



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 Mat Olga Soroka and Barbara Naiser from their children (Coffee Hour Food is offered in their honor)

Tuesday, January 1 Circumcision of Christ / St Basil / New Year's Day

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
Blessing of St Basil Bread

Saturday, January 5

4:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Vigil of Theopany

Sunday, January 6

9:00 am Adult Education
10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy
Great Blessing of Water
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*

Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org
December 30, 2018

Announcements

The festal period from December 25 to January 4 is fast-free. **Christ is born! Glorify Him!**

➤ **The 2019 Envelopes** are available in the vestibule. Please financially support your church on a regular basis.

➤ **Next Sunday is the Great Feast of Theophany.** Holy Water will be blessed on that day. The Faithful are encouraged to bring a clean container suitable for holy water to take home. Holy Water can be kept in the home for blessings, illnesses, or used whenever appropriate.

➤ **Bible Study** will resume on Wednesday, January 12 at 7:00 pm.

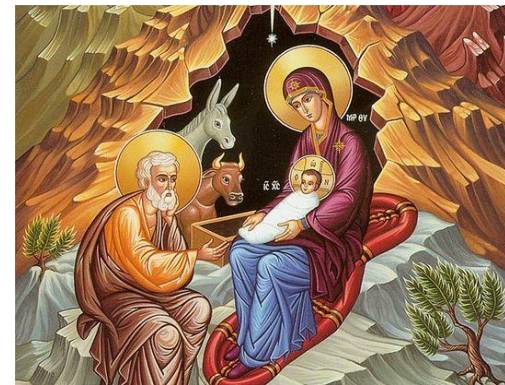
➤ **The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA)** will have the next "Orthodoxy on Tap" on a weeknight and in a different location: Thursday, January 3 at 7:00 pm at The Clubhouse Gibsonia (5301 Ranalli Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044 / 724-449-9090 / www.theclubhousegibsonia.com). Please email poyapittsburgh@gmail.com if you are able to make it (or to be added to the email list for updates on future events). Guest speaker this month will be Fr Stevo Rocknage who will have an interactive discussion on "The Great Commission Of Our Lord: What Does It Mean For Your Life?". All young adults 21-39 are welcome! Come for fellowship and to learn more about your faith!

"The purpose of the incarnation is to establish full communion between God and humanity so that in Christ humanity may find adoption and immortality, often called 'deification' by the Fathers: not by emptying human nature but by fulfilling it in the divine life, since only in God is human nature truly itself." -*Olivier Clement*

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 servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants of the Wasilko & Dyczko families; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton, Elizabeth Hamilton and Victoria & Ryan Scott. **From John & Olga** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov and Matthew Heuer on his birthday. **From John Kowalcheck** for the health of Olga Cozza. **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for our departed mothers, Mat. Olga (12/31) and Barbara (12/24); for the health of (godfather) Larry.



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 **John Barsom** for donating the flowers which adorn the church in memory of his beloved wife, Valentina.

Your Value

Why then, man, are you so worthless in your own eyes and yet so precious to God? Why render yourself such dishonor when you are honored by him? Why do you ask how you were created and do not seek to know why you were made?

Was not this entire visible universe made for your dwelling? It was for you that the light dispelled the overshadowing gloom; for your sake was the night regulated and the day measured, and for you were the heavens embellished with varying brilliance of the sun, the moon and the stars. The earth was adorned with flowers, groves and fruit; and the constant marvelous variety of lovely living things was created in the air, the fields, and the seas for you, lest sad solitude destroy the joy of God's new creation.

And the Creator still works to devise things that can add to your glory. He has made you in his image that you might in your person make the invisible Creator present on earth; he has made you his legate, so that the vast empire of the world might have the Lord's representative. Then in his mercy God assumed what he made in you; he wanted now to be truly manifest in man, just as he had wished to be revealed in man as in an image. Now he would be in reality what he had submitted to be in symbol.

And so Christ is born that by his birth he might restore our nature. He became a child, was fed, and grew that he might inaugurate the one perfect age to remain for ever as he created it. He supports man that man might no longer fall. And the creature he had formed of earth he now makes heavenly; and what he had endowed with a human soul he now vivifies to become a heavenly spirit. In this way he fully raised man to God, and left in him neither sin, nor death, nor travail, nor pain, nor anything earthly, with the grace of our Lord Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, for all the ages of eternity. Amen. (*St Peter Chyrsologus*)

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

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure Body.
Thou didst capture hell,
not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin granting life.
O Lord who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee!

Troparion of the Feast Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
were taught by a star to adore Thee,
the Sun of righteousness,
and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.
O Lord, glory to Thee!

Troparion of the Righteous Ones Tone 2

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,
to David, the ancestor of God;
you saw a Virgin great with child;
you gave glory with the shepherds;
you worshipped with the Magi;
you received the news from the Angel.
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Kontakion of the Righteous Ones Tone 3

Today godly David is filled with joy;
Joseph and James offer praise.
The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills
them with great joy.
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on
earth,
and they cry out: "O Compassionate One, save
those who honor You!"

Kontakion of the Feast Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent
One,
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable
One.
Angels with shepherds glorify Him;
the Wise Men journey with the star,
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a

little Child!

Prokeimenon of the Sunday Tone 6 (Ps 27/28:9)

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine
inheritance!

Prokeimenon of the Feast Tone 4 (Ps 67/68:35)

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

Epistle of the Sunday (Gal 1:11-19)

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel
which was preached by me is not according to
man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I
taught it, but it came through the revelation of
Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former conduct in
Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God
beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I
advanced in Judaism beyond many of my
contemporaries in my own nation, being more
exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from
my mother's womb and called me through His
grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach
Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately
confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to
Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me;
but I went to Arabia, and returned again to
Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to
see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I
saw none of the other apostles except James, the
Lord's brother.

Gospel of the Sunday (Mt 2:13-23)

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of
the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying,
"Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to
Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for
Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."
When he arose, he took the young Child and His
mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was
there until the death of Herod, that it might be

fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the
prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."
Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by
the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent
forth and put to death all the male children who
were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two
years old and under, according to the time which he
had determined from the wise men. Then was
fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet,
saying:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation,
weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for
her children, refusing to be comforted, because
they are no more."

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of
the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,
saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His
mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who
sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he
arose, took the young Child and His mother, and
came into the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning
over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was
afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a
dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.
And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth,
that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the
prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Hymn to the Theotokos

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure virgin
Theotokos, more honorable than the heavenly
hosts!
I behold a strange most glorious mystery: Heaven –
the cave!
The cherubic throne – the Virgin!
The manger – the place where Christ lay!
The uncontainable God whom we magnify in song!

Communion Hymn (Psalm 148 and 32)

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in
the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O you
righteous! Praise befits the just!

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: St Constantine and the Exaltation
of the Cross

Questions to ask/review:

- Who was Constantine? How did he become Emperor of Rome?
- What sign from God did Constantine see?
- How did Constantine improve the lives of Christians? What was the Edict of Milan?
- To where did Constantine move the capital of his empire?
- Why is Constantine called "Equal to the Apostles" by the Church?
- Who was St. Helen? How is she related to Constantine?
- Describe the story of how St. Helen found the cross.
- Why is the cross so important to our faith?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Discuss dreams and visions with your child; who else in the Bible had visions that changed the course of history? Read the stories of Noah, Joseph, Moses, Samuel, or Zachariah.
- Make shields decorated with crosses and marching to "When the saints go marching in".
- Prayer: Lord, help me to conquer sin as You did for your servant Constantine.

