



**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

## 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

### Friday, February 1 Presentation of Christ

7:00 pm – Great Vespers with Litiya

### Saturday, February 2

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, February 3

9:00 am Adult Education

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Church School following Divine Liturgy



New Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth

**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*

### 35<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

January 27, 2019

## Announcements

➤ **Our annual parish meeting** will be held today after the Divine Liturgy. Only members in good standing (spiritually and financially) may participate.

➤ Congratulations to **Karlie and Bill Lewis**, on the birth of their son, Bennett Gray, born January 19 at 3:25 am and weighing 7 lbs 7 oz at birth. Mom and baby are doing great! Dad and baby's new big brothers are so excited to have him in the family! God grant the Lewis family many blessed years!

➤ **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.

➤ **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](http://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

#### ➤ Important Upcoming 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

## 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.*

➤ **Vigil Lights** from last Sunday will be reported in next week's bulletin.

## Thank you

➤ to George and Nancy Shaytar for donating the bulletins for the month of January in memory of John Shayar.

➤ to Mat Ashley Loboda and Sasha Gajewski and to all those who worked yesterday at our inaugural **Community Dinner** for those who are in need. May God bless all those who worked and/or financially supported



## Talents

The parable about the talents offers the thought that life is a time for trading. That means that it is necessary to hasten to use this time as a person would hurry to a market to bargain for what he can. Even if one has only brought bast shoes, or only bast, (very inexpensive, unsophisticated items) he does not sit with his arms folded, but contrives to call over buyers to sell what he has and then buy for himself what he needs.

No one who has received life from the Lord can say that he does not have a single talent—everyone has something, and not just one thing; everyone, therefore, has something with which to trade and make a profit. Do not look around and calculate what others have received, but take a good look at yourself and determine more precisely what lies in you and what you can gain for that which you have, and then act according to this plan without laziness.

At the Judgment you will not be asked why you did not gain ten talents if you had only one, and you will not even be asked why you gained only one talent on your one, but you will be told that you gained a talent, half a talent or a tenth of its worth. And the reward will not be because you received the talents, but because you gained. There will be nothing with which to justify yourself—not with nobleness, nor poverty, nor lack of education. When this is not given, there will be no question about it.

But you had hands and feet. You will be asked, what did you gain with them? You had a tongue, what did you gain with it? In this way will the inequalities of earthly states be leveled out at God's judgment. -St.

*Theophan the Recluse*



**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 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!

## **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 (Col 3:12-16)**

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another,

and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

## **Gospel of the Sunday (Mt 25:14-30)**

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.

After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I

will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

## **Communion Hymn**

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

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](http://orthodoxpittsburgh.org)

# 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.

