



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

Today after Divine Liturgy

Trisagion for the Departed

In memory of Pdn Blagoy from the Loboda family

Tuesday, January 28

9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)

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

Thursday, January 30

9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)

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

Saturday, February 1

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, February 2 -

10:00 am Festal 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*

32nd Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

January 26, 2020

Announcements

➤ Notice: Annual Parish Meeting Date

Change: The Parish Council, with Fr Thomas's agreement, has moved to **change the date of the parish's Annual Meeting to Sunday, February 16** after the Divine Liturgy (for this year only). This change in date is in accordance with our parish By Laws, Article IV, Section 1, paragraph a. Please see John Kowalcheck or Fr Thomas with any questions.

➤ **Our January hoagie sale** is being held on Wednesday, Jan 29. 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@verizon.net. Orders are due on Sunday evening, Jan 26. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm Jan 30 at the church hall on Wednesday, Jan 29.

➤ Join us on Saturday, February 22nd for the **4th Annual St Nicholas Symposium** from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. This year's Topic is "Orthodox Perspectives on Prayer." We will have three presenters, including, **Mother Seraphima** of the Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City will present on the Jesus Prayer, and our own **Jenifer Rune**, who will present on her embrace of Orthodox Christian Prayer and Meditation after being a teacher of Buddhist forms of meditation. Share this event with friends and family. You won't want to miss it!

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* Georgiann Robes, Nancy Pravlochak, Paul Yewisiak. *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; for the health of family, Michelle Bittner and Paul Yewisiak. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and (uncle) Mike Dyczko; for the health of Michelle Bittner; Happy Birthday to Greg Mell, Larry Polny and Donya Yewisiak—Many Years! **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, (Godfather) Michael Dyczko (1/25/84) and (Grandmother) Susan Wasilko; for the health of Michelle Bittner; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Donya Yewisiak and Larry Polny! **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, (uncle) Mike Dyczko. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Lindy Hamilton. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servant, Basil; for the health of Very Rev. Basil and Amelia; special intentions. **From John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilкова and for the health and salvation of our family. **From Michelle Bittner** for the health of Paul Yewisiak and Georgiann Robes.

Thank You

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

➤ to **Susan Stroehlen, Bobbie Jean Chapas, and Stacey Sipes** for their donation of \$50 (candles and vigils) in memory of their parents, Emma and Robert Sipes.

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.

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Peter's second letter and Jude's letter

Verse (younger classes): II Peter 3:10- "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night..."

Questions to ask/review:

- Tell the parable of the Last Judgment.
- What help does God expect us to give to others?
- What can you do this week to help the needy?
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Verse (older classes): II Peter 1:5-7- "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love."

Questions to ask/review:

- How does our spiritual life grow like a child grows?
- How do the traits listed in the verse build upon one another?
- Where are you now in your growth toward spiritual adulthood?
- Think of some specific events in the last few days or weeks that show evidence of one or more of the above traits. Are you growing or stagnating?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Make bags for the homeless. Include food, drink, and a note with a prayer. Keep them in the car to hand out to those asking for help.
- Everyone in the family chooses one of the traits from II Peter 1:5-7. Monitor your behavior this week and work to improve at that trait. Share with one another how you did.

Prayer: Lord, help me to serve you by serving others. OR Lord, help me to grow in spiritual maturity.

Hymns and Readings for Today

Tone 7 Troparion of the Resurrection

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.

Tone 4 Troparion of St Nicholas

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.

Tone 4 Troparion of the New Martyrs of Russia

Today the Church of Russia joyfully forms a
chorus,
praising her new martyrs and confessors;
hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers,
right-believing princes and princesses,
venerable men and women, and all Orthodox
Christians.

Having laid down their life for faith in Christ
during the days of godless persecution,
they preserved the truth by the shedding of
blood.//
By their protection, O long-suffering Lord,
preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of
the age.

Tone 7 Kontakion of the Resurrection

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!”

Tone 3 Kontakion of the New Martyrs of Russia

Today the new martyrs of Rus’ stand in white
robes before the Lamb of God,
and with the angels they sing to God the hymn
of victory:
“Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise,
and honor,
and power, and strength be to our God
unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

Tone 8 Kontakion of the Theotokos

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.

Tone 7 Prokeimenon of the Sunday

The Lord shall give strength to His people. The
Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Ps 28/29:11)

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Tim 1:15-17)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all
acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the
world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.
However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that
in me first Jesus Christ might show all
longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are
going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to
God who alone is wise, be honor and glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel of the Sunday (Mt 15:21-28)

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to
the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a
woman of Canaan came from that region and
cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O
Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely
demon-possessed.” But He answered her not a
word. And His disciples came and urged Him,
saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after
us.”

But He answered and said, “I was not sent
except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
Then she came and worshiped Him, saying,
“Lord, help me!”

But He answered and said, “It is not good to
take the children’s bread and throw it to the
little dogs.” And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even
the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from
their masters’ table.”

Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman,
great is your faith! Let it be to you as you
desire.” And her daughter was healed from that
very hour.

Communion Hymn (Titus 1:11)

Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in
the highest.

New Martyrs and Confessors

On the Sunday closest to January 25, the
Church commemorates the Synaxis of the Holy
New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia,
remembering all those Orthodox Christians who
suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless
Soviets during the years of persecution. These
include the royal Passion Bearers Tsar Nicholas
II and his family, and the Grand Duchess
Elizabeth. Countless thousands of martyrs, both
clergy and laity also suffered, some of whose

names are known, as well as millions of simple
believers whose names have been lost to history.

**It is estimated that the number of the New
Martyrs of Russia, who were glorified by the
Russian Orthodox Church at the Jubilee
Council of 2000, far exceeds that of all the
martyrs who died for Christ during the first
three centuries of Christianity.** The Russian
Church lost millions of its sons and daughters,
not only at the hands of external enemies, but
also those of their own country. Among those
who were murdered and tortured in the years of
persecution were countless Orthodox: laity,
monks, priests, and bishops, whose only “crime”
was their unshakable faith in God.

In the long history of the world, never have
so many new heavenly intercessors been
glorified by the Church in such a way (more
than one thousand New Martyrs were numbered
among the saints). Among those who suffered
for their faith were some who labored in
America before the Russian Revolution: St.
Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia
(April 7); St. Alexander Hotovitzky (Dec. 4); St.
John Kochurov (Oct. 31).

