



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 19

9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)

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

Wednesday, November 20

6:00 pm Vigil for the Feast

7:00 pm Basic Orthodoxy (5 of 5)

Thursday, November 21

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

10:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, November 23

5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, November 24

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-second Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

November 17, 2019

Announcements

➤ **Today's Trisagion for the Departed** will be sung in memory of:

- Paul Henry (9th day)
- Carol Ann Kowalcheck
- Polina, mother of Tatyana Sechler

➤ This Wednesday will be our final of five "**Basic Orthodoxy**" sessions beginning at 7:00 pm. Please note that the **Vigil for the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple will begin at 6:00 pm** on Wednesday.

➤ **Our November hoagie sale** will be held this Wednesday, November 20. 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@verizion.net. Orders are due on Sunday evening, November 17. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm November 20 at the church hall.

➤ **Reminder:** 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. Please check the online schedule for any changes in times for feast days or other holidays.

➤ We're now in the **fasting season before the Nativity of Christ**. Take up the preparation!

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.

➤ **From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell, John Karavlan and Paul Henry; for the health of family and Michelle Bittner. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, Paul Henry; for the health of (sisters), Doris & Marsha and Michelle Bittner. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, Paul Henry; for the health of Michelle Bittner and the Wasilko family. **From Marsha Wasilko** with thanks to our Veterans-past, present and future! **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton. **From John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova & family, for Alexandra Kowalcheck and Dmitri Kowalcheck on their birthdays. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, Paul Henry; for the health of Michelle Bittner. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servants, Olga Bednar and Paul Henry; for the health of Helen Billak and Michelle Bittner. **From Alina** for the departed servant, Sergey. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servant, Paul; special intentions. **From Michelle Bittner** for the departed servant, Paul Henry; for the health of Helen Henry; special intentions. **From Irene Kulchock** for the departed servant, Olga Bednar (11/3/19); special intentions.

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!

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.

On Today's Epistle

What he here calls "the world" is not the heaven nor the earth, but the affairs of life, the praise of men, retinues, glory, wealth, and all such things as have a show of splendor. To me these things are dead. Such a one it behooves a Christian to be, and always to use this language. Nor was he content with the former putting to death, but added another, saying, "and I unto the world," thus implying a double putting to death, and saying, They are dead to me, and I to them, neither can they captivate and overcome me, for they are dead once for all, nor can I desire them, for I too am dead to them. Nothing can be more blessed than this putting to death, for it is the foundation of the blessed life.

Do you see the power of the cross, to what a height it has raised the apostle? For not only has it made all the things of the world dead to him, but it has set him far above the older way of life.

What equals the strength of the cross? Paul at one time was willing to be slain and to slay others for the cause of circumcision. Now he has been persuaded by the cross to let circumcision fall to the level of uncircumcision. Now he seeks new and strange things which are above the heavens. By the new creation he means our own new way of life, both on account of what is past and what is to come. We are renewed by what is past, because our soul, having grown old in sin, has been immediately renewed by baptism. It is as if recreated again that we seek a new and heavenly way of life. We are being renewed by what is to come, because the heaven and the earth and all creation will be changed into incorruption along with our own bodies. (**St John Chrysostom, 4th century**)

Hymns and Readings for Today

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
Co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin.
For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh
to endure death
and to raise the dead,
by His glorious resurrection.

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.

Troparion of St Gregory Tone 8

Thou didst become worthy of thy name through thy way of life;
through thy vigilance in prayer and thy constant works of mercy.
Therefore, O Father Gregory, beseech Christ God to enlighten our minds,
that we may not sleep in sin, which leads to death!

Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 5

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator
and destroying the sting of death.
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man
and we all cry to Thee, O Lord, save us!

Kontakion of St Gregory Tone 2

Thou didst receive the power to perform miracles,
frightening the devils and healing the sick
through thy wonderworking.
O All-wise Father Gregory, //
thy deeds truly entitle thee to be called
Wonderworker.

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 12) Tone 5

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us
from this generation forever.

Epistle of the Sunday (Gal 6:11-18)

See with what large letters I have written to you
with my own hand! As many as desire to make a
good showing in the flesh, these would compel
you to be circumcised, only that they may not
suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For
not even those who are circumcised keep the
law, but they desire to have you circumcised
that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid
that I should boast except in the cross of our
Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been
crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ
Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision
avails anything, but a new creation.

And as many as walk according to this rule
peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the
Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble
me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord

Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus
Christ be with your spirit. Amen

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 12:16-21)

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The
ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.
And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What
shall I do, since I have no room to store my
crops?’ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull
down my barns and build greater, and there I
will store all my crops and my goods. And I will
say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid
up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink,
and be merry.’” But God said to him, ‘Fool! This
night your soul will be required of you; then
whose will those things be which you have
provided?’

“So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and
is not rich toward God.”

St Basil the Great on Today’s Gospel

But if you confess that those things
have come to you from God, is God
then unjust in distributing to us
unequally? Why do you abound while
another begs, unless you should gain
the rewards of a good stewardship,
and be honored with the reward of
patience? Are you not then a robber
for counting as your own what you
have received to distribute? It is the
bread of the famished which you
receive, the garment of the naked
which you hoard in your chest, the
shoe of the barefooted which rots in
your possession, the money of the
penniless which you have buried in the
earth. Why then do you injure so many
to whom you might be a benefactor?

Today in Church School

Today’s lesson: St. Paul’s First and Second
Letters to Timothy

Verse (younger classes): Therefore I endure all
things for the sake of the elect, that they may
also obtain the salvation which is in Christ
Jesus...” (2 Tim 2:10)

Questions to ask/review (younger classes):

- Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd.
What does that mean?
- What dangers do we, His sheep, face? How
does He protect us?
- Give examples from the Scriptures of God
saving someone from danger.
- How can we “run” to our shepherd when we
need help?
- How do our bishop and priest act as
shepherds?

Verse (older classes): “I call to remembrance
the genuine faith that is in you which dwelt first
in your grandmother Lois and your mother
Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.” (2
Tim 1:5)

Questions to ask/review (older classes):

- These epistles are called “pastoral”. What
does that mean?
- Who was Timothy? What was Paul’s
relationship with him?
- Why is family important? Why should we
love our family?
- What is your role in your family? How can
you serve God through your family life?
- When your family faces struggles, how can
you help?

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Suggested Activities at home:

- Sing the hymn “The Lord is My Shepherd”
- Share your family tree and family history
with your child.
- Prayer: Jesus, our Good Shepherd, help us
follow you to your Kingdom. Amen. OR Lord,
bless our family and strengthen our love.
Amen.