



Welcome!

Whether you are searching for a new church home or just visiting, we are 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

Tuesday, November 12

9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours/Church Open

Wednesday, November 13

6:30 pm Vespers (Evening Service)

7:00 pm Bible Study (Romans 1)

Thursday, November 14

9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours/Church Open

Saturday, November 16

5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, November 17

9:15 am Adult Education

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

After Services Church School

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*

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

November 10, 2019

Announcements

➤ After the Divine Liturgy **today** we will have a **special presentation by parishioners John and Deborah Burgess** who will tell us about their year in Russia doing research, teaching, and assisting the Church. Please join us at coffee hour!

➤ **Beginning on Tuesday, November 12, we'll hold an abridged Matins (morning) service every Tuesday and Thursday.** Additionally, our Church will be open **every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** beginning with the Matins service at 9:00 am. Parishioners who are able to are encouraged to come to the church to light and candle, pray, and meditate in the quiet beauty of our church during those hours. After the service, Fr Thomas will be available in the parish office until noon.

➤ Long time parishioner, **Olga Bednar**, fell asleep in the Lord this past week and her Orthodox burial was held on Friday. May her memory be eternal!

➤ Our condolences to Helen Billak (wife) and Sasha Henry (daughter), on the **falling asleep of Paul Henry** on Friday. Viewing will be held at Slater Funeral Home, 1650 Greentree Road, Pittsburgh PA 15220. From 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm Thursday with the Panikhida at 7:30 pm. Viewing will also be held at the Church on Friday morning at 9:30 am with the Funeral service at 10:00 am. May his memory be eternal!

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized (none).* *Home:* Georgiann Robes. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **Vigil Light 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 and Michelle Bittner. **From Doris Wasilko** for the health of Michelle Bittner and the Wasilko family. **From Marsha Wasilko** for safe travels. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton. **From John & Olga** for the departed servant, Anatoly Vilkov; for Philip Nathaniel Heuer. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of Michelle Bittner. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for our departed parents; for the health of our family and friends. **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Gina, Valentina, Andrei and Bruce; for the health of Tatyana, Christopher, Thomas, Diana, Adrianna, Dasha and Michelle.

Thank You

➤ to our **November donors, Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** for all categories (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10) May God richly bless them!



Hoagies this month will be on **Wednesday, November 20.** See Bob Madalinsky with orders!

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.

Love Your Neighbor

“Such are the souls of the saints: they love their enemies more than themselves, and in this age and in the age to come they put their neighbor first in all things, even though because of his ill-will he may be their enemy. They do not seek recompense from those whom they love, but because they have themselves received they rejoice in giving to others all that they have, so that they may conform to their Benefactor and imitate His compassion to the best of their ability; ‘for He is bountiful to the thankless and to sinners’ (cf. Luke 6:35).” + **St. Peter of Damaskos**

“Do not let pass any opportunity to pray for anyone, either at his request or at the request of his relatives, friends, of those who esteem him, or of his acquaintances. The Lord looks favorably upon the prayer of our love, and upon our boldness before him. Besides this, prayer for others is very beneficial to the one himself who prays for others; it purifies the heart, strengthens faith and hope in God, and enkindles our love for God and our neighbor. When praying, say thus: ‘Lord, it is possible for Thee to do this or that to this servant of Thine; do this for him, for Thy name is the Merciful Love of Men and the Almighty.’” + **St. John of Kronstadt**

“If we detect any trace of hatred in our hearts against any man whatsoever for committing any fault, we are utterly estranged from love for God, since love for God absolutely precludes us from hating any man.” + **St. Maximos the Confessor**



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 (Gal 2:16-20)

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not!

For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 10:25-37)

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?”

So he answered and said, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’” And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.”

But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by

on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?” And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

St John Chrysostom Commentary

(v 19) “*I have been crucified with Christ.*” Having said, I am dead, lest it should be objected, how then do you live? He adds the cause of his living, and shows that when alive the Law slew him, but that when dead, Christ through death restored him to life. He shows the wonder to be twofold; that by Christ both the dead was begotten into life, and that, by means of death. He here means the immortal life, for this is the meaning of the words, “That I might live unto God, I am crucified with Christ.” How, it is asked, can a man now living and breathing have been crucified? That Christ has been crucified is manifest, but how can you have been crucified, and yet live? He explains it thus;

(v 20) “*Yet I live; and yet no longer I, but Christ lives in me.*” In these words, I am crucified with Christ, he alludes to Baptism and in the words nevertheless I live, yet not I, our subsequent manner of life whereby our members are mortified. By saying Christ lives in me, he means nothing is done by me, which Christ disapproves; for as by death he signifies not what is commonly understood, but a death to sin; so by life, he signifies a delivery from sin.

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: St. Paul's First and Second Letters to the Thessalonians

Verse (younger classes): “...in everything give thanks.” (1 *Thes* 5:18)

Questions to ask/review (younger classes):

- What are you thankful for?
- Why should we be thankful?
- How does your family celebrate Thanksgiving?
- How can you show your thanks to God on Thanksgiving?

Verse (older classes): “For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God.” (1 *Thes* 3:9)

Questions to ask/review (older classes):

- How was Paul a spiritual father to the Thessalonians?
- How does Paul show his love for his children in the Lord?
- What other examples are there in the Scriptures of a loving mentor/student relationship?
- Is there someone in your own life who has had an impact on you spiritually?
- Does your life cause them joy? Do they pray for you?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Write to your Godparent(s), a spiritual mentor, or anyone you are thankful for in your life. Pray for them, thank them, and ask for their prayers.
- Prayer: Lord, help us to remember to thank you every day of our lives. OR Lord, thank you for my spiritual fathers and mothers. Amen.





ADVENT RETREAT

SPIRITUAL GROWTH & THE BODY OF CHRIST



Archpriest
Thomas Soroka

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH
150 ELMTREE ROAD, NEW KENSINGTON PA 15068**

The event will open with a prayer service at 10:00 am followed by a light continental breakfast.

The presentation is from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

This event is free and does not require a reservation.

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania



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