



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 the Divine Liturgy Trisagion for the Departed

In memory of Carol Kowalcheck and the mother of Veronica Sechler

Tuesday, November 20

7:00 pm Great Vespers with Litiya

Saturday, November 24

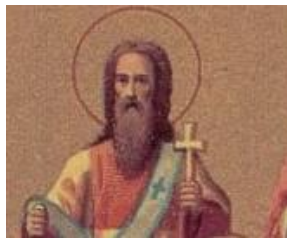
5:00pm Vespers and Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, November 25

No Adult Education

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

No Church School



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*

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

November 18, 2018

Announcements

➤ **Our iconography project continues** this week with the arrival of Fr Theodore Jurewicz tomorrow. He, along with his crew, will be painting the two front window wells, the front side walls behind the kiots, and the arch above the iconostasis. There is a possibility of other work being done while he is here for the next month.

➤ **Parish Christmas Card Project:** This year's project will run from now until Noon on December 2. We are asking everyone to participate by making a \$10 donation to have your/your family's name listed on the card. Cards will be mailed to parishioners and sister parishes in early December. **100% of this year's proceeds will benefit the new St Nicholas community meal ministry to be held at our parish on the last Saturday of the month beginning in January 2019.** See Jan Widel or Marsha Wasilko today!

➤ **Christmas Cards:** Lovely boxed Orthodox Christmas cards are now available for sale. See Jan Widel or Marsha Wasilko.

➤ **Our November hoagie sale** is being held on Wednesday, November 28. 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, November 25. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm November 28 at the church hall.

➤ **Adult Education Class Time Change!** Please note that the Sunday morning Adult Education class will begin at 9:00 am from now on. Class will pick up on Dec. 2 after the Thanksgiving break.

Prayers

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

➤ (11/04) **From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and (brother/uncle) John Karavlan; for the health of family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha. **From Dawna Beckett** for the health of Pearl (Paraskevya) Petkash on her 81st birthday. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servant, (aunt) Helen; for the health of my family; special intentions. **From John & Olga** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov and Elizabeth Kowalcheck and the child to be born. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Fr. Tom~safe travels. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants from the Wasilko & Dyczko families; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From the Yurkowski family** for the departed servant, Nicholas Yurkowski on the occasion of the memory of his 100th birthday (11/11/18). **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Slava, Bruce, Galina, Valentina, Gina, Andrei; for the health of Diana, Tatyana, Veronika, Kristofer, Adrianna, Thomas, Tatyana, Bernadette and Sergei

➤ (11/11) **From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha. **From John & Olga** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov, Olga Cozza Kowalcheck, Elizabeth & Dmitri Sergius Kowalcheck and Alexandra Ann Kowalcheck on her birthday. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary; THANK YOU to all our Veterans! **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary; for the health of all those that served our country. **From Albena Ivanova** for the departed servant, Dimo.

Nativity Fast

On **Wednesday, November 15** we began, together, the Nativity Fast, sometimes called the St Philip's Fast, or sometimes called by the Western term, Advent. The Nativity Fast is a 40 day preparation to prepare our bodies, minds, and hearts for the Christmas feast.

We're encouraged to do the following things with God's help and through our effort:

- Eat less and give that money to the poor.
- Increase our prayer, scripture reading, silence and church attendance.
- Make a sincere confession and receive communion as often as possible.
- Fast from meat, (fish with backbones on weekdays), dairy, olive oil and wine (fish with backbones, wine, and olive oil are permitted every Saturday and Sunday before Dec 20, and on Nov 16 & 30, Dec 4, 6, 12 & 20.)

The fasting guidelines are maximal and are meant to be a goal combined with prayer and charity. Everyone should do what they can to strengthen their spiritual life, but not fast to discouragement.



Thank you

➤ to **Matushka Nancy Mell and Greg Mell** for donating all November donor categories in loving memory of Deacon Joseph Mell.

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

Nov 18, 2018

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 (Ephesians 4:1-6)

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you
to walk worthy of the calling with which you were
called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with
longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,
endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the
bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were
called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one

faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who
is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 12:16-21)

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The
ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And
he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do,
since I have no room to store my crops?' So he
said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and
build greater, and there I will store all my crops and
my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you
have many goods laid up for many years; take your
ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to
him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of
you; then whose will those things be which you
have provided?'

"So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is
not rich toward God." ✕

*Why are you so concerned about fleeting things
that must be left here? Nothing is more slippery
than wealth. Today it is for you; tomorrow it is
against you. It arms the eyes of the envious
everywhere. It is a hostile comrade, and you
acknowledge this when you seek every way to bury
and conceal it from view. While the poor are
prepared for action, the wealthy wander about,
seeking where they may bury their gold, or with
whom they may deposit it. Why do you seek your
fellow slaves, when Christ stands ready to receive
and to keep your "deposits" for you. Those who
receive treasures in trust think they have done us a
favor. But with Christ it is the contrary, for He says
He has received a favor when He receives your
deposited treasures. For the guardianship he
provides He does not demand a fee, but instead
gives you dividends.*

*You are a stranger and a pilgrim with regard to
things here. But you have a country that is your
own in the heavens! Transfer there all that you
possess...*

*Would you be rich? Have God for your friend, and
you'll be richer than all men! (St John Chrysostom)*

Today in Church School

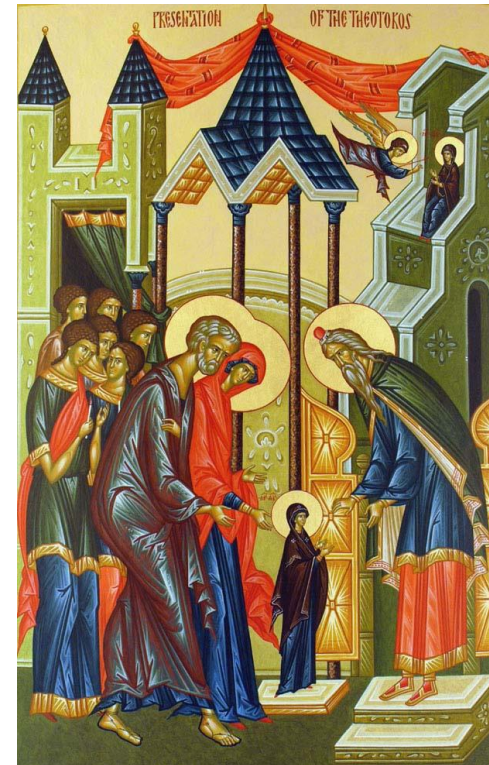
Today's lesson: Dormition of the Virgin Mary

Questions to ask/review:

- Who did Christ entrust with the care of His mother?
- Where were the disciples when the Theotokos died?
- How were they able to be present at her burial?
- Who was not present?
- What did Thomas find when trying to see the Theotokos once more?
- Why does his discovery gives us hope?
- Why are flowers used to remember this event?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Use flowers to beautify your house and discuss how flowers are used to remember the Dormition.
- Prayer: Theotokos pray for us, that we may be raised.



Thanksgiving Prayer

O Existing One, Master Lord, God, almighty and
adorable Father: It is truly meet and right and
befitting the majesty of Thy holiness that we should
praise Thee, hymn Thee, bless Thee, worship
Thee, give thanks unto Thee and glorify Thee, the
only truly existing God, and offer unto Thee with
contrite heart and spirit of humility this our rational
worship; for Thou art He that hath graciously
bestowed upon us the knowledge of Thy truth.

And who is sufficient to speak of Thy mighty acts,
to make all Thy praises to be heard, or to tell of all
Thy wonders at every season?

O Master of all, Lord of heaven and earth, and of
all creation both visible and invisible, Who sittest
upon the throne of glory and beholdest the depths,
Who art unoriginate, invisible, immutable, the
Father of our Lord: **the great God and Savior
Jesus Christ**, our Hope, Who is the Image of Thy
goodness, the Seal of equal type, in Himself
showing forth Thee, the Father, the living Word, the
true God, the Wisdom before all ages, the Life,
Sanctification, Power, the true Light, through Whom
the Holy Spirit was manifested: the Spirit of truth,
the Gift of adoption, the Pledge of the inheritance to
come, the First-fruits of eternal good things, the life-
giving Power, the Fountain of sanctification, by
Whom enabled every rational and intelligent
creature doth serve Thee and ascribe to Thee
perpetual praise, for all things are Thy servants.

Filled thus with great awe at Thine immeasurable
mercies and love, do Thou receive the unfeigned
praise and thanksgiving of our unworthy hearts for
all that Thou hast provided for us in this world and
the next, and enable us to walk before Thee in
holiness and purity all the days of our life in fitting
gratitude for Thy loving-kindness to us;

For blessed art Thou O Holy Father together with
Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ to Whom, with
Thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory and
worship, now and every and unto ages of ages.