



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, December 3

- 9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)
- 9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours/Church Open

Wednesday, December 4

- 6:30 pm Vespers (Evening Service)
- 7:00 pm Bible Study (Romans 1-2)

Thursday, December 5

- 9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)
- 9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours/Church Open
- 7:00 pm Vigil for the Feast of St Nicholas

Friday, December 6 Feast of St Nicholas

- 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
- After Services Lenten Pot Luck (fish permitted)

Saturday, December 7

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

Sunday, December 8

- 10:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
- After Services Church School
- After Services St Nicholas Day Dinner



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

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org December 1, 2019

Announcements

➤ This Thursday and Friday we will celebrate our **Altar (Patronal) feast** of St Nicholas the Wonderworker. Please make time to attend one or both of the services. Friday after Liturgy we will hold an informal pot-luck (fish permitted).

➤ Next Sunday we will gather together to have our annual St Nicholas Day Dinner. With thanks to the St Nicholas Sisterhood **this dinner is absolutely free.** We encourage everyone to gather together as a parish family for this wonderful yearly event. We will also have with us our archpastor, Archbishop Melchisedek, who will lead us in the Divine Liturgy.

➤ **Annual Parish Christmas Card Project** which benefits our monthly Community Dinner for only \$10 ends today. Please see Jan Widel or Marsha Wasilko to participate. **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 from meat and dairy, be prayerful and generous!

➤ **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, 11, and 18. Bible Study will **not be held** on November 27 or December 25.

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 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 health of Nancy Pravlochak, Michelle Bittner and Helen Billak. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of Michelle Bittner and the Wasilko family. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of Steve Shaytar and Michelle Bittner. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of my family, blessed birthdays to my grandchildren, Wyatt, Owen, Isabel, Rachel and newborn Michael & Tatiana; special intentions. **From Michelle Bittner** for the health of Helen Billak Henry and Janet Widel. **From Annaliese Mertz** for the health of The Wenger family.

Thank You

➤ to our December donors! Bulletin (\$60) **Jan and Chuck Widel**, in memory of departed members of the Puskar and Morris families. Holy Bread (\$50) and Communion Wine (\$40) from **Alex and Olga Noskov** for the health and salvation of newly wed couple Ilya and Kara Noskov. Candles (\$50) from **Donya Yewisiak** in memory of mother, Matushka Olga Soroka. Incense (\$10) from **Jim and Leslie Wokutch** in memory of Deacon Joseph Mell. May God richly bless all of our donors for thoughtfulness and generosity!

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.

More Announcements!

➤ 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

➤ Our **Annual Angel Tree Project**, benefitting those in need in the McKees Rocks area, is **now available downstairs.** When you choose an ornament from the tree, please bring the unwrapped, new gifts back to Church no later than Sunday, December 15. Please attach the ornament to the gift. Gifts are distributed by the Holy Family Institute. If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Donya Yewisiak at 412-848-7513. Thank you for your generosity and support!

➤ 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



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.

Hymns and Readings for Today

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.

To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.

For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy,

and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,

to proclaim that Thou art risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

Troparion of the Feast 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 Prophet Nahum Tone 2

We celebrate the memory

of Thy Prophet Nahum, O Lord;

through him we beseech Thee:

“save our souls!”

Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,

for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.

Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:

“The Savior has come to those in faith;//

enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Kontakion of Prophet Nahum Tone 4

Illumined by the Spirit, thy heart was a vessel of illustrious prophecy,

seeing far-off things as though they were present.

Therefore, we venerate thee, glorious prophet Nahum.

Kontakion of the Feast Tone 7

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 28) Tone 7

The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace.

Epistle of the Sunday (Eph 2:14-22)

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the

Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 18:18-27)

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’”

And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.”

So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?”

But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

Martyrs Barbara and Juliana

The Holy Great Martyr Barbara lived and suffered during the reign of the emperor Maximian (305-311). Her father, the pagan Dioscorus, was a rich and illustrious man in the Syrian city of Heliopolis. Gradually, she became convinced that the soulless idols were merely the work of human hands. Although her father and teachers offered them worship, she realized that the idols could not have made the surrounding world. The desire to know the

true God so consumed her soul that Barbara decided to devote all her life to this goal, and to spend her life in virginity. Thus Barbara met young Christian maidens in the city, and they taught her about the Creator of the world, about the Trinity, and about the Divine Logos. Through the Providence of God, a priest arrived in Heliopolis from Alexandria disguised as a merchant. After instructing her in the mysteries of the Christian Faith, he baptized Barbara, then returned to his own country.

Barbara told her father about how she had come to know the Triune God, about the saving power of the Son of God, and about the futility of worshipping idols. Dioscorus went into a rage, grabbed a sword and was on the point of striking her with it. The holy virgin fled from her father, and he rushed after her in pursuit. His way became blocked by a hill, which opened up and concealed the saint in a crevice. On the other side of the crevice was an entrance leading upwards. Saint Barbara managed then to conceal herself in a cave on the opposite slope of the hill. Dioscorus found her and beat his daughter terribly, and then placed her under guard and tried to wear her down with hunger. Finally he handed her over to the prefect of the city, named Martianus. They beat Saint Barbara fiercely: they struck her with rawhide, and rubbed her wounds with a hair cloth to increase her pain. By night Saint Barbara prayed fervently to her Heavenly Bridegroom, and the Savior Himself appeared and healed her wounds. Then they subjected the saint to new, and even more frightful torments.

In the crowd where the martyr was tortured was the virtuous Christian woman Juliana, an inhabitant of Heliopolis. Her heart was filled with sympathy for the voluntary martyrdom of the beautiful and illustrious maiden. Juliana also wanted to suffer for Christ. She began to denounce the torturers in a loud voice, and they seized her. Both martyrs were tortured for a long time. Their bodies were raked and wounded with hooks, and then they were led naked through the city amidst derision and jeers. Through the prayers of Saint Barbara the Lord sent an angel who covered the nakedness of the holy martyrs with a splendid robe. Then the steadfast confessors of Christ, Saints Barbara and Juliana, were beheaded. Dioscorus himself executed Saint Barbara. The wrath of God was not slow to punish both torturers, Martianus and Dioscorus. They were killed afterwards, being struck by lightning.