



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

Third Pre-Lenten Sunday: The Final Judgment

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org February 23, 2020

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 25

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

Wednesday, February 26

6:30 pm Daily Vespers
7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, February 27

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

Saturday, February 29

12:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Choir Rehearsal
5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, March 1

9:15 am Adult Education
10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School after
7:00 pm Forgiveness Vespers

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.

Announcements

➤ Everyone is warmly invited downstairs today for a special **Meatfare fellowship** sponsored by the Orthodox Men's Group. May God bless them.

➤ Tomorrow we enter upon the pre-Lenten meat fast (dairy and fish is permitted **all week**) to prepare for abstinence from dairy on Monday, March 2. Remember that our fast is a communal effort and we should seek to enjoy it to the best of our ability, while not to the point of discouragement. May God strengthen you!

➤ Next week we will have our annual Blini Luncheon sponsored by the St. Nicholas Sisterhood. Delicious blini will be served with all the fillings and toppings, along with pancakes for the children. \$8/ Adult, and \$3/ Children 6-12. **Children 5 and under are free. \$25 maximum per family.** Tickets will be sold at the door.

➤ The **complete Lenten schedule of services** is enclosed in today's bulletin. Please keep it in a prominent place in your home so that you can be encouraged to increase your worship of God during the Great Lenten season.

➤ **Our February hoagie sale** is being held on Wednesday, Feb 26. 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@verizion.net. Orders are due on Sunday evening, Feb 23. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm at the church hall on Wednesday, February 26.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* Michelle Bittner, Paul Yewisiak, Jan Widel. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **Vigils 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 departed servant, Georgiann Robes; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, Georgiann Robes; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, Georgiann Robes. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, Georgiann Robes; for the health of Michelle Bittner. **From Nancy Shaytar** for the health of husband, George. **From John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova and for the health and salvation of our family. **From Bob & Mary Beth Madalinsky** for the departed servant, Georgiann Robes. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, Nicholas and Georgiann~ Memory Eternal; for the health & salvation of Michelle and Ron. **From Cathy Namisnak** for the health of Jan Widel, Michelle Bittner and Paul Yewisiak. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Michelle Bittner, Elaine Hamilton and Paul Yewisiak.

Thank You

➤ to our February donors, **Bob and MaryBeth Madalinsky**, for donating all the categories (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10) May God richly bless them!

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: Baptism (Part 2)

Questions to ask/review:

- What is the scriptural basis for the sacrament of Baptism?
- What feast remembers the baptism of Jesus?
- Why do we baptized infants? What is the role of Godparents (sponsors)?
- What is the order of the service? What is the meaning of each action?
- What is the purpose of the exorcism prayers?
- Why must we be put into the water 3 times?
- What does the baptized wear white?
- What song do we sing after they are baptized?
- Is baptism a "free pass" to salvation? Why not?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Role play a baptism with a baby doll. Review and discuss the significance of each part of the service.
- Look at pictures from the baptisms of others in the family.
- Contact your Godparents this week and spend time together to keep your relationship strong.

Prayer: Lord, may You keep me renewed with Your light, as the day of my baptism.

➤ Important Upcoming Dates:

- Cheesefare Sunday – March 1
- Clean Monday (Great Lent Begins) – March 2
- *Western Easter* – April 12
- Holy Pascha – April 19

Hymns and Readings for Today

Tone 3 Troparion of the Resurrection

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.

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 3 Kontakion of St Nicholas

You appeared as a priest in Myra, O Saint
Nicholas,
Fulfilling the gospel of Christ, O ven'rable one;
You laid down your life for your people
And rescued the innocent from death.
Therefore you have been blest as a great initiate
of the grace of God.

Tone 1 Kontakion from the Lenten Triodion

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with
glory,
all things shall tremble
and the river of fire shall flow before Thy
judgment seat;
the books shall be opened and the hidden things
disclosed;
then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,
and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand,
O righteous judge.

Tone 3 Prokeimenon of the Sunday

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing
praises to our King, sing praises! (*Ps 46/47:6*)

Epistle of the Sunday (I Cor 8:8-9:2)

But food does not commend us to God; for
neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do
not eat are we the worse. But beware lest
somehow this liberty of yours become a
stumbling block to those who are weak. For if
anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in
an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him
who is weak be emboldened to eat those things
offered to idols? And because of your knowledge
shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ
died? But when you thus sin against the
brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you
sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my
brother stumble, I will never again eat meat,
lest I make my brother stumble.

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not
seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work
in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet
doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my
apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 25:31-46)

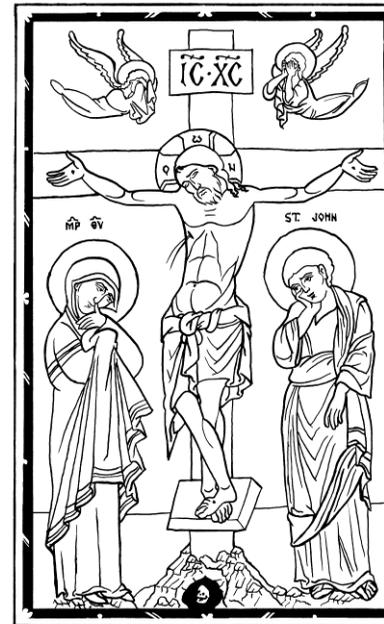
“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and
all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on
the throne of His glory. All the nations will be
gathered before Him, and He will separate them
one from another, as a shepherd divides his
sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep
on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then
the King will say to those on His right hand,
‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the
kingdom prepared for you from the foundation
of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me
food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was
a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and

you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I
was in prison and you came to Me.’

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying,
‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed
You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we
see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and
clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in
prison, and come to You?’ And the King will
answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you,
inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of
these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand,
‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the
everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his
angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no
food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I
was a stranger and you did not take Me in,
naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in
prison and you did not visit Me.’

“Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord,
when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a
stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did
not minister to
You?’ Then He
will answer
them, saying,
‘Assuredly, I
say to you,
inasmuch as
you did not do
it to one of the
least of these,
you did not do
it to Me.’ And
these will go
away into
everlasting
punishment,
but the
righteous into
eternal life.



The Final Judgment

by St Paisios the Athonite

In the future Judgment, the condition of each
person will be revealed in an instant, and each
person on his own will proceed to where he
belongs. Each person will recognize, as if on a
television screen, his own wretchedness, as well
as the spiritual condition of others. He will
reflect himself upon the other, and he will bow
his head, and proceed to the place where he
belongs. For example, a daughter-in-law who sat
comfortably with her legs crossed in front of her
mother-in-law, who with a broken leg took care
of the grandchild, will not be able to say, “My
Christ, why are you putting my mother-in-law
into Paradise without including me?” because
that scene will come before her to condemn her.
She will remember her mother-in-law who stood
with her broken leg in order to take care of her
grandchild and she will be too ashamed to go
into Paradise — but there will be not place for
her there, anyway.

Or, to cite another example, monastics will see
the difficulties, the tribulations of the people in
the world and how they faced them; and if they
have not lived appropriately as monastics, they
will lower their heads and proceed on their own
to the place where they belong. There, nuns who
did not please God will see heroic mothers who
neither took vows nor had the blessings and
opportunities that they, the nuns, had. They will
see how those mothers struggled, as well as the
spiritual heights they attained, while they, the
nuns, who with petty things preoccupied and
tormented themselves, will be ashamed! These
are my thoughts about the manner of the Final
Judgement. In other words, Christ will not say,
“You come here; what did you do?” Nor will He
say, “You go to Hell; you go to Paradise.” Rather,
each person will compare himself with the
others and proceed to his appropriate place.