



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

Monday, March 26

Vespers CANCELED

Tuesday, March 27

Vespers CANCELED

Wednesday, March 28

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy / Fellowship Meal

Thursday, March 29

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

Friday, March 30

7:00 pm Moleben for the Sick/Anointing with Oil

Saturday, March 31– Lazarus Saturday

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Children's Breakfast following

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Litiya

Sunday, April 1 – Palm Sunday

10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy / Procession

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*

Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

March 25, 2018

Announcements

➤ The Lenten season is nearing its close.

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.



➤ We're still in need the following for our Parish-wide charitable endeavor:

- 3 hams
- Cash donations

We provide 12 Easter Baskets for local families in need. Thank you to those who have already pledged to help. Today is the last day to contribute!. **Please see Donya Yewisiak to participate.**

➤ **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;* Georgiann Robes (Sewickley). *Home recovery* (none). *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Olga Bednar, Garnette Kerchum, 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 Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, (Aunt) Julia Falick (3/22/97); for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, (Aunt) Julia Falick. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, (Aunt) Julia Falick; for the health of the Wasilko family and Many Years to Suzy Polny on her birthday. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Reader Leonard on the occasion of his birthday. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the health of our grandchildren.

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!

➤ to **Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** for their dedication in spending their entire Saturday cleaning the "sacristy" (areas on the sides of the sanctuary) where all the church supplies and robes are kept. May God richly bless them for their love of God's holy house!

One should nourish the soul with the word of God: for the word of God, as St. Gregory the Theologian says, is angelic bread, by which are nourished souls who hunger for God. Most of all, one should occupy oneself with reading the New Testament and the Psalter, which one should do standing up. From this there occurs an enlightenment in the mind, which is in the mind, which is changed by a Divine change. (*St Seraphim of Sarov*)

Annunciation

Verses

*The Angel announced to the Virgin
The great Son of the Father's great Counsel.
The Angel said, "Rejoice", to Mary
on the twenty-fifth.*

Synaxarion

God, Who is merciful and loves mankind, is ever solicitous about the race of men. When, as a loving Father, He saw the work of His hands enslaved to the Devil and under his tyranny, subject to the passions and to idolatry, He resolved to send His Only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to deliver mankind from the clutches of the Devil. Since He wanted to escape the notice not only of Satan, but also of the Heavenly Powers themselves, He entrusted the Mystery to one of the Archangels, the glorious Gabriel, and in His Economy He brought it about that the Holy Virgin was purified by the Holy Spirit, for she was worthy of such a favor. When the Angel came to the city of Nazareth, he said to her: "Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee." She asked: "How shall this be?" He replied: "The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee." And she said: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." At the same time as she and the Archangel spoke, she conceived preternaturally in her immaculate womb the Son and Word of God, His enhypostatic Wisdom and Power, by the overshadowing of God and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Thereafter, the Mysteries of God the Word were accomplished by His Economy, for our salvation and redemption.

By her holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and lovest mankind. Amen.

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

March 25, 2018

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind!

Troparion of the Feast Tone 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery! The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: "Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!"

Kontakion of the Feast Tone 8

O victorious leader of triumphant hosts! We, your servants delivered from evil sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos. As you possess invincible might set us free from every calamity so that we may sing; "Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!"

Prokeimenon (Psalm 33) Tone 1

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

Prokeimenon of the Feast (Psalm 95/96:2) Tone 4

From day to day proclaim the salvation of our God

Epistle of the Feast (Hebrews 2:11-18)

For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me."

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Gospel of the Feast (Luke 1:24-38)

Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the

Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible."

Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

The Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

O earth, announce good tidings of great joy: O heavens, praise the glory of God! Since she is a living Ark of God, let no profane hand touch the Theotokos. But let the lips of believers unceasingly sing to her, praising her in joy with the Angel's song: "Rejoice, O Lady, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"

Communion Hymns (Psalm 148 and 4)

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

The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation.



Today in Church School

Today's lesson: The Crucifixion of Jesus

Questions to ask/review:

- Where was Jesus when He was arrested? (the garden of Gethsemane)
- What was He doing? (praying)
- What were the disciples doing? (sleeping after failing to stay awake to pray)
- How did Judas betray Him? (kissed His cheek)
- Peter lied about knowing Jesus how many times? (three times)
- Who was the high priest? (Caiaphas)
- The soldiers put what on Jesus? (purple robe, crown of thorns)
- Who condemned Jesus to death? (Pontius Pilate, but with the support of the priests and people)
- Who carried the cross? Why? (Simon of Cyrene; Jesus was not able)

What are some of the things Jesus said on the cross before He died? ("Father forgive them, for they know not what they do"; to the wise thief: "today you will be with Me in Paradise")

- Who was crucified with Jesus? Why was one thief "wise"? (two criminals, one repented and ask Jesus to "Remember me in your Kingdom")
- What happened when Jesus died? (the earth quaked and the veil of the temple tore in two)
- Who took Jesus's body to his own tomb? (Joseph of Arimathea)
- How are these events remembered in Church on Holy Friday?

Suggested activities at home:

- Read the scripture before bed: Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 18-19.
- Practice with your child the Sign of the Cross.
- Sing "Before Thy Cross" song, with prostrations.
- Show your child the cross in your home. Let him choose or make one for his room.
- Prayer: Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (with prostrations)