



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 13

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

Saturday, February 16

- 2:00 pm St Nicholas Symposium "Orthodoxy and the Scriptures"

- 4:30 pm Confessions
- 5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, February 17

- 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*

Zacchaeus Sunday

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

February 10, 2019

Announcements

➤ Please join as during coffee hour today to learn more about **how we can aid women in crisis pregnancies**. Amy Scheuring, Executive Director of Women's Choice Network and our own Chris Humphrey, Executive Director of Vision for Life Pittsburgh will explain important, effective work being accomplished in Pennsylvania by these outstanding organizations and how we can more effectively grow the St Nicholas Vision for Life ministry.

➤ Important Upcoming Dates:

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

➤ **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 next meal will be on February 23.

➤ **Our February hoagie sale** is being held on Wednesday, February 27. 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, February 24. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1:00 pm February 27 at the church hall.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm: Known to be Hospitalized; Jack Saban (VA). Home: Nancy. Pravlochak, 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 health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha, Georgiann Robes and Jack Saban. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, (brother) Raymond. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, (brother) Raymond; for the health of the Wasilko family and Nancy Pravlochak. **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 health of Reader Leonard and Nancy Pravlochak. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of my family; special intentions. **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for the departed servants, (aunt) Jane Naiser and (godfather) Larry Naiser; for the health of (father) John and Reader Leonard. **From Albena Ivanova** for the departed servant, Angel. **From the Yurkowski family** in memory of Gloria (Kozemka) Henze (1/12/19). **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, John Shaytar; for the health of Jack Saban and Nancy Pravlochak.

Thank you

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



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.

Unborn Lessons

...the unborn teach us that we enter into this world already loved, wanted, and valued. As my own dad always said, "Babies bring their love with them." I remember seeing a young baby wearing a little shirt bearing the words "Another little tax deduction." That is true, of course (thank you, Caesar), but it is not why the child is loved or valued. No one loves the child because of its utility. Babies cannot help cook the meals, or clean the house, or even clean themselves. Strictly speaking, apart from such tax deductions, they have no immediate utilitarian value whatsoever. We love them not because they are useful, but simply because **they are**. They enter the world pre-loved, even though they may not be self-consciously aware of it (or of much else). In cases of abortion, of course, there is, shall we say, a deficit of such parental love. But even here they are still loved and valued, if not by their parents or by Planned Parenthood or others in the abortion industry, then by God Himself. It is as the Psalmist sings: "Though my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will take me up" [Psalm 27:10]. A Planned Parenthood slogan proclaims, "Every child a wanted child!" As a matter of fact, every child is a wanted child, for God wants and loves every child conceived.

By this the unborn teach us that God loves every one of us regardless of our behavior, loving the worst sinner equally along with the greatest saint. That is because the source and quality of His love is not rooted in us, but in Him. He loves not because of what He sees in us, but simply because He is love. If we refuse to respond to this already given love and choose to spurn Him, doing what He hates and hurting our fellow man, we will receive no benefit from that love. If we choose to love Him in return and strive to live in a way that pleases Him, then we will benefit from this love, and will save our souls. But the love remains nonetheless. As Saint John famously said, "We love because He first loved us" [1 John 4:19]. We enter this world already loved; our task is simply to respond to it and love God in return. *—Fr Lawrence Farley*

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 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 4

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master He has risen on the third day!

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 104) Tone 4

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Epistle of the Sunday (I Timothy 4:9-15)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 19:1-10)

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Communion Hymn (Ps 148)

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

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: St. John Chrysostom

Questions to ask/review:

- What does the name "Chrysostom" mean? How did St. John get this name?
- St. John became the bishop of what city?
- What works made St. John a famous bishop?
- Why did St. John sometimes upset people? (he was willing to speak the truth about Christ and the way of life demanded by Him)
- The current liturgy was largely structured by St. John. Outline the various parts of the liturgy.
- What famous sermon of St. John do we hear every year? (Paschal sermon)

Suggested Activities at home:

- Review the structure of the liturgy. Play a "Pictionary" game to identify important items used in the liturgy. Some items to include are: altar, iconostasis, antimins, 7-branch candles, tabernacle, Gospel, fans, table of Oblation, diskos, star, chalice, spoon, sponge, spear, prosphora, veils, censer.
- Prayer: Lord, help me to use my tongue to speak only Your words.



Thank you to Rose Kozemka for her generous donation in memory of newly departed sister, Gloria Jean (Kozemka) Henze. May God bless her for her generosity and memory eternal to Gloria.

Venerable Bede (c 720 AD)


The "crowd," that is, the general habit of vice, which rebuked the blind man crying out, lest he should seek the light, also impedes Zacchaeus looking up, that he might not see Jesus; that as by crying out the more the blind man overcame the crowd, so the man weak in the faith by forsaking earthly things, and climbing the tree of the Cross, surmounts the opposing multitude. The sycamore, which is a tree resembling the mulberry in foliage, but exceeding it in height, whence by the Latins it is called "lofty," is called the "foolish fig-tree," and so the Cross of our Lord sustains believers, as the fig-tree figs, and is mocked by unbelievers as foolishness. This tree Zacchaeus, who was little in stature, climbed up, that he might be raised together with Christ; for every one who is humble, and conscious of his own weakness, cries out, God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord as He journeyed came to the place where Zacchaeus had climbed the sycamore, for having sent His preachers throughout the world in whom He Himself spoke and went, He comes to the Gentile people, who were already raised up on high through faith in His Passion, and whom when He looked up He saw, for He chose them through grace. Now our Lord once abode in the house of the chief of the Pharisees, but when He did works such as none but God could do, they railed at Him Wherefore hating their deeds He departed, saying, Your house shall be left to you desolate; but now He must needs stay at the house of the weak Zacchaeus, that is, by the grace of the new law brightly shining, He must take rest in the hearts of tile lowly nations. But that Zacchaeus is bid to come down from the sycamore tree, and prepare an abode for Christ, this is what the Apostle says, Yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more. And again elsewhere, For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he lives by the power of God. It is plain that the Jews always hated the salvation Of the Gentiles; but salvation, which formerly filled the houses of the Jews, has this day shone upon the Gentiles, forasmuch as this people also by believing on God is a son of Abraham.

Join us on Saturday for this outstanding regional event!

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