



## 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

### Saturday, November 28

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
- 4:30 pm Confessions
- 5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, November 29

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

### Tuesday, December 1

- 9:00 am Daily Matins
- 10:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

### Thursday, December 3

- 9:00 am Daily Matins
- 10:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

### Saturday, December 5

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church Sch.
- 5:00 pm Great Vespers with Litya/Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, December 6: St Nicholas of Myra

- 10:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
- Ordination of Jonathan Skowron to Subdiaconate
- Tonsuring of Charles Wasilko to be a Reader
- Church School following
- Dinner Following



Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*  
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*

## 25<sup>th</sup> Saturday/Sunday After Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org November 28/29, 2020

## Announcements

➤ In response to the rising COVID-19 cases, His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek has directed that **masks be worn by everyone** during all services, meetings, and activities on church property, until further notice.

### ST NICHOLAS DAY CELEBRATION Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:00 am

with His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek  
**Ordination of Jonathan Skowron**  
to be a Subdeacon  
**Tonsuring of Charles Wasilko**  
to be a Reader  
**Dinner following**

➤ On November 15 we began the **Nativity Fast** to prepare ourselves for the Great Feast of the Lord's Nativity. May God strengthen you!

➤ **Annual Parish Christmas Card:** For those new to St. Nicholas, this project raises money for the monthly community meal. We ask each person/family to donate \$10 to have their/their family's name printed on our parish Christmas card which is then sent to all parishioners in early December. To participate, see Jan Widel on Saturdays or Susan Porter on Sundays. If you prefer, you may mail your \$10 check payable to "St. Nicholas Orthodox Church" directly to Marsha Wasilko, 1232 Stanford Court, Coraopolis, Pa. 15108. **Deadline is November 29.** Also available for purchase are boxed Orthodox Christmas cards. See Marsha Wasilko or Susan Porter. Thank you!

## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none)  
*Home:* Geroge Shaytar, Sandi Tirpak, Paul Yewisiak, Jenifer Rune (*40 days after giving birth*).  
*Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Olga Tryszyn.

➤ **Vigil Lights** From the **John Mahalchak Family** for the health of friends and family, especially Cheryl, John, Gregory, Mary, Daniel, and Kevin. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant Grandfather Theodore Dyczko; for the health of Fr Patrick. From **John and Olga** for the health of Nicolai and Galina Vilkov. From **Mat Joni Soroka** for the departed servant Barbara Naiser; for the health of family and friends. From **Mat Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant Dn Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Chuck Wasilko** for the departed servant Theodore Dyczko; for the health of sisters Doris and Marsha and Sandi Tirpak. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants Paul Henry and Grandfather Theodore Dyczko; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Jeff and LuAnn Kopycinski** for the departed servant Dorothy Kopycinski. From **Alina Maksymova** for the health of Yevdokiya. From **Irene Kulchock** for the departed servant Olga Bednar; for the health of Jan Pravlochak.

## Thank You

➤ to our **November** donors, **Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell**, for donating all the categories (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10) in loving memory of Deacon Joseph Mell (husband, father) and departed members of the Karavlan family.



## The Nativity Fast

We are called to arise, then, during the fast that is the journey into this Feast. 'O blessed Lord who seest all, raise us up far above sin, and establish Thy singers firm and unshaken upon the foundation of the faith'.<sup>5</sup> The faithful take up this call through the abandonment of those things which bind, rather than free, in order that a focus on God as 'all in all' might become ever more real and central to daily life.

The fast is an ascetic time, designed by the Church to strip away common stumbling blocks into sin, to provide us with the means of self-perception that we lack in our typical indulgence, and to begin to grow the seeds of virtue. All these are necessary if we are ever to know even partially, or appreciate even menially, the 'depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God'.<sup>6</sup> We must take up the task of our own purification, gifted by God and achieved only through His grace, that we might approach Him on Christmas Day as did the Magi and the shepherds in Bethlehem:

*Come, O ye faithful, inspired by God let us arise and behold the divine condescension from on high that is made manifest to us in Bethlehem. Cleansing our minds, let us offer through our lives virtues instead of myrrh, preparing with faith our entry into the feast of the Nativity, storing up treasure in our souls and crying: Glory in the highest to God in Trinity, whose good pleasure is now revealed to men, that in His love for mankind He may set Adam free from the ancestral curse.*

(Sticheron of the Sixth Hour, Christmas Eve)

**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 Saturday, Nov 28

## **Tone 2 Troparion** of Saturday

Apostles, martyrs, and prophets,  
Holy hierarchs, saints, and righteous ones,  
Having fought the good fight and kept the faith,  
Ye have boldness towards the Saviour.  
Intercede for us with Him, for He is good. //  
and pray that He may save our souls.

## **Tone 4 Troparion** (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.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of  
ages. Amen.*

## **Tone 8 Kontakion** of Saturday

The universe offers thee the God-bearing  
martyrs,

As the first fruits of creation, O Lord and  
Creator, //

Through the Theotokos and their prayers  
establish Thy Church in peace.

## **Tone 8 Prokeimenon** of Saturday (Psalm 31/32)

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O ye righteous.

## **Epistle** of the Saturday (Galatians 1:3-10)

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and  
our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our  
sins, that He might deliver us from this present  
evil age, according to the will of our God and  
Father, to whom be glory forever and ever.  
Amen.

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from  
Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a  
different gospel, which is not another; but there  
are some who trouble you and want to pervert  
the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel  
from heaven, preach any other gospel to you  
than what we have preached to you, let him be  
accursed. As we have said before, so now I say  
again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to  
you than what you have received, let him be  
accursed.

For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek  
to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would  
not be a bondservant of Christ.

## **Gospel** of the Saturday (Luke 10:19-21)

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on  
serpents and scorpions, and over all the power  
of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means  
hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this,  
that the spirits are subject to you, but rather  
rejoice because your names are written in  
heaven.”

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said,  
“I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,  
that You have hidden these things from the wise  
and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even  
so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

## **Communion Hymn** of Saturday

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous. Praise befits  
the just. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (Ps 33:1)

## **From the Life of St Nicholas**

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop  
of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint  
pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of  
Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast

of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only  
son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna,  
who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

As the fruit of the prayer of his childless  
parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of  
his birth revealed to people the light of his  
future glory as a wonderworker. His mother,  
Nonna, after giving birth was immediately  
healed from illness. The newborn infant, while  
still in the baptismal font, stood on his feet  
three hours, without support from anyone,  
thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. Saint  
Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting,  
and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not  
accept milk from his mother until after his  
parents had finished their evening prayers.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the  
study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not  
leave church, and by night he prayed and read  
books, making himself a worthy dwelling place  
for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara  
rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety  
of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and  
then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood,  
making him his assistant and entrusting him to  
instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of  
spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of  
faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the  
wonder and deep respect of believers.  
Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing  
prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-  
heartedness towards the flock, and towards the  
afflicted who came to him for help, and he  
distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of  
Patara, whom Saint Nicholas saved from great  
sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in  
desperation he planned to sell their bodies so  
they would have money for food. The saint,  
learning of the man’s poverty and of his wicked  
intention, secretly visited him one night and

threw a sack of gold through the window. With  
the money the man arranged an honorable  
marriage for his daughter. Saint Nicholas also  
provided gold for the other daughters, thereby  
saving the family from falling into spiritual  
destruction. In bestowing charity, Saint Nicholas  
always strove to do this secretly and to conceal  
his good deeds.

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on  
pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and  
entrusted the guidance of his flock to Saint  
Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully  
and with love. When the bishop returned,  
Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to  
the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted  
a storm would arise and threaten the ship. Saint  
Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending  
to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the  
entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed  
the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his  
prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had  
fallen from the mast and was mortally injured,  
was also restored to health.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem  
and came to Golgotha, Saint Nicholas gave  
thanks to the Savior. He went to all the holy  
places, worshiping at each one. One night on  
Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church  
opened by themselves for the great pilgrim.  
Going round the holy places connected with the  
earthly service of the Son of God, Saint Nicholas  
decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was  
stopped by a divine voice urging him to return  
to his native country. He returned to Lycia, and  
yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered  
into the brotherhood of a monastery named  
Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle.  
But the Lord again indicated another path for  
him, “Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where  
you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world,  
and glorify My Name there.” So he left Patara  
and went to Myra in Lycia.

*(continued in Sunday bulletin)*

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Nov 29

## **Tone 8 Troparion** (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 4 Troparion** (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.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

## **Tone 8 Kontakion** (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.

Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,// and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

## **Tone 6 Kontakion** (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 8 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

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

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (Ephesians 4:1-4)

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

## **Gospel of the Sunday** (Luke 13:10-17)

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.” And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, “There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.”

The Lord then answered him and said, “Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?” And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

## **Communion Hymn of Sunday**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## From the Life of St Nicholas

(continued from Saturday bulletin) Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. “What is your name, child?” he asked. God’s chosen one replied, “My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant.”

After his consecration as archbishop, Saint Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of Saint Constantine (May 21) as emperor, Saint Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity of heart, Saint Nicholas was a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds of the

pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols and turning the temples to dust.

In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicene Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of Saints Sylvester the Bishop of Rome (January 2), Alexander of Alexandria (May 29), Spyridon of Trimythontos (December 12) and other Fathers of the Council.

Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God, and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Having returned to his own diocese, the saint brought it peace and blessings, sowing the word of Truth, uprooting heresy, nourishing his flock with sound doctrine, and also providing food for their bodies.

Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by Saint Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness.

(to be continued in next week’s bulletin)

