



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

Wednesday, January 10

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

Saturday, January 13

4:30 pm - Confessions
5:00 pm – Great Vespers

Sunday, January 14

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 Jan 7, 2018

Announcements

➤ **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 this 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

➤ **Thank you** to all those who assisted and attended the Panikhida for the departed servant of God, Anton Kamaev, on Thursday. May God richly bless you.

➤ **Our Yearly Parish Meeting** is scheduled to be held after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 28. Only members in good standing may participate. **All parish organizations, officers, and most committees should submit a written report to the Secretary, Kristie Mertz by Sunday, January 14.**

➤ **Our January hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, January 31. Italian Hoagies and wraps are \$6.00 each and the Turkey hoagies and wraps are \$6.50 each. Orders can be placed by calling 412-974-9912, faxing 724-926-4052 or emailing rjmbmsam1@verizon.net. Orders are due on Sunday evening, January 28. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm January 31 at the church hall.

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 servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and (newly departed) Stephanie Kowal; for the health of family. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the newly departed servant, Stefanie Kowal; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Jan Widell **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, Stephanie Kowal, Nick Yurkowski and Mat. Olga. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, Stefanie Kowal and Ethel Evans. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Reader Leonard Soroka.



Thank You

➤ to all those who have donated to support our parish throughout the year 2017. May God richly bless you for your love for God and His Church!

Kissing the Priest's Hand

For the sake of our converts to the faith, as well as for some of our parishioners who have neglected this practice, the following information is presented.

It is an unfortunate development in some Orthodox parishes in America (including our own) that some faithful have either never been taught, or forgotten, or have fallen out of the habit, or have willfully neglected to kiss the priest's hand after venerating the cross, or after being anointed with oil, or blessed with holy water, or if we receive the antidoron from him, or receiving a blessing when greeting the priest. This is our Orthodox practice and it should be embraced by every Orthodox Christian.



While it may seem "counter cultural," St Paul commands us to "greet one another with a holy kiss" (Rom 16:16). The kiss is a sign of honor and peace. We honor each other with a kiss and show that we live in the peace of Christ with one another. We recognize in each other the image of God and as a sign of our mutual respect.



So too with the priest. When we kiss the priest's hand (always only his right hand) we are acknowledging the office of the priesthood (eldership) among us, and that he is the one that imparts the precious body and blood of our Lord to us. He administers the sacraments and is the image of Christ in our community. By the grace of ordination, he imparts to us the blessings and grace of God. This is not a recognition of any personal superiority of the priest, but rather the office of the priesthood.

Let us recognize the value of Orthodox tradition and maintain it in humility, respect, and love.

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

Troparion of the Resurrection *Tone 6*

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure Body.

Thou didst capture hell,
not being tempted by it.

Thou didst come to the Virgin granting life.

O Lord who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee!

Troparion of the Feast *Tone 1*

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest!

For the voice of the Father bear witness to Thee,
calling Thee 'His beloved Son,'

and the Spirit, in the form of a dove,
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.

O Christ our God who hast revealed Thyself,

And hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

Troparion of John the Baptist *Tone 2*

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with
songs of praise,

but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O
Forerunner.

You were shown indeed to be the most honorable
of the Prophets,

for in the waters you baptize the One Whom you
preached.

After suffering with joy on behalf of the truth,

you proclaimed even to those in hell the God Who
appeared in the flesh,

Who takes away the sin of the world//

and grants us great mercy!

Kontakion of St John the Baptist *Tone 6*

The river Jordan trembled, and was driven back,
filled with fear at Your coming in the flesh,

while John drew back in awe

as he fulfilled the ministry of the Spirit.

The ranks of Angels stood amazed

when they beheld You baptized in the stream.

And we, who were in darkness, are filled with light.//

We praise You, O God made manifest, as You

enlighten all.

Kontakion of the Feast *Tone 4*

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe,
and Thy light, O Lord, hast shone on us,
Who with understanding, praise Thee:
Thou hast come and revealed Thyself,
O Light Unapproachable!

Prokeimenon of the Postfeast *Tone 1 (Ps 33)*

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

Epistle of the Postfeast *(Eph 4:7-13)*

But to each one of us grace was given according to
the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says:

"When He ascended on high, he led captivity
captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He
ascended"—what does it mean but that He also
first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

He who descended is also the One who ascended
far above all the heavens, that He might fill all
things.)

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some
prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and
teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the
work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of
Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of
the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man,
to the measure of the stature of the fullness of
Christ...

Gospel of the Postfeast *(Mt 4:12-17)*

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in
prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving
Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which
is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and
Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken
by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of
the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have
seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the
region and shadow of death, light has dawned."
From that time Jesus began to preach and to say,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

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

No tongue is capable of praising you worthily; the
angelic mind is over-awed in exalting you, O
Theotokos! But accept our faith, since you are
gracious and know our divine love. You are the
Protectress of Christians and we praise you!

Communion Hymn *(Ps 148 and Titus 1:11)*

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in
the highest!

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of
all men. Alleluia!

Using Holy Water

Jesus' baptism is commemorated in the Orthodox
Church at the Feast of Theophany (literally
"manifestation of God") on January 6. At this service
and on the previous day, water is sanctified.

Every family should have Holy Water at home, and
make use of it at every need: in cases of illness,
leaving on a journey, whenever one is upset, students
prior to examinations, etc. People who drink a little
Holy Water daily, before eating any kind of food,
usually do well. It strengthens the powers of our soul,
if it is done with prayer and reverence, and one does
not merely expect a mechanical result from it.

Orthodox Christians most often bless themselves with
Holy Water by drinking it. It is traditional to keep a
quantity of it at home, and many Orthodox Christians
will drink a small amount daily with their morning
prayers. It may also be used for informal blessings
when no clergy are present. For example, parents
might bless their children with Holy Water before they
leave the house for school or play. It is not unusual for
pious Orthodox Christians to put a little Holy Water in
their food as they cook their meals. It is also often
taken with prayer in times of distress or temptation.

Holy Water is often sprinkled on items or people when
they are blessed. Icons, crosses, cars, and homes are
blessed with Holy Water as a way of invoking God's
blessing and protection.

Holy Water may be kept in the icon corner or larger
amounts in another appropriate place.

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: Miracles of Christ (Feeding of
5000, Calming of the Storm, Walking on the Water)

Questions to ask/review:

For Feeding of 5000

- Why were so many people there? (they were following Jesus; note that 5000 was only counting men)
- What events today gain thousands of people?
- What did the disciples want to do?
- What did Jesus feed them? Where did He get the bread and fish?
- What did Jesus do with it? What does this remind us of? (the Eucharist at liturgy)

For Calming of Storm and Walking on Water

- Where were the disciples? What was the weather like?
- How did the disciples feel? What are some times we feel like our life is a "storm"?
- What did Jesus do? How does He calm "storms" in our life?
- Who wanted to walk with Jesus? What happened when Peter looked down?
- Are there times we "look down" or "take our eyes off" God?
- What did Jesus say to Peter (and us) about why he "sank"? (we can achieve great things with great faith in God)

Suggested activities at home:

- Prepare for the blessing of your home: Your child can help prepare by making sure his room is tidy and the light is on. Let your child help prepare the bowl, candle, and icon. Role play the sequence the priest will follow in the home.
- Ask the children to reenact one of Christ's miracles in a short skit.
- Read the stories together: Mark 6: 32-46 and Matthew 14:24-33
- Prayer: Lord Jesus, for travelers by land, by sea, and by air, let us pray to the Lord God. Lord have mercy.