



## 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*

## 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> for the **4<sup>th</sup> 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 Vilcova 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?
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### 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).

