



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, February 4

9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)

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

Thursday, February 6

9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)

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

Saturday, February 8

12:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Choir Rehearsal

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, February 9

10:00 am 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*

Presentation of Christ/Zacchaeus Sunday

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

February 2, 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.

➤ Remember that Sunday Adult Education is on the first and third Sundays. Bible Study is on the second and fourth Wednesdays. This means **the next Bible Study is on Wednesday, February 12** (not this coming Wednesday – there were five Wednesdays in January.)

➤ 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 and Michelle Bittner. **From Doris Wasilko** for the health of Michelle Bittner and Paul Yewisiak. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of Michelle Bittner, Paul Yewisiak and Georgiann Robes; Special thanks. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha and Steve Yurkowski on his birthday. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servants, Fr. Vladimir Soroka and Valentina Barsom; special intention. **From Kristie Mertz** for the health the Paleš and Chvojka families. **From John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova and for the health and salvation of our family. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine and Michelle.



Thank You

➤ to our February donors, **Bob and MaryBeth Madalinksy**, for donating all the categories (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: John's Three Letters

Verse (younger classes): *I John 4:16- "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."*

Questions to ask/review:

- How the Church is like a tree?
- Who is the trunk and root of the tree?
- How did Jesus show he loved us?
- What happens if a branch is torn off the tree?
- How can you show God's love to others? This week?

Verse (older classes): *I John 1:1- "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life"*

Questions to ask/review:

- Where have we "met" Apostle John in the Gospels?
- What is the basis of other religions such as Islam and Buddhism?
- How is our faith unique from these other faiths? (belief in a person, not teachings or ideas)
- Who witnesses to the Church the truth about the person of Jesus Christ?
- How do we know their witness is true and reliable?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Discuss and implement your plan to show God's love to others this week.
- Sing "A New Commandment" with your family at prayer time (or anytime!).
- Hand write a witness of Christ from the perspective of the Apostle John.

Prayer: Lord, give me the strength to love others as you have loved me. OR Jesus, thank you for showing me the truth about You.

Hymns and Readings for Today

Tone 8 Troparion *of the Resurrection*)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us
from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 1 Troparion *of the Feast*)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, ^Christ
our God,
enlightening those who sat in darkness.
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,
thou didst accept in thine arms the ^Redeemer of
our souls,
Who grants us the Resurrection!

Tone 8 Kontakion *of the Resurrection*)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead
and resurrected Adam.
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,
and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead,
O greatly Merciful One!

Tone 1 Kontakion *of the Feast*

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's
womb
and didst bless Simeon's hands, ^O Christ God.
Now Thou hast come and saved us through love.
Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians,
O only Lover of Man!

Tone 8 Prokeimenon *of the Resurrection*)

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our
God! (*Ps 75/76:11*)

Tone 3 Prokeimenon *Song of the Theotokos*

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices
in God my Savior. (*Lk 1:46-47*)

Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed
by the better. Here mortal men receive tithes, but
there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed
that he lives. Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid
tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was

still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek
met him.

Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical
priesthood (for under it the people received the
law), what further need was there that another
priest should rise according to the order of
Melchizedek, and not be called according to the
order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed,
of necessity there is also a change of the law. For
He of whom these things are spoken belongs to
another tribe, from which no man has officiated at
the altar.

For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of
which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning
priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the
likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another
priest who has come, not according to the law of a
fleshly commandment, but according to the power
of an endless life. For He testifies: "You are a
priest forever according to the order of
Melchizedek."

Epistle *of the Sunday (1 Tim 4:9-15)*

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all
acceptance. For to this end we both labor and
suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God,
who is the Savior of all men, especially of those
who believe. These things command and teach.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example
to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in
spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention
to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not
neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to
you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of
the eldership. Meditate on these things; give
yourself entirely to them, that your progress may
be evident to all.

Gospel *of the Feast (Lk 19:1-10)*

Now when the days of her purification according
to the law of Moses were completed, they brought

Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it
is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who
opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"),
and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in
the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two
young pigeons."

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose
name was Simeon, and this man was just and
devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and
the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been
revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would
not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.
So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when
the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for
Him according to the custom of the law, he took
Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in
peace, according to Your word; For my eyes have
seen Your salvation Which You have prepared
before the face of all peoples,
A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of Your people Israel."

And Joseph and His mother marveled at those
things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon
blessed them, and said to Mary His mother,
"Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and
rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will
be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce
through your own soul also), that the thoughts of
many hearts may be revealed."

Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the
daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was
of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven
years from her virginity; and this woman was a
widow about eighty-four years, who did not depart
from the temple, but served God with fastings and
prayers night and day. And coming in that instant
she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to
all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

So when they had performed all things according
to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to
their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and

became strong in spirit,[f] filled with wisdom; and
the grace of God was upon Him.

Gospel *of the Sunday (Lk 19:1-10)*

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.
Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus
who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And
he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not
because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.
So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore
tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up
and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make
haste and come down, for today I must stay at your
house." So he made haste and came down, and
received Him joyfully.

But when they saw it, they all complained, saying,
"He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a
sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the
Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the
poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by
false accusation, I restore fourfold."

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come
to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;
for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save
that which was lost."

Hymn to the Theotokos *of the Feast*

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians!
Protect, preserve, and save those who hope in you!
We faithful saw the figure in the shadow of the law
and the scriptures:
Every male child that opened the womb is holy to
God.
Therefore, we also magnify the first begotten Son
of the unoriginate Father,
The firstborn Son of the unwedded Mother!

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in
the highest. (*Ps 148:1*)
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the
name of the Lord. (*Ps 115/116:13*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!