



# 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**  
Church School after Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, December 5**  
5:00 pm Vespers  
6:00 pm Divine Liturgy – **Feast of St Nicholas**

**Saturday, December 8**  
5:00pm Vespers and Cathedral Vigil

**Sunday, December 9**  
9:00 am Adult Christian Education  
9:30 am Yolka Practice for Church School  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Church School after Divine Liturgy

**Church School Yolka Practice Schedule**  
Sun, Dec 16 – Pre-performance Preparation

**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-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org December 2, 2018

# Announcements

➤ Congratulations to Patrick and Heidi Lewis on the baptism of their son, **Andrew Benjamin**. May God grant the Lewis family good health and all of God's blessings!

➤ **Icon Project Donations:** As work progresses we are asking **everyone to participate financially in the continued iconographic work** in our temple. There are two ways you can participate and help to defray the costs of our incredible new icons:

- **Sponsor one of the new icons.** We are in need of donors for the following iconographic work:
  - **Holy Mandylion (Image of Christ "Made without Hands" and two angels \$2,000**
  - **Window Wells including angel and one medallion of your choice \$800**
  - **(2) One Full Size saint of your choice located behind kiot \$800**
  - **(2) One Medallion icon of your choice located behind kiot \$400**
- **We are asking EVERY HOUSEHOLD** to consider donating \$100 (or whatever you are able, less or more) as a special year-end gift. Consider giving any special year-end gift beyond your regular donation to the icons.

➤ **Parish Christmas Card Project: Today is the last day** to participate in the parish Christmas Card!. 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!

# 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.

➤ **From From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and (sister/aunt) Florence K. Sismour; for the health of family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha, (cousin) Michael VanGuard and (aunt) Johanna. **From John & Olga** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov, Olga Cozza, Elizabeth Kowalcheck & son, Dmitri. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants of the Wasilko and Dyczko families; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of my family; special intentions. **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Slava, Bruce, Galina, Valentina, Gina, Marina, Lida, Andrei and Daniel; for the health of Diana, Tatyana, Veronika, Kristofer, Adrianna, Oksana, Anya, Edik, and Sergei.

*"Almsgiving heals the soul's provocative power; fasting withers sensual desire; prayer purifies the intellect and prepares it for contemplation of created beings. For the Lord has given us commandments which correspond to the powers of the soul." St. Maximos the Confessor*

# Thank you

➤ to **Jan and Chuck Widel** for donating the December monthly Bulletin (\$60) in memory of the departed members of the Puskar and Morris families; to **Alex and Olga Noskov** for Holy Bread (\$50) in commemoration of their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; to Donya Yewisiak for Altar Candles (\$50), and to **Fr Thomas and Mat Joni Soroka** for Incense (\$10) in memory of our departed mothers.

**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.**

# Our Angel Tree

Our annual Angel Tree Project, benefitting those in need in the McKees Rocks area, is now available downstairs.

Gifts are distributed by the Holy Family Institute. When you choose an ornament from the tree, please bring the **unwrapped, new gifts** back to Church by Sunday, December 9. If you have any questions please contact project coordinator Donya Yewisiak at 412-848-7513.



Holy Family Institute has requested the following:

- No plush items or stuffed animals.
- No VHS tapes of any kind or any media that promotes violence (video games or DVD). No toy guns of any kind including water guns.
- No edible gifts or holiday treats.
- No clothing with company logos.

Thank you for your generosity and support!



# Nativity Fast

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.)

# Hymns and Readings for Today

Dec 2, 2018

## **Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 2**

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,  
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead!  
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out:  
O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!  
mankind!

## **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 2**

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,  
seeing the miracle of Thy resurrection from the tomb!  
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this  
and rejoiced with Thee!  
And the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever!

## **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 (Psalm 118) Tone 2**

The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation!

## **Epistle of the Sunday (Ephesians 6:10-17)**

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of

God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

## **Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 18:18-27)**

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'"

And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."

So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.

And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?"

But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

## **Communion Hymns (Ps 148:1)**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



## **This Week in Church School**

**Topic:** Persecutions

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

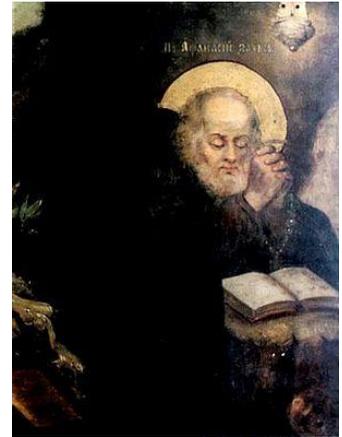
- What does it mean to be persecuted?
- Where was the name "Christian" first used?
- Why did the Romans persecute Christians?
- Who was St. Ignatius? Tell his story.
- Who ordained the bishops of the early church? Who then did the bishops ordain?
- What are some examples of persecution that exist today? In other countries? In the USA?

### **Suggested Activities at home:**

- Many children share their name with a martyr of the early Church. Review their life story with your child.
- For older children, share news articles with them of examples of persecution today in North Africa, China, and the Middle East.
- Prayer: Lord, give me the trust and courage that you gave the martyrs.

## **Ven Athanasius the Resurrected**

Saint Athanasius (13<sup>th</sup> c), hermit of the Near Caves of Kiev, was a contemporary of the archimandrite Saint Polycarp (July 24) of the Kiev Caves. Saint Athanasius was grievously ill for a long time. When he died, the brethren prepared him for burial, and on the third day the igumen came to bury him. However, they all saw the dead man alive. He was sitting up and weeping. To all their questions he replied only: "Seek salvation, obey the igumen in everything, repent each hour and pray to our Lord Jesus Christ, to His All-Pure Mother and to Saints Anthony and Theodosius, to allow you to end your life here. Do not ask me anything else, for I must pray" (There is a similar story of Saint Hesychius [October 3] in THE LADDER of Saint John Climacus, Step 6).



After this he lived for twelve years more in solitude in a cave. During that time he spoke not a word to anyone. He wept day and night, and partook of a little bread and water only every other day. Just before his death, he assembled the brethren, and repeated his earlier words to them, and then he peacefully departed unto the Lord (in about the year 1176).

The monk Babylas, who had suffered illness and an infirmity of the legs for many years, was healed at his relics. "As I lay there," he told the brethren, "I cried out in pain. Suddenly, Saint Athanasius appeared to me and said, 'Come to me, and I shall heal you.' I wanted to ask him how and when he had returned here, but he became invisible. I believed his words and asked to be taken to his relics. And indeed, I have been healed." Saint Athanasius was buried in the Antoniev Cave. His memory is celebrated also on September 28 and on the second Sunday of Great Lent.