel and the lion's den.
- Daniel sat on the "hot seat" of life many times. What are some of the trials Daniel faced? What kind of trials are you going through?
- Daniel always put God first in his life. How did he show this? Do you put God first? How do you show it?

Suggested Activities at home:

Find as many lions and scary stuffed animals as you can in your house. Put them in bed and read Daniel and the Lion's Den at bedtime.

Prayer: Lord, protect us in our time of trial, like you did for Daniel.

➤ 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 one more week! 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.



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 13 Palm Sunday

10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy/Church School

7:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Monday, April 14 Holy Monday

7:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 15 Holy Tuesday

9:00 am Vespers

9:30 am – 12:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 16 Holy Wednesday

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, April 17 Great and Holy Thursday

9:30 am Vespersal Divine Liturgy

7:00 pm Matins with Passion Gospels

Friday, April 18 Great and Holy Friday

9:00 am Royal Hours

3:00 pm Great Vespers

7:00 pm Matins with Procession

Saturday, April 19 Great and Holy Saturday

9:00 am Vespersal Divine Liturgy

9:15 pm Nocturn, Paschal Matins, and Liturgy
Blessing of Baskets and Fellowship

Sunday, April 20 Great and Holy Pascha

12:00 pm Paschal Vespers

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*

Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*

Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*

Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

April 13, 2025

Announcements

➤ Blessed feast day! Please take a **bundle of pussy willows and palms** before the Divine Liturgy. They will be blessed immediately before the Liturgy as you hold them up. We will process around the Church during the **Third Antiphon**. Hold your palms in praise of the King of the Universe, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Please make every effort to attend as many services as possible during this Holy Week. Walk with the Lord Jesus Christ to His Passion so that you may worthily celebrate His Resurrection!

➤ Please consider giving a **donation to help defray the costs of flowers** for Holy Week and Pascha. We decorate the church in honor of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It is appropriate and right that we do this (Mt 26:12).

➤ We are in need of **red dyed hard boiled eggs** to distribute at Pascha. Please see the sign-up sheet on the door or speak with Matushka Joni.

➤ We will bless your **Paschal baskets** after the Divine Liturgy on Pascha. Fill a basket with your favorite foods that you fasted from this Great Lenten season. It's fun to share with others a taste of your food! Food will also be provided at the Paschal fellowship following the Divine Liturgy which ends in the early hours of Pascha Sunday morning.

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

Mark your calendars for the annual **Bright Friday Paschal Open House at the Soroka residence** in Moon Township. Check your email this week for details. All are welcomed!

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, April 13

First Antiphon (Psalm 115)

v. I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

v. Because He inclined His ear to me; therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

v. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me.

v. I suffered distress and anguish, so I called on the Name of the Lord.

v. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

v. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Second Antiphon (Psalm 116)

v. I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."

Refrain: O Son of God, who sat upon the foal, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

v. What shall I render to the Lord for all the things He has given me?

v. I will receive the cup of salvation, and call on the Name of the Lord.

v. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people.

v. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Third Antiphon (Psalm 117)

v. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

v. Let the house of Israel say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Refrain: Troparion of the Feast

v. Let the house of Aaron say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Let all those who fear the Lord say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Troparion of the Feast *Tone 1*

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy passion,

Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God.

Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death:

"Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!"

Another Troparion of the Feast

Tone 4

When we were buried with Thee in baptism, O Christ God,

we were made worthy of eternal life by Thy Resurrection.

Now we praise Thee and sing:

"Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!"

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion of the Feast

Tone 6

Sitting on Thy throne in Heaven, carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God, Accept the praise of angels and the songs of children, who sing:

"Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam!"

Prokeimenon of the Feast

Tone 4 (Ps 118)

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

Epistle of the Feast

(Phil 4:4-9)

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace

of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Gospel of the Feast

(Jn 12:1-18)

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! The King of Israel!"

Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of

Zion; Behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt."

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Celebrate the feast and come with gladness! Let us magnify Christ with palms and branches singing: "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!"

Communion Hymn

(Ps 148)

Praise Him in Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

By holding palms (in Hebrew, the tender branch is called *vaion*, a palm branch), they were signifying Christ's imminent victory over death. For it was the custom to honor the victors of contests or battles with triumphal processions and to lead them around with branches from evergreens. The meaning of Hosanna is "Save now, we pray" or "Therefore, save." The colt prefigured the Gentiles. The ass's colt was still an untamed animal and impure according to the Jewish law. Christ's sitting and resting on the "Gentiles" showed our taming and obedience to the "law" of the Holy Gospel and Christ as Champion, Victor, and King of all the earth.

Today we not only welcome the Lord riding on a colt into the city of Jerusalem, but Christ who comes in power and glory as King of the age to come.