



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

Today

After Divine Liturgy – Special Parish Meeting
Only members in good standing may participate

Tuesday, December 12

7:00 pm – Virtual Catechism #6 (via Skype)

Wednesday, December 13

6:30 pm – Daily Vespers
7:00 pm – Bible Study

Saturday, December 16 – Symposium

9:00 am – Divine Liturgy
10:00 am – Breakfast
10:30 am – Symposium Part 1
12:15 pm – Lunch
12:45 pm – Symposium Part 2
2:00 pm – Closing Comments

5:00 pm – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 17

9:15 am – Adult Education
10:00 am - Divine Liturgy
Baptism and Chrismation of Heath Family
After Divine Liturgy – Christmas Program/Yolka

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

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

Dec 10, 2017

Announcements

➤ **We are in need of men to help** near the end of the coffee hour 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!

➤ **"Orthodox Perspectives on the Reformation: A Symposium"** will be held at our parish this **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.

➤ **Our Christmas Angel Tree** gifts, benefiting those in need in the McKees Rocks area, is due today. This wonderful annual charitable tradition in our parish is coordinated by Donya Yewisiak and gifts are distributed by the Holy Family Institute. Thank you for your support!

➤ 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,

➤ **Iconography project will be completed this Friday by Fr Theodore!** Please see Fr Thomas if you can help paint the decorative border work! We need your help and it is a great experience! Thank you to our donors! They will be acknowledged at the blessing of the icons next Sunday.

Prayers

➤ **III 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 George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of (brother) John. **From John Kowalcheck & Olga Cozza** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov, Kayla Elizabeth Kowalcheck and for the health & salvation of our families. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants from the Wasilko & Dyczko families; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of Mat. Martha on her birthday; for special intentions. **From Nancy Shaytar** for the health of George Shaytar. **From Irine** for the departed servants, Olga and Anna; for the health of Marina, Andrey, Irina and Artur. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the health of Emma Sipes and our grandchildren. **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for the departed servant, (mother) Barbara. **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Olga, Valentina, Bruce, Gina, Lydia, Victor, Andrei, Marina and Ivan; for the health of Tatyana, Christopher, Sergey, Edik, Roman, Nina and Thomas.

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 Herman of Alaska

"And I, a sinner, have been trying to love God for more than forty years, and cannot say that I perfectly love Him. If we love someone we always remember him and try to please him; day and night our heart is occupied with that object.

Is that how you, gentlemen, love God? Do you often turn to Him, do you always remember Him, do you always pray to Him and fulfill His holy commandments? 'For our good, for our happiness at least let us make a vow that from this day, from this hour, from this minute we shall strive to love God above all else and to fulfill His holy will.'



"A terrible accident has a power to awaken us to the realization of the existence of various calamities and dangers surrounding us, from which the Providence of God preserves us. At the same time it convincingly persuades us to acknowledge our own infirmity and weakness and to seek the Father's protection and His most powerful defense, which affirms us in the Wisdom and the Word of God, which came down from above by the will of the Heavenly Father under a curtain of flesh like ours, woven by the Divine Might from the Immaculate Virgin, for our salvation. He became man and taught us to pray that we be not led into temptation. This reminds us from what Father we have our existence, and this in turn should make us seek our heavenly Fatherland and our eternal inheritance."

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.

Hymns and Readings for Today

Dec 10, 2017

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead!
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out:
O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

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 2

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee! And the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever!

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. Haste to hear our intercessions and to intercede for us, O Theotokos for you always protect those who honor you.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 118) Tone 2

The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation!

Epistle of the Sunday (Ephesians 6:10-17)

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against

flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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 17:12-19)

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Communion Hymns (Ps 148:1)

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

Glory to God in the Highest
and on earth peace,
goodwill toward men!

HOSTS SING ALLELUIA

PAN-ORTHODOX CHOIRS IN PERFORMANCE

10TH ANNUAL NATIVITY CONCERT

Come experience the Joy!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017 – 5:30 PM

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

123 Gilkeson Road (Across from the Galleria)

Mt. Lebanon (Pittsburgh), Pennsylvania 15228

Audience Communal Singing during concert

Free-will offering to support the work of FOCUS Pittsburgh

An Urban Center of FOCUS NA

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

