



## 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 19

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, December 20

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Church School following

### Tuesday, December 22

No Services or Office Hours

### Wednesday, December 23

10:00 am Royal Hours

### Thursday, December 24: Eve of the Nativity

9:30 am Vespers Liturgy

8:00 pm Vigil of the Nativity

### Friday, December 25: Nativity of Christ

10 am Festal Divine Liturgy

### Saturday, December 26: Synaxis of the Theotokos

10 am Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, December 27

10:00 am Divine Liturgy



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

## Saturday/Sunday Before the Nativity

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org December 19/20, 2020

## Announcements

➤ **A group will be going Sunday, December 20, to sing Christmas carols** at the homes of our shut-ins and those otherwise at home. If you would like to join in the festivities and bring Christmas cheer to those who are at home, please contact Deacon Luke Loboda.

➤ **The St. Nicholas Food Pantry needs your donations!** Our monthly food pantry will be open to the community on the last Saturday of each month from 4-5 pm. Saturday, January 30th, 2020 will be the first day. Please help support this parish ministry and our local community by bringing non-perishable donations to stock our pantry. See the enclosed list for recommended donations. All donations can be placed in the donation box by the back door of the church basement. Please contact Mat. Ashley or Kate Skowron for additional information. May God bless you for your generosity!

➤ 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.



## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* Geroge Shaytar, Sandi Tirpak, Paul Yewisiak, *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Olga Tryszyn.

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Mat Joni Soroka** for the departed handmaiden of God (mother) Barbara, 12/24/2016. From **John Kowalcheck and Olga Cozza** for the health of Nicolai Vilkov on his birthday. From **Matushka Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant Deacon Joseph Mell; for the health of family, especially (sister and aunt) Phyllis Esau. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants Uncle Joe Dichko, Grandmother Katherine Dyczko; for the health of Phyllis Esau and the Wasilko family. From **Charles Wasilko** for the departed servant Grandmother Katherine Dyczko; for the health of Phyllis Esau and sisters Doris and Marsha. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant Grandmother Katherine Dyczko; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Donya Yewisiak** in for the departed servant, Barbara Naiser.

## 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.*

## On the Incarnation

Man's maker was made man, that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother's breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired on its journey; that the Truth might be accused of false witness, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die. (*Augustine of Hippo*)

This day He who Is, is Born; and He who is becomes what He was not. (*John Chrysostom*) Thus it happened that two opposite marvels took place at once: the death of all was consummated in the Lord's body; yet, because the Word was in it, death and corruption were in the same act utterly abolished. (*Athanasius of Alexandria*)

He measures all by comparison with his own suffering, so that he may know our condition by his own, and how much is demanded of us, and how much we yield. (*Gregory Nazianzen*) Teacher of children became himself a child among children, that he might instruct the unwise. The Bread of heaven came down to earth to feed the hungry. (*Cyril of Jerusalem*)

The Lord did not come to make a display. He came to heal and to teach suffering men. (*Athanasius of Alexandria*)

For next to God, we worship and love the Word who is from the unbegotten and ineffable God, since also He became man for our sakes, that becoming a partaker of our sufferings, He might also bring us healing. (*Justin Martyr*) God the Word was made man for this reason, that that very nature which had sinned, fallen, and become corrupt should conquer the tyrant who had deceived it. (*John of Damascus*)

Christ in the flesh, rejoice with trembling and with joy; with trembling because of your sins, with joy because of your hope. (*Gregory Nazianzen*) He was made man that we might be made God. (*Athanasius of Alexandria*)

# Hymns and Readings for Saturday, Dec 19

## **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 (Ephesians 1:16-23)**

[Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in  
the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,]  
do not cease to give thanks for you, making  
mention of you in my prayers: that the God of  
our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may  
give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation  
in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your  
understanding being enlightened; that you may

know what is the hope of His calling, what are  
the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the  
saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of  
His power toward us who believe, according to  
the working of His mighty power which He  
worked in Christ when He raised Him from the  
dead and seated Him at His right hand in the  
heavenly places, far above all principality and  
power and might and dominion, and every name  
that is named, not only in this age but also in  
that which is to come.

And He put all things under His feet, and gave  
Him to be head over all things to the church,  
which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills  
all in all.

## **Gospel of the Saturday (Luke 14:1-11)**

Now it happened, as He went into the house of  
one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on  
the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely. And  
behold, there was a certain man before Him who  
had dropsy. And Jesus, answering, spoke to the  
lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to  
heal on the Sabbath?"

But they kept silent. And He took him and  
healed him, and let him go. Then He answered  
them, saying, "Which of you, having a donkey or  
an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not  
immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?"  
And they could not answer Him regarding these  
things.

So He told a parable to those who were invited,  
when He noted how they chose the best places,  
saying to them: "When you are invited by  
anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in  
the best place, lest one more honorable than you  
be invited by him; and he who invited you and  
him come and say to you, 'Give place to this  
man,' and then you begin with shame to take the  
lowest place. But when you are invited, go and

sit down in the lowest place, so that when he  
who invited you comes he may say to you,  
'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory  
in the presence of those who sit at the table with  
you. For whoever exalts himself will be  
humbled, and he who humbles himself will be  
exalted."

## **Communion Hymn of Saturday**

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

## On the Nativity of Christ

Behold on Christmas a new and wondrous  
reality. The angels sing and the archangels blend  
their voices in harmony. The Cherubim hymn  
their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt Christ's  
glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding  
the Godhead here on earth and man in heaven.  
He Who is above now for our redemption dwells  
here below, and we who are lowly are by divine  
mercy raised up. Bethlehem this day resembles  
heaven, hearing from the stars the singing of  
angelic voices. Ask not how. For where God  
wills, nature yields. For He willed. He had the  
power. He descended. He redeemed. All things  
move in obedience to God. This day He Who is  
born and He Who is becomes what He is not. He  
is God become man, yet not departing from His  
Godhead. – **St. John Chrysostom**

Our Saviour, dearly-beloved, was born today: let  
us be glad. For there is no proper place for  
sadness, when we keep the birthday of the Life,  
which destroys the fear of mortality and brings  
to us the joy of promised eternity. No one is  
kept from sharing in this happiness. There is for  
all one common measure of joy, because as our  
Lord the destroyer of sin and death finds none  
free from charge, so is He come to free us all.  
Let the saint exult in that he draws near to  
victory. Let the sinner be glad in that he is  
invited to pardon. Let the gentile take courage in

that he is called to life. For the Son of God in the  
fulness of time which the inscrutable depth of  
the Divine counsel has determined, has taken on  
him the nature of man, thereby to reconcile it to  
its Author: in order that the inventor of death,  
the devil, might be conquered through that  
(nature) which he had conquered. – **St. Leo I**

This is our present Festival; it is this which we  
are celebrating today, the Coming of God to  
Man, that we might go forth, or rather (for this  
is the more proper expression) that we might go  
back to God – that putting off of the old man, we  
might put on the new; and that as we died in  
Adam, so we might live in Christ, being born  
with Christ and crucified with Him and buried  
with Him and rising with Him. For I must  
undergo the beautiful conversion, and as the  
painful succeeded the more blissful, so must the  
more blissful come out of the painful. For where  
sin abounded grace did much more abound; and  
if a taste condemned us, how much more does  
the passion of Christ justify us? Therefore let us  
keep the Feast, not after the manner of a  
heathen festival, but after a godly sort; not after  
the way of the world, but in a fashion above the  
world; not as our own, but as belonging to Him  
who is ours, or rather as our master's; not as of  
weakness, but as of healing; not as of creation,  
but of re-creation. – **St. Gregory of Nazianzus**

Wake up, O human being! For it was for you that  
God was made man. Rise up and realize it was  
all for you. Eternal death would have awaited  
you had He not been born in time. Never would  
you be freed from your sinful flesh had He not  
taken to Himself the likeness of sinful flesh.  
Everlasting would be your misery had He not  
performed this act of mercy. You would not have  
come to life again had He not come to die your  
death. You would have perished had He not  
come. – **St. Augustine**



# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Dec 20

## **Tone 3 Troparion** (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** (Forefeast)

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all!  
Adorn thyself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave!  
Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit;  
if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam//  
Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

## **Tone 2 Troparion** (Holy Fathers)

Great are the accomplishments of faith,  
for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though  
in the waters of rest;  
and the Prophet Daniel appeared  
a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep//  
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

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

## **Tone 1 Kontakion** (Fathers)

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha!  
The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb.  
The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice,  
beholding Him,  
and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

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

## **Tone 3 Kontakion** (Forefeast)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to the Eternal Word.  
Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!  
Glorify with the angels and the shepherds  
the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

## **Tone 4 Prokeimenon** (Holy Fathers)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever! (*Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3*)

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (Heb 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40)

By faith [Abraham] dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command.

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

## **Gospel of the Sunday** (Matthew 1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king.

David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his

brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

## **Communion Hymn of Sunday**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (*Ps. 32:1*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## St. Nicholas Food Pantry Wish List

Please bring only non-perishable items. Perishable items will be purchased by the food pantry committee. Please try to choose items that are low in sugar and low in sodium. Items may be placed in the donation box on the table by the back door to the church basement. Contact Mat. Ashley or Kate Skowron with questions. Thank you!

### Grains

Breakfast cereal  
Oatmeal  
Baby cereal  
Pasta  
Macaroni and cheese  
Rice  
Boxed potatoes  
Tuna/Chicken/Hamburger Helper  
Crackers  
Flour  
Healthy snacks

### Fruits and vegetables

Canned fruits  
Canned vegetables  
Applesauce  
Raisins and other dried fruit  
100% fruit or vegetable juice (not refrigerated)  
Baby fruit and/or vegetable pouches  
Diced tomatoes  
Tomato or spaghetti sauce

### Dairy

Non-refrigerated milk  
Infant formula

### Protein

Canned tuna and chicken  
Canned beans  
Dried beans, lentils, or peas  
Canned soups  
Peanut butter  
Nuts and trail mixes

### Miscellaneous

Olive or vegetable oil  
Coffee  
Salad dressing  
Mayonnaise, mustard, or ketchup

### Non-Food Items

Toilet paper  
Diapers and wipes  
Feminine products  
Tissues  
Paper towels  
Napkins  
Hand soap  
Dish soap  
Laundry detergent  
Toothpaste/toothbrushes  
Band-aids  
Neosporin  
Household cleaner

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