



## 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 31

9:00 am Matins. Trisagion /Mat. Olga Soroka  
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours/Church Open

### Wednesday, January 1 Circumcis. XC/St Basil

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

### Thursday, January 2

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

### Saturday, January 4

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

### Sunday, January 5

9:15 am Adult Education  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
After Services Church School  
7:00 pm Vigil for the Feast of Theophany

### Monday, January 6

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy with Great Blessing of Water

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

## Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org December 29, 2019

## Announcements

- **Christ is Born!** The period between Christmas and January 4 is Fast Free!
- **A special thank you** to Mat. Janet Mihalick and Melissa Graff for directing the young children in the beautiful music for the Yolka, to all the teachers at every level who participated and the students, God bless you!
- **From Nancy Pravlochak** (who is recovering from surgery): I would like to thank Fr. Tom and my friends at St. Nicholas for their prayers, vigil lights, cards and good thoughts in my recovery from hip replacement surgery. Hoping to see you all soon!
- **Bible Study** picks up on Wednesday January 8, 2020. Join us!
- **It is not too late** to give a year-end gift to our parish. Due to the changes in tax-laws, you might consider fulfilling your 2020 pledge to receive the tax benefit for 2019 by giving by December 31. See John Kowalcheck today!

**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.**



## Prayers

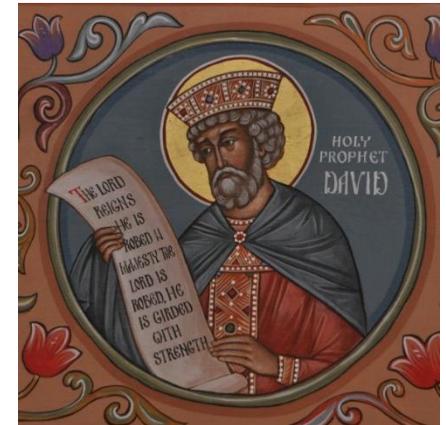
- **Ill and infirm:** Known to be hospitalized: Paul Yewisiak. Home: Georgiann Robes, Nancy Pravlochak. Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home: Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.
- **From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell and for the newly departed, Yvonne George; for the health of family and Michelle Bittner. **From Doris Wasilko** for the health of Paul Yewisiak and the Wasilko family. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Michelle Bittner** for the departed servant, Donna Kovacs; for the health of Helen Billak Henry and Georgiann Robes. **From the John Mahalchak family** for the health of family & friends and (son) John as he recovers from surgery. **From Bryan & Lilia** for the health of Stella Spinu, for the coming of first child. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of Michelle Bittner. **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for the departed servants, Barbara Naiser (12/24) and Mat. Olga Soroka (12/31); for the health of (father) John and Paul Yewisiak. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the health & salvation of my family; special intentions. **From Alina** for the departed servant, Gennadii. **From John & Olga** for the health and salvation of our families and the health of Galina Vikova and Matthew Heuer on his birthday. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of Paul Yewisiak, Michelle Bittner, Georgiann Robes and (sisters) Doris & Marsha. **From Cathy Namisnak** for the departed servant, Donna Kovacs; for the health of Paul Yewisiak, Michelle Bittner, Janet Widel and Lindy Hamilton. **From Tamara Yakovac** for the departed servants, Paul Henry and Helen Cobb.

## Today's Commemoration

The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James.



**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 3**

Let the heavens rejoice!  
Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.  
He has trampled down death by death.  
He has become the first born of the dead.  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to the world//  
great mercy.

## **Troparion of the Feast Tone 4**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,  
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!  
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,  
were taught by a star to adore Thee,  
the Sun of righteousness,  
and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.//  
O Lord, glory to Thee!

## **Troparion of the Righteous Ones Tone 2**

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,  
to David, the ancestor of God;  
thou hast seen a Virgin great with child;  
and thou didst give glory with the shepherds;  
thou didst worship with the Magi,  
and didst receive the news from the Angel. //  
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

## **Kontakion of the Righteous Ones Tone 3**

Today godly David is filled with joy;  
Joseph and James offer praise.  
The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ  
fills them with great joy.  
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on  
earth,  
and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save  
those who honor Thee!”

## **Kontakion of the Feast Tone 3**

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent  
One,

and the earth offers a cave to the  
Unapproachable One.  
Angels with shepherds glorify Him;  
the Wise Men journey with the star, //  
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a  
little Child!

## **Prokeimenon of the Sunday Tone 3 Ps 46/47:6)**

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing  
praises to our King, sing praises!

## **Prokeimenon of the Feast Tone 4 (Ps 67/68:35)**

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

## **Epistle of the Sunday (Gal 1:11-19)**

But I make known to you, brethren, that the  
gospel which was preached by me is not  
according to man. For I neither received it from  
man, nor was I taught it, but it came through  
the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former conduct in  
Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God  
beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I  
advanced in Judaism beyond many of my  
contemporaries in my own nation, being more  
exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my  
fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me  
from my mother’s womb and called me through  
His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might  
preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not  
immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor  
did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were  
apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and  
returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to  
see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.  
But I saw none of the other apostles except  
James, the Lord’s brother.

## **Gospel of the Sunday (Mt 2:13-23)**

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel  
of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream,  
saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His  
mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I  
bring you word; for Herod will seek the young  
Child to destroy Him.”

When he arose, he took the young Child and His  
mother by night and departed for Egypt, and  
was there until the death of Herod, that it might  
be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord  
through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I  
called My Son.”

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived  
by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he  
sent forth and put to death all the male children  
who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts,  
from two years old and under, according to the  
time which he had determined from the wise  
men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by  
Jeremiah the prophet, saying: “A voice was  
heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and  
great mourning, Rachel weeping for her  
children, refusing to be comforted, because they  
are no more.”

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of  
the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in  
Egypt, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and  
His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for  
those who sought the young Child’s life are  
dead.” Then he arose, took the young Child and  
His mother, and came into the land of Israel.  
But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning  
over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was  
afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a  
dream, he turned aside into the region of  
Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called  
Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was  
spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a  
Nazarene.”

## **Hymn to the Theotokos**

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure virgin  
Theotokos, more honorable than the heavenly  
hosts! I behold a strange most glorious mystery:  
Heaven – the cave! The cherubic throne – the  
Virgin! The manger – the place where Christ lay!  
The uncontainable God whom we magnify in  
song!

## **Communion Hymn (Psalm 148 and 32)**

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

# 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!

† ANCIENT FAITH  
TODAY  
Live  
WITH  
Fr. Tom Soroka  
Begins Tuesday, January 14 at 9:00 pm ET