



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

Saturday, December 22

5:00pm Vespers and Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, December 23

9:00 am Adult Christian Education

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Church School after the Divine Liturgy

After the Liturgy today, we will gather downstairs for our annual St Nicholas Day Dinner. Due to the generosity of the St Nicholas Sisterhood, **there is NO CHARGE for the dinner and everyone is warmly invited to attend** so that we can be together on this special day.

Additionally our Church School will have a short "Yolka" (Christmas program) as we approach the Nativity Feast. May God bless everyone who worked to make today a special day for us!!

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*

29th Sunday after Pentecost/The Forefathers

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

December 16, 2018

Announcements

➤ We warmly welcome **His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek**, who leads us in the Divine Liturgy this morning. May God grant him good health, length of days, and many blessed years!

➤ **We want to sincerely thank the icon donors** for this phase six of the Iconography Renewal Project, and all those who made contributions. (*We are asking each family to donate \$100 (or according the means, more or less) to support the continued work that beautifies our temple.*)

- **Christ in Glory Deisis** (\$4,000) from **John and ✕Valentina Barsom**
- **Annunciation** (\$3,500) from **John Naiser** in memory of Barbara Naiser (Mat Joni's mother)
- **Mandyllion** (\$2,000) from **Anonymous** in memory of Fr Jacob Myers and for the health of the St John the Wonderworker Church, Atlanta GA
- **St Basil the Great** (\$800) from **Doris, Marsha, and Charles Wasilko** in memory of father, Charles Wasilko
- **St Dionysius the Areopagite** (\$800) from **Tom and Mary Hoffman** in memory of Deacon Dennis and Mat Mary Lucak. (*To be completed in 2019*)
- **St Patrick of Ireland** (\$400) from **Bill, Karlie, Patrick and Heidi Lewis**.
- **Sts Boris and Gleb** (\$400) from Doug Dean.
- **St Richard King of Wessex** (\$400) from Rick and Susie Porter. (*To be completed in 2019*)
- **St Nikolai (Velimirovic) of Zica** (\$400) from **Larry and Suzie Polny** (*To be completed in 2019*).

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 Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and (newly departed) Irene Kubiak; for the health of family.

From Charles A. Wasilko for the departed servant, (grandmother) Katherine Dyczko; for the health of (cousin) Michael on his 70th birthday.

From Marsha Wasilko for the departed servants, (grandmother) Katherine Dyczko (12/15/68), Marie Baronyak and (newly departed) Wm. Clapper.

From Doris Wasilko for the departed servant, (grandmother) Katherine Dyczko; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton.

From Irina for the departed servants, Olga and Anna; for the health of William, Marina, Artur, Andrei, Alex, Elena and Aleksei.

From Mat. Joni Soroka for the departed servant, (mother) Barbara; for the health of my children; safe travels for Melanie. **From**

Georgiann Robes for the departed servant, Colt Delverne. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servant, Barbara Naiser (12/24/16). **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the health of our family and (son) John and (grandson) Alex on their birthdays.

From Tatyana Sechler for the departed servants, Polina, Slava, Bruce, Galina, Valentina, Gina, Marina, Lida, Andrei and Daniel; for the health of Diana, Tatyana, Thomas, Christopher, Adrianna, Michelini, Ailene, Edik and Cole.

From Tatyana Sechler for the departed servants, Polina, Slava, Bruce, Galina, Valentina, Gina, Marina, Lida, Andrei and Daniel; for the health of Diana, Tatyana, Thomas, Christopher, Adrianna, Michelini, Ailene, Edik and Cole.

From Tatyana Sechler for the departed servants, Polina, Slava, Bruce, Galina, Valentina, Gina, Marina, Lida, Andrei and Daniel; for the health of Diana, Tatyana, Thomas, Christopher, Adrianna, Michelini, Ailene, Edik and Cole.

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 25th 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.

Abraham

The subject of the blessed Abraham is known as much by the wise men as by common Christians. For the Book of Genesis, written by the Prophet Moses, which speaks of him, is read to be heard by all Christians in the Church, during the fasting days of the Holy and Great Lent. Wherefore we all learn from this book, that our forefather Abraham was from the land of the Chaldeans, and he was a gentile. The Chaldeans were a nation before the Jews. And his father Terah was an idolater. The divine Abraham was also an idolater, but he was not prevented by this from coming to know the true God. Rather, we should say something strange, for the great Abraham even by this idolatry was led to understand the true God.

When the renowned one understood that nothing created is God, and should not be worshiped as God, and having contemplated the good arrangement of things that exist, and by seeing these things which were made, he came to know their invisible Maker. And having come to know Him, he worshiped Him as God, Who upholds and governs all of creation, and designated these things which have come into being to be suitable and orderly. He was therefore ordered by God to leave his homeland and relatives, and go to the land of Canaan (where also Palestine and Jerusalem are located). Immediately he obeyed, without having doubt in his heart, for he had much faith towards God. For this reason he received as a wager for his faith, a son named Isaac who was born to him in his old age, and he became the father of many nations. Isaac was born of Abraham, Jacob was born of Isaac, and from Jacob was born Judah (from whose tribe Christ was born) and his brother Patriarchs.

For this reason therefore our God-bearing Fathers and Teachers, have arranged it for today to commemorate the divine Abraham, as the forefather from whom Christ was born. And they delivered this to be reckoned by us, not for a long period of many days, but near the birth in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was not done simply by chance, but according to the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit. For the most good and philanthropic Son of God, made the Patriarch Abraham and his descendants His forefathers according to His human nature. Thus the most divine Fathers rightly deemed for us to celebrate their memory as Forefathers, not long from the Lord's nativity according to the flesh.

Hymns and Readings for Today

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 4

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

Troparion of the Forefathers Tone 2

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These Saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit; She who without seed. So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Kontakion of the Forefathers Tone 6

Ye did not worship the graven image, O thrice blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial essence of God, ye were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames ye called on God, crying: "Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid, For Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will.

Prokeimenon of the Fathers Tone 4

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever

Epistle of the Sunday (Col 3:4-11)

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 14:16-24)

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.'

But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.'

And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.'

Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

Communion Hymns (Ps 148:1)

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

Divine Services Celebrating the Nativity of Christ

Sunday, December 23 Forefeast of the Nativity

10:00 am Divine Liturgy



Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve

8:30 am Royal Hours

9:30 am Vespers Divine Liturgy

8:00 pm Vigil for the Nativity



Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day

10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, December 26 Synaxis of the Theotokos

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

*And suddenly there was with the
Angel a multitude of the heavenly
Hosts praising and saying: Glory to God!*

FOCUS
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PITTSBURGH

HOSTS SING ALLELUIA

PAN-ORTHODOX CHOIRS IN PERFORMANCE

11TH ANNUAL NATIVITY CONCERT

Come let us adore Him!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018 – 6:30 PM

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

123 Gilkeson Road (Across from the Galleria)

Mt. Lebanon (Pittsburgh), Pennsylvania 15228

Audience Communal Singing during concert

Free-will offering to support the work of FOCUS Pittsburgh

An Urban Center of FOCUS NA

