



## Welcome!

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 fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the offering basket as your offering today. Please join us downstairs following the Divine Liturgy. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

## This Week

### Monday, December 4

7:00 pm – Virtual Catechism #4 (via Skype)

### Tuesday, December 5

5:15 pm – Vespers (Readers Service)

6:00 pm – Divine Liturgy

### Saturday, December 9

11:00 am – Pan Orthodox Choir Rehearsal

5:00 pm – Great Vespers

### Sunday, December 10

9:15 am – Adult Education

10:00 am - Divine Liturgy

After Divine Liturgy – Church School

**Our annual Christmas Program** (Yolka) featuring the Church School students will be on Dec 17!

**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.**

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*  
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*  
Mat. Janet Mihalick, *Choir Director*

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

Dec 3, 2017

## Announcements

➤ **We are in need of men to help** near the end of the dinner today to help put the scaffolding back together for the iconographic work that will continue during the next two weeks. We only need 10 minutes!

➤ **Iconography project continues this week!** Fr Theodore Jurewicz is continuing his work on the side walls. 8 large icons and 8 smaller medallion icons will be painted. See Fr Thomas if you can help paint decorative border work!

➤ **Our Christmas Angel Tree** annual project, benefiting those in need in the McKees Rocks area, is available downstairs. This wonderful annual charitable tradition in our parish is coordinated by Donya Yewisiak and gifts are distributed by the Holy Family Institute. When you choose an angel from the tree, please bring the **unwrapped, new gifts** back to Church by Sunday, December 10.

➤ **“Orthodox Perspectives on the Reformation: A Symposium”** will be held at our parish on **Saturday, December 16** beginning with Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am. Five respected and knowledgeable speakers will present on topics relevant to Orthodox views of Protestant themes. We'll be hosting people from all over Pittsburgh and we'll need help organizing the breakfast, lunch, a bookstore, and the talk venue. Please see Fr Thomas for more information or Heidi Lewis if you can help.

➤ **2017 Parish Christmas Card:** It's time again for our annual Christmas Card Project which will run thru December 3, 2017. For a \$10 donation, you/your family's name will be listed on the Christmas card which will be sent in early

December to parishioners and friends of St. Nicholas. Proceeds of the project will benefit our 2018 FOCUS ministry of serving meals. See Marsha Wasilko or Jan Widel to sign-up today! Thank you!

➤ **A special parish meeting** will be held on Sunday, December 10, 2017 after the Divine Liturgy for the purpose of discussing a proposal to sell the St Mark's School and Convent building (next to our Church) which we currently own. Any questions about the proposed sale may be directed to Fr Thomas, Mary Hughes Kutnansky, or Jonathan Skowron. Only parish members in good standing may participate and vote in the meeting.

➤ Please bear in mind that, as Orthodox Christians, **we are in the midst of the Nativity Fast.** Please remember to keep this time as an appropriate preparation for celebration of the Lord's Nativity! Increase your prayer,

## Thank You

➤ Thank you to our December bulletin donors: **Jim and Leslie Wokutch** given in blessed memory of Deacon Joseph Mell and Olga Mell.

**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.**

## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be Hospitalized* (none)  
*Home:* Jack Saban, Georgiann Robes, George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Olga Bednar, Stephanie Kowal, John Shaytar, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

**From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From John Kowalcheck** for the health of Olga Cozza. **From John Kowalcheck & Olga Cozza** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov and for the health & salvation of our families. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family and Mat. Janet Mihalick. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the special intention. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, (grandfather) Theodore Dyczko; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of my family; for special intentions. **From Nancy Shaytar** for the health of George Shaytar and Steve & Joanne Shaytar. **From Raisa Burd** for the departed servants, Vitali, Agrippina, Stepan, Alexandra, Vassili, Vladimir, Ivan, Lena, Anna and Denis; for the health of Polina, Marina, Roman, Vladimir, Yevgeniy, Valentina, Raisa, Boris, Ludmila, Tatyana, Diana, Katya and all our relatives & friends.

### Services for the Nativity of Christ



Friday, December 22 10:00 am – Royal Hours  
Saturday, December 23 5:00 pm – Great Vespers  
Sunday, December 24 10:00 am – Divine Liturgy  
Sunday, December 24 8:00 pm – Vigil of the Nativity  
Monday, December 25 10:00 am – Nativity Divine Liturgy  
Tuesday, December 26 9:30 am – Synaxis Divine Liturgy

# Hymns and Readings for Today

Dec 3, 2017

## **Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 1**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,  
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world.  
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:  
Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!  
Glory to Thy Kingdom!  
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind!

## **Troparion of St Nicholas Tone 4**

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.

## **Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 1**

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself.  
Human nature praises Thee as God for death has vanished,  
Adam exults, O Master!  
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee:  
Thou art the giver of resurrection to all, O Christ!

## **Kontakion of the Theotokos Tone 6**

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.

## **Prokeimenon (Psalm 33) Tone 1**

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee!

## **Epistle of the Sunday (Ephesians 5:9-19)**

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says:

“Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

## **Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 18:18-27)**

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’”

And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.”

So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.

And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is

easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?”

But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

## **Communion Hymns (Ps 148:1)**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## **Priestmartyr Alexander Hotovitsky**

After graduation from the St Petersburg Academy, he was sent for missionary service to the Diocese of the Aleutians and North America, where he was assigned to the position of reader at the newly-established Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church in New York City. Following his marriage to Maria Scherbuhina, a graduate of the Pavlovsk Institute in Saint Petersburg, the Hieromartyr Alexander was ordained to the diaconate, and soon after, on February 25, 1896, to the priesthood by Bishop Nicholas (Ziorov) of the Aleutians, whom Father Alexander would always later remember with gratitude and love.

Through Father Alexander’s efforts, Orthodox parishes were established in Philadelphia, Yonkers, and Passaic as well as other large and small towns throughout North America. The parishioners of these churches were cradle Orthodox whom fate had brought to the New World, as well as Carpatho-Russians converted from the Unia and former Protestant converts to the Orthodox Church.

His sacrificial and dedicated pastoral service of the New Martyr Alexander in America was concluded on February 26, 1914, exactly eighteen years after his ordination to the priesthood. In his farewell address, Father Alexander said, “Farewell, American Orthodox Rus—my dear Mother, the Holy American Church. I, your ever-grateful son, bow fully to the ground before you.”

After returning to Russia, he was arrested by the Bolshevik government several time. In the fall of 1937 he was arrested for the second time. A majority of reports testify to his death as a martyr.

# Today in Church School

**Today’s lesson:** Sermon on the Mount

## **Questions to ask/review:**

- What does it mean to be “poor in spirit”? (humble, reliant on God)
- In what way should we mourn? (for the sin of ourselves and all people)
- Who is meek? (someone who is gentle and kind)
- What does it mean to “hunger and thirst after righteousness”?
- What is mercy? Are we merciful? When? Do we need mercy?
- What does it mean to be “pure in heart”? (a clean and free from evil desires)
- Who is a peacemaker? What makes them a peacemaker?
- What does “persecuted” mean? Have you ever been persecuted for being a Christian?
- Has anyone ever told a lie about you? Does it hurt? Why should we still rejoice?
- Discuss the parable of the two houses.: What is the rock? What is the sand?
- Which house is easier to build? In a storm what happens to each house?



## **Suggested activities at home:**

- With older children, work on memorizing and/or singing the Beatitudes.
- The light of the world: Look for sources of light all around. Say the evening prayers by candlelight only, explaining that Jesus is the light of the world, and we use candles in Church for light.
- The rock: Take a walk and collect pretty rocks.
- Salt of the earth: Make a meal with no salt one night!
- Prayer: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus, let Your light shine in me to give light to all the world around me. Amen.