



# 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

**After Liturgy** – Trisagion for the Departed  
In memory of Dn Joseph Mell

## Wednesday, January 24

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

## Saturday, January 27

**11:00 am** – Pan-Orthodox Choir Rehearsal  
**4:30 pm** - Confessions  
**5:00 pm** – Great Vespers

## Sunday, January 28

**9:15 am** – Adult Education  
**10:00 am** – Divine Liturgy  
Church School following  
Yearly Meeting 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 21, 2018

# Announcements

➤ **We will take a special collection today** to assist Olga Kamaev to journey back to Russia with the remains of her deceased husband, Anton. Please be generous and help those of the household of faith.

## ➤ 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

➤ **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 no later than today.**

➤ **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:** Fred Zeleznik, 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 on the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord (1/19/13); for the health of family. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary, (grandmother) Susan Wasilko (1/15/80). **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, (father) Charles; for the health of Godchild, Gregory Mell. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, (father) Charles, (brother) Raymond and (grandmother) Susan Wasilko. **From Marina Petrov** for the departed servants, Anastasiya and Vladimir; for the health of Raisa, Yevegeniy, Roman, Polina, Elizabeth and Veronika.



# Thank You

➤ to all those who have donated to support our parish throughout the year 2017 **using the monthly donors sheet at the candle desk.** Everyone is encouraged to visit the candle desk to obtain a candle and to considering donating in one of the categories provided for monthly offerings. May God richly bless you for your love for God and His Church!

**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.**

# A New Life

yy St Gregory of Nyssa (4<sup>th</sup> c)

All who are made glad by the gift of regeneration should show the change in their ways that follow it. Our body remains unchanged, but there is certainly need of some clear proof, by which we may recognize the new-born man. These are found in the intentional motions of the soul, whereby it separates itself from its old customary life, and enters on a newer way of conversation; it has become something different from its former self, bearing in it no token by which the old self was recognized. This is the mode of the transformation. A man before Baptism may have been lustful, covetous, grasping at the goods of others, a reviler, a liar, a slanderer, etc. After Baptism let him become orderly, sober, content with his own possessions, giving to those in poverty, truthful, courteous, and affable— in a word, following every laudable course of conduct. As darkness is dispelled by light, and black disappears as whiteness is spread over it, so the old man also disappears when adorned with the works of righteousness. You saw how Zacchaeus, by the change of his life, slew the publican, making fourfold-restitution to those whom he had unjustly damaged, and the rest he divided with the poor. The treasure, which he had gotten by evil means from the poor, whom he oppressed, he restored. The Evangelist Matthew, another publican, of the



same business with Zacchaeus, immediately after his call changed his life as if it had been a mask. Paul was a persecutor, but after the grace bestowed on him, was an Apostle. He bore the weight of his fetters for Christ's sake, as an act of amends and repentance for those unjust bonds which he once received from the Law.

# Hymns and Readings for Today

## **Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 8**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!  
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us  
from our sufferings!  
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: 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 8**

By rising from the tomb Thou didst raise the dead  
and resurrect Adam.  
Eve exults in Thy resurrection,  
and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead,  
O greatly Merciful One.

## **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 of the Sunday (Psalm 76) Tone 8**

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

## **Epistle of the Sunday (I Timothy 4:9-15)**

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all  
acceptance. For to this end we both labor and  
suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God,  
who is the Savior of all men, especially of those  
who believe. These things command and teach.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example  
to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit,  
in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to  
reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect

the gift that is in you, which was given to you by  
prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the  
eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself  
entirely to them, that your progress may be evident  
to all.

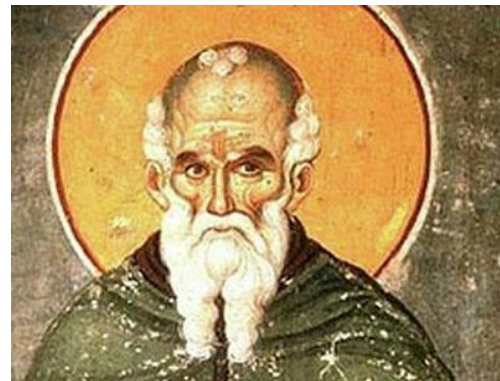
## **Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 19:1-10)**

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.  
Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus  
who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And  
he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not  
because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.  
So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore  
tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.  
And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up  
and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make  
haste and come down, for today I must stay at your  
house." So he made haste and came down, and  
received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all  
complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest  
with a man who is a sinner."

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look,  
Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I  
have taken anything from anyone by false  
accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to  
him, "Today salvation has come to this house,  
because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son  
of Man has come to seek and to save that which  
was lost."

## **Communion Hymn (Ps 148)**

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



# Great Good Works

by *St John Chrysostom*

Do you see that our practice has more power to do  
good? By practice I mean, not your fasting, nor yet  
your strewing sackcloth and ashes under you, but if  
you despise wealth, as it ought to be despised; if  
you be kindly affectioned, if you give your bread to  
the hungry, if you control anger, if you cast out  
vainglory, if you put away envy.

So He Himself used to  
teach: for, 'Learn of  
me,' says He, 'for I am  
meek and lowly in  
heart.' [Matthew 11:29]  
He did not say, 'for I  
fasted,' although surely  
He might have spoken  
of the forty days, yet He  
says not this; but, 'I am  
meek and lowly in  
heart.' And again, when  
sending them out, He  
said not, 'Fast,' but,  
'Eat of all that is set before you.' With regard to  
wealth, however, He required of them great  
strictness, saying, 'Provide not gold, or silver, or  
brass, in your purses.' [Matthew 10:9]



And all this I say, not to depreciate fasting, God  
forbid, but rather highly to commend it. But I grieve  
when other duties being neglected, you think it  
enough for salvation, having but the last place in  
the choir of virtue. For the greatest thing is charity,  
and moderation, and almsgiving; which hits a  
higher mark even than virginity.

**"And this** is what you must do ...on that day on which you fast. Then you must estimate the cost of the food you would have eaten on that day on which you intend to fast, and give it to a widow or an orphan or someone in need. In this way you will become humble-minded, so that as a result of your humble-mindedness the one who receives may satisfy his own soul and pray to the Lord on your behalf. If, then, you complete the fast in this way as I have commanded you, your sacrifice will be acceptable in God's sight, and this fast will be recorded, and the service performed in this way is beautiful and joyous and acceptable to the Lord. This is how you must observe these things with your children and your whole household, and in observing them, you will be blessed; indeed, all those who hear and observe them will be blessed, and whatever they ask from the Lord they will receive." **The Shepherd**, c 140 AD

# Today in Church School

**Today's lesson:** Zacchaeus

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

- What did Zacchaeus do for a living? Do we know another tax collector in the Bible? (Matthew, the disciple)
- Why couldn't Zacchaeus see Jesus? What did he do? (he was short, he climbed a tree to see)
- What are some things that money can't buy us in life?
- What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus? (come down, today I must stay in your house)
- How did Zacchaeus react? (promised to give away his money and repay those he has wronged)
- How did Jesus's visit with Zacchaeus probably change him?

## **Suggested activities at home:**

- Read the scripture together before bed: Luke 19:1-10.
- Go for a walk and look at trees. Discuss the shapes of trees, their leaves or lack thereof, how they change with the seasons.
- Invite one of your child's friends over for dinner. Ask your child to help prepare the food and plan the menu.
- Prayer: Lord Jesus, Thank you for caring for us and loving us each day. Amen.

