

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

Wednesday, January 23

- 6:30 pm – Daily Vespers
- 7:00 pm – Bible Study

Saturday, January 26

- 4:00 pm – Community Meal for Those in Need
- 4:30 pm Confessions
- 5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, January 27

- 9:00 am Adult Education
- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
- Church School following Divine Liturgy

Important Dates:

- Zacchaeus Sunday – February 10
- Meatfare Sunday – March 3
- Cheesefare Sunday – March 10
- Great Lent Begins (Clean Monday) – March 11
- Western Easter – April 21
- Holy Pascha – April 28

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*

34th Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

January 20, 2019

Announcements

St. Nicholas Community Dinner: All are Welcome- Please join us in supporting this monthly hot meal ministry to our surrounding community. The meals will be served on the **last Saturday of each month from 4-5 pm in the church basement.** Help is needed to prepare & serve the food, set-up & clean-up, and to greet our guests. Please contact Mat. Ashley (Ashley.loboda@gmail.com, #412-715-2163) or Sasha Gajewski (alexandra.mihalick@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping out with any aspect of this ministry. Our first meal will be on January 26.

➤ **Our annual parish meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 27 after the Divine Liturgy. Only members in good standing (spiritually and financially) may participate. **Reports of leaders are due today to Kristie Mertz.**

➤ **Anyone who would like to have Fr Thomas come to bless their home** should contact him directly at frthomas@orthodoxpittsburgh.org. Everyone is encouraged to have their home blessed during this season of the year.

➤ Two open spots for men available on a **pilgrimage to Holy Cross Hermitage** leaving on Friday, Feb 15, returning on Sunday Feb 17. Please see Albena Iossifova for more information.

➤ **Our January hoagie sale** is being held on Wednesday, Jan 30. 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, Jan 27. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm Jan 30 at the church hall.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be Hospitalized; Jack Saban (VA). 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 (6th anniversary 1/19/13); for the health of family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, (grandmother) Susan Wasilko. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary and (grandmother) Susan Wasilko (1/15/80). **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary and (grandmother) Susan Wasilko. **From The Yurkowski family** for the departed servant, Konstantin Barlamas (1/6/19). **From John & Olga** for the health & salvation of our family and Anatoly & Galina Vilkov. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, (brother) John Shaytar.

➤ to George and Nancy Shaytar for donating the

Thank you

bulletins for the month of January in memory of John Shayar.

Want to make an impact across the world? Help support International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). This American organization has a broad reach across the globe. Here's some events to help you get involved. Visit ioccc.org/pittsburgh for more info.

- Soup Sampling February 9 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Mt Lebanon
- Team IOCC at the Pittsburgh Marathon May 4-5

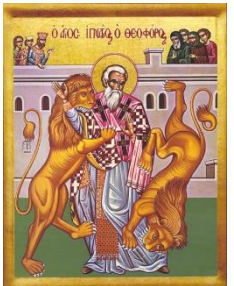
St Ignatius

St Ignatius of Antioch lived from approximately 35 to 107 AD. also known as Ignatius Theophorus, (lit. "the God-bearing") or Ignatius Nurono (lit. "The fire-bearer"), was an early Christian writer and bishop of Antioch. He was a disciple of the Apostle John. En route to Rome, where he met his martyrdom, Ignatius wrote a series of letters. This correspondence now forms a central part of the later collection known as the Apostolic Fathers. His letters also serve as an example of early Christian theology. Important topics they address include ecclesiology, the sacraments, and the role of bishop. Listed below are some gems of his sayings which have been passed on to us.

"Do not err, my brethren: if anyone follow a schismatic, he will not inherit the Kingdom of God. If any man walk about with strange doctrine, he cannot lie down with the passion. Take care, then, to use one Eucharist, so that whatever you do, you do according to God: for there is one Flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, and one cup in the union of His Blood; one altar, as there is one bishop with the presbytery and my fellow servants, the deacons."

"Take heed often to come together to give thanks to God and show forth His praise. For when you assemble frequently in the same place, the powers of Satan are destroyed, and the destruction at which he aims is prevented by the unity of your faith. Nothing is more precious than peace, by which all war, in heaven and earth, is brought to an end."

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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 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 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 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God for death has vanished, Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee:
Thou art the giver of resurrection to all, O Christ!

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 33) Tone 1

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

Epistle of the Posteast (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 18:35-43)

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.

And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Communion Hymn ()

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

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: Nicene Creed and St. Athanasius

Questions to ask/review:

- Why was the Council of Nicea called in 325? By whom?
- What is another name for the Council of Nicea? (First Ecumenical Council)
- What did Arius teach about Christ?
- Why is it so important to know that Christ was God? (if Christ was not both God and man, we are not saved through his death and resurrection)
- Who was Athanasius? Why is he called "the Great"?
- How does the Nicene creed explain the truth that Christ is God? ("begotten not made, of one essence with the Father")
- -What difficulties did Athanasius face after the council?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Memorize the creed as appropriate for your child's age. The smallest children should learn the first line or two of the creed; everyone else should be able to say (or sing) the entire creed.
- Play "Creed Bounce." Have a beach ball ready. Sit or stand in a circle on the floor. Begin with the first few words of the Creed. Bounce the ball to your child(ren) who continues for another line. He bounces the ball to another etc. until the conclusion.
- Prayer: Lord, may all Christians be one in the true faith you revealed to the council of Nicea.

Be an Apostle

The Lord chose the apostles, that they should be with Him, and that he might send them forth to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils.

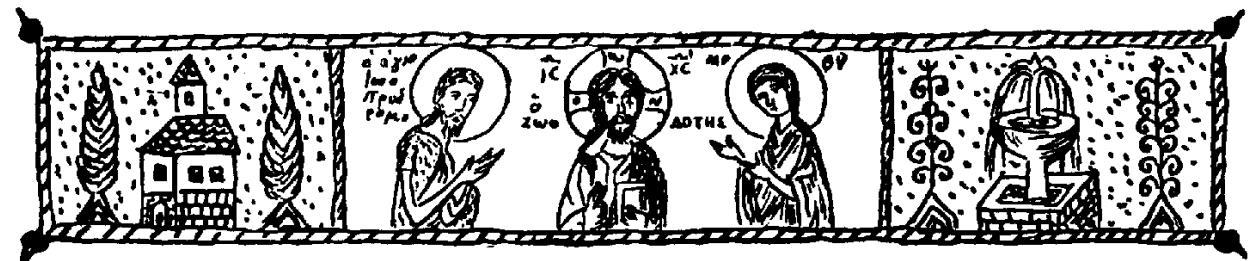
Every Christian is chosen—chosen for similar deeds, namely: to be with the Lord, through unceasing remembrance of Him and awareness of His omnipresence, through the preaching and fulfillment of His commandments, and through a readiness to confess one's faith in Him. In those circles where such a confession is made, it is a loud sermon for all to hear.

Every Christian has the power to heal infirmities—not of others, but his own, and not of the body, but of the soul—that is, sins and sinful habits—and to cast out devils, rejecting evil thoughts sown by them, and extinguishing the excitement of passions enflamed by them.

Do this and you will be an apostle, a fulfiller of what the Lord chose you for, an accomplisher of your calling as messenger. When at first you succeed in all this, then perhaps the Lord will appoint you as a special ambassador—to save others after you have saved yourself; and to help those who are tempted, after you yourself pass through all temptations, and through all experiences in good and evil.

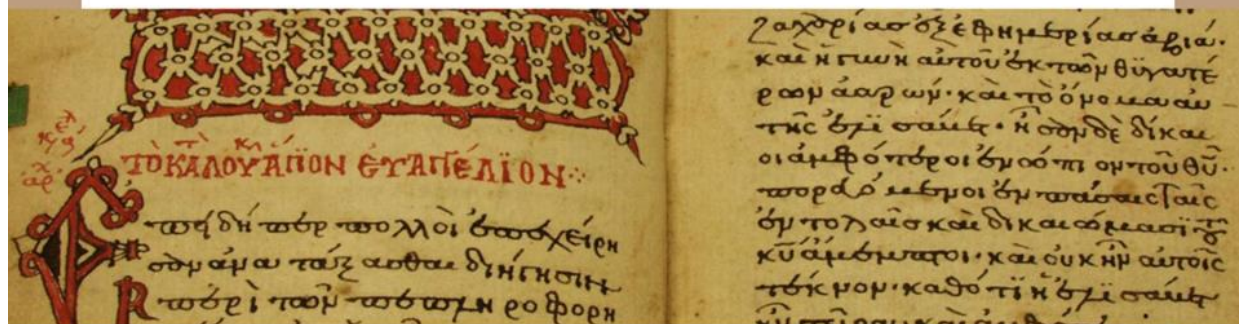
But your job is to work upon yourself: for this you are chosen; the rest is in the hands of God. He who humbles himself shall be exalted. Book Thoughts for Each Day of the Year

+ St. Theophan the Recluse



ST NICHOLAS

Symposium 2019



Orthodoxy and the Scriptures

Fr Bogdan Bucur, PhD

Dr Edith Humphrey, PhD

Andrew Weaver, MDiv

St Nicholas Orthodox Church 320 Munson Ave McKees Rocks

Saturday, February 16 • 2:00 pm

More info at orthodoxpittsburgh.org

Why are abortion numbers falling across America?

(Hint: *It's not contraception.*)

Join us after the Divine Liturgy for a short presentation on important work being done to help women in crisis pregnancies and how you can help!

Why have they fallen faster in Pittsburgh?

We can play a part in this.

Amy Scheuring, Ex.Dir., Women's Choice Network
www.mypregnancycenter.org

Chris Humphrey, Ex. Dir., Vision for Life - Pittsburgh
www.visionforlifepgh.org