



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, 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 the Subdiaconate

Tonsuring of Charles Wasilko to be a Reader
Church School following
Dinner Following

Tuesday, December 8

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, December 9

7:00 pm Bible Study (online only)

Thursday, December 10

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, December 12

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church Sch.

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, December 13

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

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

26th Saturday/Sunday After Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org December 5/6, 2020

Announcements

➤ We welcome **His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek** who is leading us in the Divine Liturgy for St Nicholas Day. May God grant him good health and long life as our Shepherd!

➤ Congratulations to **Jonathan Skowron** who is being ordained to the Subdiaconate and to **Charles Wasilko** who is being tonsured to the office of Reader. May God grant them many years as they continue to serve the Church!

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

➤ 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.

➤ Some of you may know that **Fr Patrick Carpenter**, the Rector of St Mary Church in Southside, recently had one foot amputated after years of difficulty with infections. The operation, while successful, will lead to a long time of recovery for him. He has been discharged from the facility where he was receiving post-op care and is back in the Southside rectory. In the meantime, Fr Patrick remains on health leave from his pastoral duties in the parish. If anyone would like to send him a get-well card or message, you may address it to him at 105 S. 19th Street; Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

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, Natalie Popovich, Olga Tryszyn.

➤ **Vigil Lights** From the **John Mahalchak Family** for the health of friends and family, especially Cheryl, John, Gregory, Mary, Daniel, Skyler, and Kevin. From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of Olga Cozza and the Wasilko family. **Mat Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant Dn Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Chuck Wasilko** for the health of sisters Doris and Marsha and Olga Cozza. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family; From **Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Reader Charles Wasilko, and for Alexandria Tirpak.

Thank You

➤ to our **December** donors: Bulletin (\$60) from **Jan and Chuck Widel** in memory and for the health of the Puskar and Morris families; Altar Candles (\$25) from **Donya Yewisiak** in memory of Matushka Olga Soroka; Incense (\$10) from the **John Mahalchak family** for the health of their family.



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: Moses

Scripture reference: Exodus and Numbers

Questions to ask/review:

- Who was Moses? Why did his mother put him in a river in a basket? What do we know about his youth?
- How did God call Moses to serve him?
- What happened at the burning bush? Who is like the burning bush?
- How did Pharaoh treat Israel? Why?
- Name as many of the plagues as you can. How would each have affected the people?
- God asked Moses to do something very difficult. Has God ever asked you to do anything you felt was very hard?
- Who was Aaron? What role did God assign for him?
- Moses was afraid to go to Pharaoh. How does fear affect our ability to trust God? How can we overcome our fear? How did Moses?
- What was the last plague? What did God command the Israelites to do? What is the meaning of this for us Christians?
- What happened at the Red Sea?
- What struggles did Israel face in the wilderness? Can you give examples?
- How did God reveal his 10 commandments to Moses? What happened when Moses brought them to the people?
- What is the role of the Law? What is the importance of rules in our lives? How can laws be made more hurtful than helpful?
- When Israel finally reaches the promised land (Canaan), why can't Moses go?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Practice learning the 10 commandments and memorizing them.
- Make paper baskets or build pyramids with blocks.
- Create a poster that illustrates each of the plagues.

Prayer: Lord, speak to us as You did to Moses. OR Lord, help us to obey You and not to be stubborn like Pharaoh. OR Lord, give me understanding, that I may learn commandments.

Hymns and Readings for Saturday, Dec 5

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 3:8-12)

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would
justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel
to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the
nations shall be blessed.” So then those who are
of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

For as many as are of the works of the law are
under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed is

everyone who does not continue in all things
which are written in the book of the law, to do
them.” But that no one is justified by the law in
the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall
live by faith.” Yet the law is not of faith, but “the
man who does them shall live by them.”

Gospel of the Saturday (Luke 12:32-40)

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s
good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell
what you have and give alms; provide
yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a
treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where
no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For
where your treasure is, there your heart will be
also.”

“Let your waist be girded and your lamps
burning; and you yourselves be like men who
wait for their master, when he will return from
the wedding, that when he comes and knocks
they may open to him immediately. Blessed are
those servants whom the master, when he
comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to
you that he will gird himself and have them sit
down to eat, and will come and serve them. And
if he should come in the second watch, or come
in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are
those servants. But know this, that if the master
of the house had known what hour the thief
would come, he would have watched and not
allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore
you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming
at an hour you do not expect.”

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

(continued from last week’s bulletin)

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.

Witnessing this remarkable event were three
military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by
the emperor Constantine to put down a
rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they
would also be compelled to seek the intercession
of Saint Nicholas. Evil men slandered them
before the emperor, and the officers were
sentenced to death. Appearing to Saint
Constantine in a dream, Saint Nicholas called on
him to overturn the unjust sentence of the
military officers.

He worked many other miracles, and struggled
many long years at his labor. Through the
prayers of the saint, the city of Myra was
rescued from a terrible famine. He appeared to a
certain Italian merchant and left him three gold
pieces as a pledge of payment. He requested him
to sail to Myra and deliver grain there. More
than once, the saint saved those drowning in the
sea, and provided release from captivity and
imprisonment.

Having reached old age, Saint Nicholas
peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable
relics were preserved incorrupt in the local
cathedral church and flowed with curative
myrrh, from which many received healing. In
the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the
Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now
(See May 9).

The name of the great saint of God, the hierarch
and wonderworker Nicholas, a speedy helper

and suppliant for all hastening to him, is famed
in every corner of the earth, in many lands and
among many peoples. In Russia there are a
multitude of cathedrals, monasteries and
churches consecrated in his name. There is,
perhaps, not a single city without a church
dedicated to him.

The first Russian Christian prince Askold (+
882) was baptized in 866 by Patriarch Photius
(February 6) with the name Nicholas. Over the
grave of Askold, Saint Olga (July 11) built the
first temple of Saint Nicholas in the Russian
Church at Kiev. Primary cathedrals were
dedicated to Saint Nicholas at Izborsk, Ostrov,
Mozhaisk, and Zaraisk. At Novgorod the Great,
one of the main churches of the city, the Nikolo-
Dvorischensk church, later became a cathedral.

Famed and venerable churches and monasteries
dedicated to Saint Nicholas are found at Kiev,
Smolensk, Pskov, Toropetsa, Galich,
Archangelsk, Great Ustiug, Tobolsk. Moscow had
dozens of churches named for the saint, and also
three monasteries in the Moscow diocese: the
Nikolo-Greek (Staryi) in the Chinese-quarter,
the Nikolo-Perervinsk and the Nikolo-Ugreshsk.
One of the chief towers of the Kremlin was
named the Nikolsk.

Many of the churches devoted to the saint were
those established at market squares by Russian
merchants, sea-farers and those who traveled by
land, venerating the wonderworker Nicholas as
a protector of all those journeying on dry land
and sea. They sometimes received the name
among the people of “Nicholas soaked.”

Many wonderworking icons of Saint Nicholas
appeared in Russia and came also from other
lands. There is the ancient Byzantine
embordered image of the saint, brought to
Moscow from Novgorod, and the large icon
painted in the thirteenth century by a Novgorod
master.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Dec 6

Tone 1 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:

“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Thy Kingdom!//

Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind!”

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.

Tone 1 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself.

Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished.

Adam exults, O Master!

Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee://

“Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

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

Tone 3 Kontakion (*St. Nicholas*)

You appeared as a priest in Myra, O Saint Nicholas,

fulfilling the Gospel of Christ, O venerable 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.

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 1 Prokeimenon (*Resurrection*)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee! (*Ps 32/33:22*)

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (*St. Nicholas*)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, / and shall hope in Him. (*Ps. 63:10a*)

Epistle of the Sunday (Ephesians 5:9-19)

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says:

“Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Epistle of the Saint (Hebrews 13:17-21)

Obeys those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. But I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 17:12-19)

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”

Gospel of the Saint (Luke 6:17-23)

And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.

Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you poor, For yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, For you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, For you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man’s sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

Communion Hymn of Sunday

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*) The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. (*Ps. 111:6*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!