



# 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, February 6

Bible Study **CANCELLED** (rescheduled to 2/13)

## Saturday, February 9

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

## Sunday, February 10

9:00 am Adult Education

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Church School following Divine Liturgy



**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*

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

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

February 3, 2019

# Announcements

➤ **2018 Donation Statements** are available from Eric Wenger. Thank you for your continued support.

➤ **Bible Study and Daily Vespers** is cancelled this week and will be held next Wednesday, February 13, instead.

➤ **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

“You need not be despondent. Let those be despondent who do not believe in God. For them sorrow is burdensome, of course, because besides earthly enjoyment they have nothing. But believers must not be despondent, for through sorrows they receive the right of sonship, without which is impossible to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.” – **St Barsanuphius of Optina**

# 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 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 departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell, Paul Gallick and (uncle) Mike Dyczko; for the health of (godson) Gregory Mell and Jack Saban. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, (godfather) Michael Dyczko (1/26/84); special thanks; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Donya! **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, Dn. Joe Mell; for the health of Greg Mell & Donya Yewisiak on their birthdays~ Many Years! **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton. **From John & Olga** for the health & salvation of our family and Anatoly & Galina Vilkov. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servants, Valentina Barsom and Fr. Vladimir Soroka. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of Donya ~many years and birthday wishes to Mary Hughes; special intentions.

# Thank you

➤ to **Bob and Mary Beth Madalinsky** for donating the bulletins in the month of February in memory of Ann Kunca.

“God tested Abraham. That is, he sent him afflictions for his benefit, not so that he could find out what sort of man he was, for God knows everything, but so that He give him the means to perfect his faith.” – **St Mark the Ascetic**

**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.**

# Today in Church School

**Today's lesson:** Three Hierarchs

### Questions to ask/review:

- What does it mean to be a hierarch? Theologian?
- Where did Basil and Gregory become friends? How did they serve God together?
- What achievements are St. Basil best known for?
- When do we celebrate St. Basil's liturgy? What is the most noticeable difference?
- What does St. Basil's Anaphora prayers tell us about God?
- What achievements are St. Gregory best known for?
- What did he (and Basil) teach about the Holy Spirit? (the Holy Spirit is divine, equal to the Father and Son)
- What did Gregory teach about theology? (one must be holy, in union with God, to understand and explain God to others)

### Suggested Activities at home:

- Role play a conversation between St. Basil and Gregory the Theologian; or imagine how each would introduce the other to a stranger.
- With an older child, read through the Liturgy of St. Basil next to the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom and compare the two.
- Prayer: Lord, help me to serve You and Your people as did Your servants Basil and Gregory.



# Hymns and Readings for Today

## **Troparion of the Resurrection** *Tone 3*

Let the heavens rejoice!  
Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm!  
He has trampled down death by death!  
He has become the first born of the dead!  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to the world great mercy.

## **Troparion of the Meeting of our Lord** *Tone 1*

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!  
From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God,  
enlightening those who sat in darkness.  
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,  
you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls,  
Who grants us the Resurrection!

## **Kontakion of the Resurrection** *Tone 3*

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 Feast** *Tone 1*

By Thy nativity, Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb!  
And didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God.  
Now Thou hast come and saved us through love.  
Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

## **Prokeimenon** *Tone 3 (Psalm 46)*

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

## **Prokiemenon** *Tone 3 (Luke 1:46-47)*

My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

## **Epistle of the Sunday** *(1 Tim 1:15-17)*

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world

to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **Gospel of the Sunday** *(Mt 15:21-28)*

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

## **Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast**

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians! Protect, preserve, and save those who hope in you! We faithful saw the figure in the shadow of the law and the scriptures: Every male child that opened the womb is holy to God. Therefore, we also magnify the first begotten Son of the unoriginate Father, the firstborn Son of the unwedded Mother!

## **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest. Alleluia! I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

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)

"Possibly a contentious unbeliever will maintain that we worshiping images in our churches are convicted of praying to lifeless idols. Far be it from us to do this. Faith makes Christians, and God, who cannot deceive, works miracles. We do not rest contented with mere coloring. With the material picture before our eyes we see the invisible God through the visible representation, and glorify Him as if present, not as a God without reality, but as a God who is the essence of being. Nor are the saints whom we glorify fictitious. They are in being, and are living with God; and their spirits being holy, the help, by the power of God, those who deserve and need their assistance." -St John Damascene