



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

Tonight

5:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers
St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Ch., Monroeville

Monday, March 18

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

Tuesday, March 19

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

Wednesday, March 20

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Lenten Fellowship Meal

Thursday, March 21

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

Friday, March 22

7:00 pm Akathist to St Nicholas

Saturday, March 23

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, March 24

9:00 am Adult Education

10:00 am Divine Liturgy



Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Mat. Janet Mihalick, *Choir Director*

Sunday of Orthodoxy

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

March 17, 2019

Announcements

➤ ➤ **The Lenten season has begun.** The Church prescribes that we refrain from eating meat and dairy products throughout the entirety of Lent and Holy Week. While it is understood that some find the prescription challenging to attain (for this is indeed the very point – that we indulge too much in fleshly desires, and the challenge of the fast shows this!), **everyone is strongly encouraged to do something, and not to ignore the fast completely, which is both unchristian and unorthodox.** Be convinced to keep a fasting rule that is **challenging, but not discouraging.** Most importantly, as the Fathers remind us, we are also to “fast from sin as we fast from food.” May God strengthen you in your Lenten journey to enter the Lord’s Pascha.

➤ **“Spiritual Self-Care: Warming Up Our Parishes”** is a Lenten retreat on Saturday, April 13 at St Mary Orthodox Church (OCA) in the Southside led by Mother Christophora of Holy Transfiguration Monastery of Ellwood City. Divine Liturgy begins at 9:30 am followed by a Lenten brunch. The talk begins at 11:30 am and the retreat will end around 1:00 pm. The event is free and open to the public.

➤ **Our March hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, March 27. Italian Hoagies and wraps are \$6.00 each and the Turkey hoagies and wraps are \$6.50 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, March 24. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm March 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 and Michelle Bittner. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, (aunt) Julia Falick and (uncle) Mike Wasilko; for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha and Michelle Bittner. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, (uncle) Michael Wasilko (3/16/86); for the health of Michelle Bittner. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, (uncle) Mike Wasilko; for the health of the Wasilko family and Michelle Bittner. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, Maryanne Lugin; for the health of Michelle Bittner. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the newly departed, Reader Leonard. **From Michelle Bittner** for the departed servant, Lenny Soroka; for the health of Jack Saban, Greg (awaiting kidney transplant) and Michael Soroka; special intentions. **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for the newly departed servant, Reader Leonard. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, John and William; for the health of Michelle, Edith, Amelia, Andrea and Richard & families; special intentions. **From the Mertz Family** for the departed servant, Reader Leonard Soroka; for the health of the Soroka family.

Thank you

➤ to **Lindy Hamilton** for donating the bulletins for the month of March in prayerful remembrance of parents Russell and Ethel Marie Hamilton.

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.

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: Icons, Islam, and St. John of Damascus

Questions to ask/review:

- Who was Muhammad? What did he believe about Jesus?
- What are followers of Muhammad called?
- How did Muhammad spread his religion?
- What parts of the world became ruled by Muslims?
- What threats did Constantinople face?
- Why did some people begin to destroy icons? What was this called?
- Why do we use icons in worship?
- Who was St. John of Damascus? How did he defend the use of icons? What is the proper way to use icons?
- Why was the Seventh Ecumenical Council called? What was decided by the council?
- How does this entire lesson relate to what we celebrate on the Sunday of Orthodoxy?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Pray each day facing your home icon corner; if you don't have one, this would be a great week for you and your child to set one up.
- Venerate an icon and discuss the teachings of St. John of Damascus. Discuss the difference between veneration and worship.
- Prayer: Lord, bring Your gospel back to the lands once rich in Christ. Thank you for bringing the holy icons back into your Church.



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 the Feast Tone 2

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One,
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ
our God.
Of Thy good will Thou was pleased to ascend the
cross in the flesh
and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the
enemy.
Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:
Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,
for Thou didst come to save the world.

Kontakion of the Triodion Tone 8

No one could describe the Word of the Father;
but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos, He
accepted to be described,
and restored the fallen image to its former state by
uniting it to divine beauty.
We confess and proclaim our salvation in words
and images.

Prokeimenon Tone 4 (Song of the Three Youths)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers and
praised and glorified is Thy name forever!

Epistle of the Sunday (Heb 11:24-26, 32-12:2a)

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to
be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing
rather to suffer affliction with the people of God
than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,
esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches
than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the
reward.

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail
me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and
Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the
prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms,
worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped
the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire,
escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness
were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned
to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received
their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance,
that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still
others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes,
and of chains and imprisonment. They were
stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were
slain with the sword. They wandered about in
sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted,
tormented— of whom the world was not worthy.
They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens
and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony
through faith, did not receive the promise, God
having provided something better for us, that they
should not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so
great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every
weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us,
and let us run with endurance the race that is set
before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and
finisher of our faith...

Gospel of the Sunday (Jn 1:43-51)

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee,
and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me."
Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew
and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him,
"We have found Him of whom Moses in the law,
and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth,
the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him,
"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip
said to him, "Come and see."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said
of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no
deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know
me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before
Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree,
I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him,
"Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King
of Israel!"

Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to
you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe?
You will see greater things than these." And He
said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter
you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God
ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Communion Hymn (Ps 148, 32)

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

St Patrick

Saint Patrick, the Enlightener of Ireland was born
around 385, the son of Calpornius, a Roman decurion
(an official responsible for collecting taxes). He lived in
the village of Bannavem Taberniae, which may have
been located at the mouth of the Severn River in
Wales. The district was raided by pirates when Patrick
was sixteen, and he was one of those taken captive.
He was brought to Ireland and sold as a slave, and
was put to work as a herder of swine on a mountain
identified with Slemish in Co. Antrim. During his period
of slavery, Patrick acquired a proficiency in the Irish
language which was very useful to him in his later
mission.

He prayed during his solitude on the mountain, and
lived this way for six years. He had two visions. The
first told him he would return to his home. The second
told him his ship was ready. Setting off on foot, Patrick
walked two hundred miles to the coast. There he
succeeded in boarding a ship, and returned to his
parents in Britain.

Some time later, he went to Gaul and studied for the
priesthood at Auxerre under Saint Germanus (July
31). Eventually, he was consecrated as a bishop, and
was entrusted with the mission to Ireland, succeeding

Saint Palladius (July 7). Saint Palladius did not
achieve much success in Ireland. After about a year
he went to Scotland, where he died in 432.

Patrick had a dream in which an angel came to him
bearing many letters. Selecting one inscribed "The
Voice of the Irish," he heard the Irish entreating him to
come back to them.

Saint Patrick founded many churches and
monasteries across Ireland, but the conversion of the
Irish people was no easy task. There was much
hostility, and he was assaulted several times. He
faced danger, and insults, and he was reproached for
being a foreigner and a former slave. There was also
a very real possibility that the pagans would try to kill
him. Despite many obstacles, he remained faithful to
his calling, and he baptized many people into Christ.

By the time he established his episcopal See in
Armagh in 444, Saint Patrick had other bishops to
assist him, many native priests and deacons, and he
encouraged the growth of monasticism.

Saint Patrick is often depicted holding a shamrock, or
with snakes fleeing from him. He used the shamrock
to illustrate the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Its three
leaves growing out of a single stem helped him to
explain the concept of one God in three Persons.
Many people now regard the story of Saint Patrick
driving all the snakes out of Ireland as having no
historical basis.

Saint Patrick died on March 17, 461 (some say 492).
There are various accounts of his last days, but they
are mostly legendary. Muirchu says that no one knows
the place where Saint Patrick is buried. Saint Columba
of Iona (June 9) says that the Holy Spirit revealed to
him that Patrick was buried at Saul, the site of his first
church. A granite slab was placed at his traditional
grave site in Downpatrick in 1899.

Although Saint Patrick achieved remarkable results in
spreading the Gospel, he was not the first or only
missionary in Ireland. He arrived around 432 (though
this date is disputed), about a year after Saint
Palladius began his mission to Ireland. There were
also other missionaries who were active on the
southeast coast, but it was Saint Patrick who had the
greatest influence and success in preaching the
Gospel of Christ. Therefore, he is known as "The
Enlightener of Ireland."