



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

Tonight

5:00 pm – Vespers at St Alexander Nevsky, Allison Park

Monday, March 12

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

Tuesday, March 13

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

Wednesday, March 14

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Lenten Fellowship Meal

Thursday, March 15

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

Friday, March 16

7:00 pm Akathist to the Passion of Christ

Saturday, March 17

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, March 18

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

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*

Third Sunday of Lent - The Precious Cross

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

March 11, 2018

Announcements

➤ **The Lenten season continues.** The Church prescribes that we refrain from eating meat and dairy products throughout the entirety of Lent and Holy Week. We're also called to increase our personal prayer, church attendance, and charity. May God strengthen you in your Lenten journey to enter the Lord's Pascha.

➤ **Our Parish-wide charitable endeavor is underway!** We provide 12 Easter Baskets for local families in need. Please see the insert in today's bulletin on how you can contribute! **We need you!**

➤ **Our Sisterhood's Annual Lenten Soup Sale will be held today.** You'll have the option to purchase delicious, homemade soup during Coffee Hour for \$8/quart. The money raised will support our ministry to our ill/shut-in parishioners and to purchase new kitchen equipment we need for "Welcome to the Table" as well as for future events for our Parish!

➤ **Join us for our Lenten Fish Dinner** on Sunday, March 25 (Feast of the Annunciation) after the Divine Liturgy! Tickets are available and will not be sold the day of the dinner. See the enclosed insert.

➤ **Our March hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, March 28. Please note that our prices have a modest increase due to increased costs. Italian Hoagies and wraps are \$6.50 each and the Turkey hoagies and wraps are \$7.00 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, March 25. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm March 28 at the church hall.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm: Known to be Hospitalized (none).. Home recovery (none). Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:** Olga Bednar, Garnette Kerchum, Georgiann Robes, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of Charles Wasilko-Happy Birthday & Many Years! **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, John Polny (3/6/96); for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, John Polny; for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, John Polny; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Bruce, Valentina and Lida; for the health of Tatyana, Sergey, Christopher, Veronika, Edward and Diana. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, John Shaytar. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servants, (parents) Stephen & Anna and John & Mary; for the health of our grandchildren. **From John Kowalcheck** for the health of Olga Cozza on her birthday. **From John Kowalcheck & Olga Cozza** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov and Nora Xenia Kowalcheck on her birthday. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servant, (father) John-Memory Eternal; for the health of Sarah, Danica and Chuck Wasilko on his birthday; special intentions.



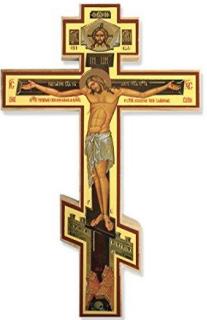
Thank You

➤ to Chuck Wasilko for sponsoring the bulletin for the month of March on the occasion of his birthday. May God richly bless him!

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.

Three Woods of the Cross

According to the sacred tradition of the Orthodox Church the True Cross was made from three different types of wood: cedar, pine and cypress. This is an allusion to Isaiah 60:13: "The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box [cypress] together to beautify the place of my sanctuary, and I will make the place of my feet glorious." The link between this verse and the Crucifixion lies in the words, "the place of my feet", which is interpreted as referring to the suppendaneum (foot rest) on which Jesus' feet were nailed.



There is a tradition that the three trees from which the True Cross was constructed grew together in one spot. A traditional Orthodox icon depicts Lot, the nephew of Abraham, watering the trees. According to tradition, these trees were used to construct the Temple in Jerusalem ("to beautify the place of my sanctuary"). Later, during Herod's reconstruction of the Temple, the wood from these trees was removed from the Temple and discarded, eventually being used to construct the cross on which Jesus was crucified ("and I will make the place of my feet glorious").

Let us venerate the Cross of the Lord, offering our tender affection as the cypress, the sweet fragrance of our faith as the cedar, and our sincere love as the pine.; and let us glorify our Deliverer who was nailed upon it. Let us venerate the Cross of the Lord, offering our tender affection as the cypress, the sweet fragrance of our faith as the cedar, and our sincere love as the pine; and let us glorify our Deliverer who was nailed upon it.* — Wednesday Matins of the Fourth Week of Lent, Ode 7, Lenten Triodion

Hymns and Readings for Today

March 11, 2018

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 7

By Thy cross, Thou didst destroy death!
To the thief, Thou didst open paradise!
For the myrrh-bearers, Thou didst change weeping
into joy!
And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ
God
to proclaim that Thou art risen,
granting the world great mercy.

Troparion of the Cross Tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people,
and bless Thine inheritance.
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
Over their adversaries;
And by virtue of Thy Cross,
preserve Thy habitation.

Kontaion of the Cross Tone 7

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates
of Paradise;
It has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of
the Cross!
The sting of death and the victory of hell have been
vanquished;
For Thou, O my Savior, didst come and cry to those
in hell:
Enter again into Paradise!

Instead of "Holy God"

Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O
Master, and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify.

Prokeimenon of the Cross Tone 6 (Ps 27)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine
inheritance!

Epistle of the Sunday (Heb 4:15-5:6)

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who
has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of
God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not
have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our
weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we
are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to
the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and
find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest taken from among men is
appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that
he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He
can have compassion on those who are ignorant
and going astray, since he himself is also subject to
weakness. Because of this he is required as for the
people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for
sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but
he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become
High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You
are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He
also says in another place: "You are a priest
forever, according to the order of Melchizedek".

Gospel of the Sunday (Mk 8:34-9:1)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His
disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires
to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up
his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to
save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life
for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what
will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and
loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in
exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of
Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful
generation, of him the Son of Man also will be
ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father
with the holy angels."

And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that
there are some standing here who will not taste
death till they see the kingdom of God present with
power."

Communion Hymn (Ps 148)

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in
the highest! The light of Thy countenance has
shown on us, O Lord!



Sunday of the Cross

On this Sunday, the third Sunday of Lent, we
celebrate the veneration of the honorable – and Life
-Giving Cross, and for this reason: inasmuch as in
the forty days of fasting we – in a way crucify
ourselves...and become bitter and despondent and
failing, the – Life -Giving Cross is presented to us
for refreshment and assurance, for remembrance of
– our Lord's Passion, and for comfort...

We are like those following a long and cruel path –
who become tired, see a beautiful tree and many
leaves, sit in its shadow and rest for – a while and
then, as if rejuvenated, continue their journey;
likewise today, in the – time of fasting and difficult
journey and effort, the Life – Giving Cross was
planted in – our midst by the holy fathers to give us
rest and refreshment, to make us light and –
courageous for the remaining task...

Or, to give another example: when a king is
coming, – at first his banner and symbols appear,
then he himself comes glad and rejoicing about –
his victory and filling with joy those under him;
likewise, our Lord Jesus Christ, who – is about to
show us His victory over death, and appear to us in
the glory of the – Resurrection Day, is sending to
us in advance His scepter, the royal symbol – the –
Life – Giving Cross – and it fills us with joy and
makes us ready to meet, inasmuch as it – is
possible for us, the King himself, and to render
glory to His victory...

All this in – the midst of Lent which is like a bitter
source because of its tears, because also of – its
efforts and despondency...but Christ comforts us
who are as it were in a desert – until He shall lead
us up to the spiritual Jerusalem by His
Resurrection...for the – Cross is called the Tree of
Life, it is the tree that was planted in Paradise, and
for – this reason our fathers have planted it in the
midst of Holy Lent, remembering both – Adam's
bliss and how he was deprived of it, remembering
also that partaking of this – Tree we no longer die
but are kept alive...

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem

Questions to ask/review:

- How did the resurrection of Lazarus effect the
response of the crowd on Palm Sunday? (more
people were starting to believe in Him)
- What did Jesus show the world? (that God's
power is greater than death)
- Why did Jesus enter Jerusalem on a donkey
rather than a war horse? (to show He came to
bring His sacrificial love to conquer death, not
conquer the "world")
- What was the significance of the donkey? Whose
prophecy was being fulfilled? (Zechariah 9)
- Where did the greeting the people gave Jesus on
Palm Sunday come from? (Psalm 118: 25-26)
- What was the meaning of the greeting? (Hosanna
means "save us" and showed Jesus was the
Messiah)
- Jesus knew what would happen in Jerusalem.
Would we have been able to be brave as He
was? Why did He do this brave act?
- Remember that with our palms of joy we are also
called to suffering and death; we cannot have the
one without the other!

Suggested activities at home:

- Prayer: "In the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Lord Jesus, You are
our only King. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is
He Who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.
- Make cut-out Lenten cookies in a donkey-shape.
- Read the scripture together at bedtime: Matthew
21:1-11, 15-17, John 12:1-18.
- In your yard, lay leaves, branches, or sticks in
rows leading towards your house. Discuss how
you welcome Christ to always be the King of your
home.
- Review and discuss the Tropar of the Feast: By
raising Lazarus from the dead before thy passion,
thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O
Christ God. Like the children with the palms of
victory, we cry out to thee, O Vanquisher of death:
Hosanna in the highest, Blessed is He that comes
in the name of the Lord.

EASTER FOOD BASKETS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES 2018

Please review the list of food items and indicate on the form the food item or monetary donation which you have selected to donate for the Easter Basket project. Please make checks payable to "St. Nicholas Orthodox Church." Acknowledgements for donations will be issued for tax purposes. Donations will be accepted through **Sunday, March 25, 2018.**



Please submit completed form to Donya Yewisiak at your earliest convenience.

- 11 ~~12~~- Hams (fully cooked- whole/semi-boneless)
- 12- Rings of Kielbasi
- 12- Five pound bags of potatoes
- ~~12- Five pound bags of flour~~
- 12- Five pound bags of sugar
- 12- Cans of vegetables (~~corn~~, green beans, peas, sliced beets, etc.)
- 12- Jars of applesauce (24 oz.)
- ~~12- Jars of pickles~~
- 12- Cans of black olives
- ~~12- Cans of fruit (pineapple slices)~~
- 12- Boxes of Jell-O
- 12- Boxes of pudding
- 12- Boxes of cake mix
- 12- Cans of cake icing
- 12- Three pound cans of coffee
- 12- Bottles of salad dressing
- 12- Jars of horseradish
- ~~12- Two liter bottles of soda~~

Additionally, monetary donations will be accepted in lieu of perishable and miscellaneous items. Eggs, cheese, milk, bread, fresh fruit, vegetables, and children's Easter baskets will be purchased for the recipient families.

Distribution of the baskets will be coordinated through the Holy Family Institute of McKees Rocks, PA.

Thank you,
Donya Yewisiak
Project Coordinator
412 848 7513 cell

Easter Food Baskets for Needy Families 2018

Name _____

- I would like to donate _____
(Please indicate number and type of item.)
- I would like to make a monetary donation in the amount of \$_____.

Inner Peace in a Noisy World

A Lenten Talk

by

Andrew Weaver

former Evangelical pastor
now Orthodox Christian teacher and speaker

Saturday, March 24, 2018

at

Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

210 Maplewood Avenue
Ambridge PA 15003

9:30 am Divine Liturgy
10:30 am Continental Breakfast
11:00 am Talk by Andrew Weaver

This event is free and open to the public

Contact info@orthodoxpittsburgh.org for more information

Sponsored by the Northwest Deanery of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western PA
Orthodox Church in America