



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.. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

This Week

Today –

End of Liturgy – Memorial for the Departed
In memory of Matushka Olga Soroka (✝ 2007)

Monday, January 1 – Circumcision of XC/St Basil

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
Blessing of St Basil Bread

Friday, January 5

7:00 pm – Vigil for Theophany

Saturday, January 6 - Theophany

9:30 am – Festal Divine Liturgy
Baptism of Eliana Loboda

5:00 pm – Great Vespers

Sunday, January 7 – Synaxis of John the Baptist

9:15 am – Adult Education
10:00 am – Divine Liturgy
Church School following

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 31, 2017

Announcements

➤ Church School and Adult Education will **resume next Sunday.**

➤ **2018 Contribution Envelopes and Wall Calendars** are available in the Vestibule and at the Candle Desk. Please see Jonathan Skowron for your 2018 Contribution Envelopes.

➤ Our **next bible Study** on the Book of Acts will be held on Wednesday, January 10. Everyone is welcomed to attend!

➤ **Dates to remember for 2018:**

Jan 28 – Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee
Feb 11 – Meatfare Sunday
Feb 18 – Cheesefare Sunday
Feb 19 – Beginning of Great Lent
April 1 – Palm Sunday (and Western Easter)
April 8 – Holy Pascha

➤ **Long-time parishioner, Stefanie Kowal**, fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, December 28. She was 96 years old. Visitation will be held Tuesday from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Szal Funeral Home in McKees Rocks with a Parastas at 6:00 pm. On Wednesday a Trisagion will be held at the funeral home at 9:30 am with the Funeral service at 10:00 am at the Church. Burial will be at Mt Calvary Cemetery. May God grant her memory eternal!



Prayers

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

➤ **Vigil Lights from Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, Barbara Naiser; for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary, (brother) Raymond; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Michelle Bittner** for the departed servant, Anne Hruch; for the health of Paul Henry. **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for the departed servants, (mother) Barbara and (mother in law) Mat. Olga (12/31/07); for the health of my family. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, John, Marie, Nicholas; for special intentions; Christ is Born! Glorify Him! **From Marina Petrov** for the health of Yvegeniy, Raisa, Roman, Polina, Vladimir, Elizabeth, Ekaterina and Veronika. **From John Kowalcheck & Olga Cozzi** for the newly departed servant, Anton Kamaev; for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov and Matthew Heuer on his birthday.

Thank You

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

Please consider giving a special year-end gift to our parish!

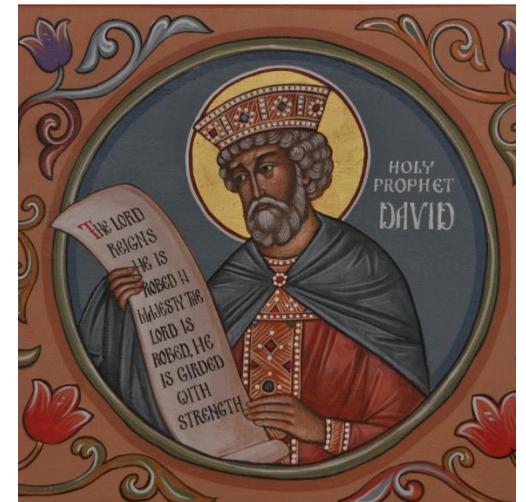
St Nicholas Church will strive to glorify God through Orthodox Christian worship, sincere love and care for one another, and service to those in need around us.

Sunday after Nativity

The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James.



Hymns and Readings for Today

Troparion of the Resurrection *Tone 5*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion of the Feast *Tone 4*

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

Troparion of the Righteous Ones *Tone 2*

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, to David, the ancestor of God; you saw a Virgin great with child; you gave glory with the shepherds; you worshipped with the Magi; you received the news from the Angel. Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Kontakion of the Righteous Ones *Tone 3*

Today godly David is filled with joy; Joseph and James offer praise. The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor You!”

Kontakion of the Feast *Tone 3*

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels with shepherds glorify Him; the Wise Men journey with the star, since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

Prokeimenon *Tone 5 (Ps 11 LXX)*

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.!

Epistle of the Sunday *(Gal 1:11-19)*

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord’s brother.

Gospel of the Sunday *(Mt 2:13-23)*

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.” Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who

were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

“A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.” Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Hymn to the Theotokos

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure virgin Theotokos, more honorable than the heavenly hosts!

I behold a strange most glorious mystery: Heaven – the cave!

The cherubic throne – the Virgin!

The manger – the place where Christ lay!

The uncontainable God whom we magnify in song!

Communion Hymn *(Psalm 148 and 32)*

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

Two patricians in Rome bore the name of Melania.

Saint Melania

The first, called **Melania the Elder**, the granddaughter of Markellin the Consular and spouse of Valerius Maximus, the Prefect of Rome

under Julian the Apostate, was born in Spain. A widow at twenty-two years of age, she conceived the lively desire to consecrate herself to God. She entrusted her son Publicola to a tutor, sold the greater part of her immense properties and she embarked for Alexandria, where she distributed her riches to the poor and to the monasteries. She went to visit the Desert Fathers in Nitria, conversed with them at great length for six months, visited all the holy anchorites of the desert and educated herself from them. She built a monastery in Jerusalem around 375, where she withdrew for twenty-seven years in the company of about fifty consecrated virgins. Nearby her was the famous writer Rufin, a native of Aquileia, Italy, who, honored later by priestly ordination, had at the same time as Saint Melania, the pious thought to construct a hospice in Jerusalem to receive bishops, priests, monks, and virgins who came on pilgrimage to the Holy Places. Adorned with high education and very well mannered, her son Publicola attained high dignities in the Empire, not to speak of the happy marriage which he had contracted.

Saint Melania the Younger whom we commemorate today was the daughter of Publicola. She was born in Rome around 383. With her husband Pinian, she embarked for Africa around 409, where the two spouses spent seven years. Then in 416, in company with Albina, the mother of Pinian, they went to Jerusalem. Albina having died in 431, Saint Melania shut herself up in a small cell on the Mount of Olives. She erected there a monastery which contained about ninety virgins whom the Saint directed, but so humbly that she was like the servant of all. She approached the Holy Mysteries daily. After the death of Pinian, she founded a monastery for men, to assure the liturgical offices according to the Roman rite in the Church of the Ascension. She died in peace on December 31, 439.

Far from Rome at the time these holy persons survived the barbarian invasion of 410 which sacked and devastated the whole city, not even sparing the bronze statues of the forum. While the unhappy inhabitants of Rome were all captives, they alone, being consecrated to God on the exhortations of Melania, escaped the frightful catastrophe.