



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 26

9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)

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

Thursday, November 28

No Services or Office Hours

Saturday, November 30

4:00 pm Community Dinner/those in need

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, December 1

9:15 am Adult Education

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

After Services Church School

Our Annual St Nicholas Day Dinner will be on **Sunday, December 8. It's free!** Join us!

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-third Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

November 24, 2019

Announcements

➤ Annual Parish Christmas Card

Project: Once again it's time for the Christmas Card Project which benefits the monthly Community Meals. As in the past, we ask parishioners/families to donate \$10 to have their name included on the card which will be sent in early December to parishioners, Orthodox hierarchy, sister churches and business friends of our St. Nicholas church. Please see Jan Widel or Marsha Wasilko to participate. Deadline is Sunday, December 1, 2019. **Also, we have a supply of boxed 2019 Orthodox Christmas cards available in the vestibule or in the hall after Liturgy.**

➤ We are now in the midst of the Nativity

Fast. Please remember to keep this time as an appropriate preparation for celebration of the Lord's Nativity. Fast, be prayerful and generous!

➤ The Church and Office will be closed on

Thursday. We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

➤ **The Bible Study schedule** will be changed for the holidays (normally second and fourth Wednesdays of the month). Bible Study will be held on three consecutive Wednesdays:

- December 4
- December 11
- December 18

Bible Study will **not be held** on November 27 or December 25.

➤ Our **Angel Tree** is coming! See Donya Yewisiak!

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 (100th birthday).

➤ **From From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family and Michelle Bittner. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, Paul Henry, Carol Kowalcheck, (aunt) Mary Hollenback and (grandfather) Theodore Dyczko; for the health of (aunt) Johanna Dichko. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the newly departed servants, Olga Bednar and Paul Henry; (godmother) Mary Hollenbach (11/18/80), Carol Kowalcheck (11/18/10) and (grandfather) Theodore Dyczko (11/23/67). **From John & Olga** for the departed servant, Carol Ann Kowalcheck; for the health and salvation of our families. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of Nancy Pravlochak and Michelle Bittner. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servant, Paul Henry; for the health of Nancy Pravlochak. **From Stela and Sergio. From Bob & Mary Beth Madalinsky** for the departed servant, Paul. **From Michelle Bittner** for the departed servants, Paul Henry and Olga Bednar; for the health of Georgiann Robes. **From the Robes Family** for the health of Georgiann. **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of (father) John Naiser and for safe travels.

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.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy.

Thank You, O Lord, for having accepted this Eucharist, which we offered to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and which filled our hearts with the joy, peace and righteousness of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and given us the foretaste of Your Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having united us to one another in serving You and Your Holy Church.

Thank You, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, temptations and restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for the sufferings You bestowed upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and reminding us of the "one thing needed;" Your eternal Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to worship You.

Thank You, O Lord, for this school (*or church*), where the name of God is proclaimed.

Thank You, O Lord, for our families: husbands, wives and, especially, children who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name in joy, movement and holy noise.

Thank You, O Lord, for everyone and everything.

Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles.

Lord, it is good to be here! Amen!

(Fr A. Schmemmann, 1983)

Hymns and Readings for Today

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure Body.
Thou didst capture hell,
not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin granting life.
O Lord who didst rise from the dead, glory to
Thee!

Troparion of the Feast Tone 4

Today is the prelude of the good will of God,
of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,
in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.
Let us rejoice and sing to her:
Rejoice, O Fulfillment //
of the Creator's dispensation!

Troparion of St Catherine Tone 4

By thy virtues as by rays of the sun thou didst
enlighten the unbelieving philosophers,
and like the most bright moon thou didst drive
away the darkness of disbelief from those
walking in the night;
thou didst convince the queen, and didst also
chastise the tyrant,
God-summoned bride, blessed Catherine.
Thou didst hasten with desire to the heavenly
bridal chamber of the fairest Bridegroom of
Christ,
and thou wast crowned by Him with a royal
crown;//
Standing before Him with the Angels, pray for
us who keep thy most sacred memory!

Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 6

When Christ God the Giver of Life
raised all the dead from the valleys of misery
with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.

He is the Savior of All, the Resurrection, the
Life, and the God of all.

Kontakion of St Catherine Tone 2

Let all of us who love to honor the martyrs
form a great choir in praise of the most wise
Catherine,
for she preached Christ and trampled the
serpent,//
despising the knowledge of the orators.

Kontakion of the Feast Tone 4

The most pure Temple of the Savior;
the precious Chamber and Virgin;
the sacred Treasure of the glory of God,
is presented today to the house of the Lord.
She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,
therefore, the Angels of God praise her:
“Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!”

Prokeimenon (Psalm 27:9) Tone 6

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine
inheritance.

Epistle of the Sunday (Eph 2:4-10)

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His
great love with which He loved us, even when
we were dead in trespasses, made us alive
together with Christ (by grace you have been
saved), and raised us up together, and made us
sit together in the heavenly places in Christ
Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show
the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness
toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have
been saved through faith, and that not of
yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works,
lest anyone should boast. For we are His
workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good
works, which God prepared beforehand that we
should walk in them.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 13:10-17)

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues
on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman
who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and
was bent over and could in no way raise herself
up.

But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him
and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from
your infirmity.” And He laid His hands on her,
and immediately she was made straight, and
glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with
indignation, because Jesus had healed on the
Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, “There are
six days on which men ought to work; therefore
come and be healed on them, and not on the
Sabbath day.”

The Lord then answered him and said,
“Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the
Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall,
and lead it away to water it? So ought not this
woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom
Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years,
be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?”

And when He said these things, all His
adversaries were put to shame; and all the
multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things
that were done by Him.

The **Wonderworking Icon of St Anna** (mother
of the Virgin Mary) will be in our area soon:
Friday, Dec 6 6:30 pm – St Nicholas, Donora
Saturday, Dec 7 10 am – St John, Canonsburg
Saturday, Dec 7 5 pm – St Alexander, Allison Park

Support the unborn and participate in the
March for Life on Friday, January 24, 2020. A
bus will be leaving from St Alexander Nevsky
Cathedral in Allison Park at 6 am. More
information about how to reserve your spot is at
sanocpgh.org. Deadline is Mon Dec 2. Seats are
limited and you must mail in your reservation.

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: St. Paul's Letters to Philemon
and Titus

Verse (younger classes): “...no longer as a slave
but more than a slave – a beloved brothe...”
(*Philemon 16*)

Questions to ask/review (younger classes):

- Who was Philemon? Who was Onesimus?
Explain what happened between them.
- Does God love some people more than
others?

Verse (older classes): “Speak these things,
exhort, and rebuke with all authority.” (*Titus*
2:15)

Questions to ask/review (older classes):

- Who was Titus? Where was he serving the
Church?
- What does it mean to “exhort”?
- How is “exhorting” different from
“nagging”?
- When should a leader of the Church exhort?
- How should we react to exhortation? Can
you think of an example in your life?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Reread the stories of Joseph with Potiphar,
the Hebrew people in the days of Moses, the
slaves in early American history. Retell the
story of Onesimus, the runaway slave who
went back to ask forgiveness of his master
Philemon.
- Encourage your child to make an extra effort
to listen for examples of exhortation in
Sunday's sermon. Discuss with them what
they heard.
- Prayer: Lord, bless with freedom all those
held in slavery around the world. Amen. OR
Lord, teach me to respond to exhortation
and exhort others. Amen.