



## 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, January 9

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, January 10

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

### Tuesday, January 12

9:00 am Daily Matins

No Office Hours

10:30 am Funeral for Dylan (Daniel) Paclawski

### Wednesday, January 13

7:00 pm Bible Study (Online)

### Thursday, January 14

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

### Saturday, January 16

10 am Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, January 17

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

#### DATES TO NOTE

**Orthodox Great Lent Begins Monday, March 15**

*Western Easter is on Sunday, April 4*

**Orthodox Pascha is on Sunday, May 2**

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*

Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*

## Saturday/Sunday After Theophany

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

January 9-10, 2021

## Announcements

➤ We are urging parishioners to **support the Yelena and Henry Paclawski** with the unexpected funeral expenses for Dylan (Daniel in Baptism). Please consider giving a gift ( earmark it "funeral"). You may also give at [orthodoxpittsburgh.org/support](http://orthodoxpittsburgh.org/support). Memory eternal!

➤ **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. 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.

➤ Those who **wish to have their home blessed** during the Theophany season should contact Fr Thomas directly at [frthomas@orthodoxpittsburgh.org](mailto:frthomas@orthodoxpittsburgh.org).

➤ The **annual Parish Meeting** will take place on Sunday, January 31 after the Divine Liturgy. Only members in good standing may participate. Officer and organization reports must be submitted by next Sunday to Kristie Mertz.

➤ **Church envelopes have been delayed** and should be here in a few weeks. Please use the temporary envelopes at the candle desk or consider donating online.

## 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 **Susan and Rick Porter** for the departed servant Patricia. From the **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends and family, especially John, Cheryl, Gregory, Kayla, Daniel, and Mary. From **Charles Wasilko** for the departed servant Nicholas Yurkowski. From **Kristie Mertz**, peace and health for family and friends in 2021. From **John Kowalcheck and Olga Cozza** for the health of Galina Vilkova. From **Mat. Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant of God Dn Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of Many Years and Happy Birthday to Nancy Shaytar, Janet Widel, and Sandi Tirpak. From **Marsha Wasilko**, happy birthday and many years to Nancy Shaytar, Jan Widel, and Sandi Tirpak!

## Thank You

➤ We want to bid a bittersweet farewell to **Aaron and Joanna Pease** and little Alex as they move to Erie PA. May God grant them good health and salvation. Their presence in our community will be greatly missed.



**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:** Joshua

**Scripture reference:** Joshua

### Questions to ask/review:

Who was Joshua? What was his role?

Why was Canaan important to Israel?

How did Joshua become the successor to Moses?

Who was Rahab? How did she help the Israelites?

How did Israel conquer Jericho?

How do we decide if something is worth fighting for?

Do we ever get tired of fighting "battles"?

Why or why not?

Joshua did not fight each battle the same way,

but, with God's help, His people won battle after battle.

Is there one "battle" right now you're fighting that you feel you must win?

### Suggested Activities at home:

Get out all your instruments and march around your house 7 times, then shout and play.

Read the story of Jericho at bedtime.

**Prayer:** As for me and my house, O Lord, we will serve the Lord.



# Hymns and Readings for Saturday, Jan 9

## **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 1 Troparion of the Feast**

When Thou, O Lord, was baptized in the Jordan,  
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.  
For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee,  
and called Thee His beloved Son;  
and the Spirit in the form of a dove  
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.  
O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself//  
and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

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

## **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.

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

## **Tone 4 Kontakion of the Feast**

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O  
Lord,  
and the light of Thy countenance has been  
marked on us.  
Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises:  
“Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, //  
O unapproachable Light.”

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

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

## **Epistle of the Saturday After (Eph 6:10-17)**

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and  
in the power of His might. Put on the whole  
armor of God, that you may be able to stand  
against the wiles of the devil. For we do not  
wrestle against flesh and blood, but against  
principalities, against powers, against the rulers  
of the darkness of this age, against spiritual  
hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.  
Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that  
you may be able to withstand in the evil day,  
and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with  
truth, having put on the breastplate of  
righteousness, and having shod your feet with  
the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all,  
taking the shield of faith with which you will be  
able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked  
one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the  
sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

## **Gospel of the Saturday After (Matthew 4:1-11)**

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in  
Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the  
wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when  
He had fasted forty days and forty nights,  
afterward He was hungry. Now when the  
tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the  
Son of God, command that these stones become  
bread.”

But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man  
shall not live by bread alone, but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”

Then the devil took Him up into the holy city,  
set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said  
to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw  
Yourself down. For it is written:

‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’  
and,

‘In their hands they shall bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall  
not tempt the Lord your God.’ ”

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly  
high mountain, and showed Him all the  
kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he  
said to Him, “All these things I will give You if  
You will fall down and worship me.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan!  
For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord  
your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”

Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came  
and ministered to Him.

## **Communion Hymn of Saturday**

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

## **Commentary on Today’s Gospel**

**St Gregory:** We should know that there are  
three modes of temptation; suggestion, delight,  
and consent; and we when we are tempted  
commonly fall into delight or consent, because  
being born of the sin of the flesh, we bear with  
us whence we afford strength for the contest;  
but God who incarnate in the Virgin’s womb  
came into the world without sin, carried within  
Him nothing of a contrary nature. He could then  
be tempted by suggestion; but the delight of sin  
never gnawed His soul, and therefore all that  
temptation of the Devil was without not within  
Him.

**St John Chrysostom:** The Devil is wont to be  
most urgent with temptation, when he sees us  
solitary; thus it was in the beginning he tempted  
the woman when he found her without the man,  
and now too the occasion is offered to the Devil,

by the Saviour’s being led into the desert.

**Blessed Theophylact.:** Not Christ only is led  
into the desert by the Spirit, but also all the sons  
of God who have the Holy Spirit. For they are  
not content to sit idle, but the Holy Spirit stirs  
them to take up some great work, i.e. to go out  
into the desert where they shall meet with the  
Devil; for there is no righteousness wherewith  
the Devil is pleased.

For all good is without the flesh and the world,  
because it is not according to the will of the  
flesh and the world. To such a desert then all the  
sons of God go out that they may be  
tempted.

For example, if you are unmarried, the Holy  
Spirit has by that led you into the desert, that is,  
beyond the limits of the flesh and the world,  
that you may be tempted by lust. But he who is  
married is unmoved by such temptation. Let us  
learn that the sons of God are not tempted but  
when they have gone forth into the desert, but  
the children of the Devil whose life is in the  
flesh and the world are then overcome and  
obey; the good man, having a wife is content;  
the bad, though he have a wife is not therewith  
content, and so in all other things.

The children of the Devil go not out to the Devil  
that they may be tempted. For what need that he  
should seek the strife who desires not victory?  
But the sons of God having more confidence and  
desirous of victory, go forth against him beyond  
the boundaries of the flesh. For this cause then  
Christ also went out to the Devil, that He might  
be tempted of him.

**St John Chrysostom:** But that you may learn how  
great a good is fasting, and what a mighty shield  
against the Devil, and that after baptism you  
ought to give attention to fasting and not to  
lusts, therefore Christ fasted, not Himself  
needing it, but teaching us by His example.

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Jan 10

## **Tone 6 Troparion** (*Resurrection*)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;  
the guards became as dead men.  
Mary stood by Thy grave,  
seeking Thy most pure body.  
Thou didst capture hell  
not being tempted by it.  
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.  
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead,//  
glory to Thee.

## **Tone 1 Troparion** *of the Feast*

When Thou, O Lord, was baptized in the Jordan,  
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.  
For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee,  
and called Thee His beloved Son;  
and the Spirit in the form of a dove  
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.  
O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself//  
and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

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

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

When Christ God the Giver of Life,  
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery  
with His mighty hand,  
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//  
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life,  
and the God of all.

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

## **Tone 4 Kontakion** *of the Feast*

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O  
Lord,  
and the light of Thy countenance has been  
marked on us.  
Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises:  
“Thou hast come and revealed Thyself,//  
O unapproachable Light.”

## **Tone 1 Prokeimenon** (*Sunday After*)

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

## **Epistle** *of the Sunday After* (Ephesians 4:7-13)

But to each one of us grace was given according  
to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore He  
says:

“When He ascended on high,  
He led captivity captive,  
And gave gifts to men.”

(Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean  
but that He also first descended into the lower  
parts of the earth? He who descended is also the  
One who ascended far above all the heavens,  
that He might fill all things.)

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some  
prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors  
and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for  
the work of ministry, for the edifying of the  
body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of  
the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of  
God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the  
stature of the fullness of Christ.

## **Gospel** *of the Sunday After* (Matthew 4:12-17)

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in  
prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving  
Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum,  
which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun  
and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which  
was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles:  
The people who sat in darkness have seen a  
great light,

And upon those who sat in the region and  
shadow of death  
Light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say,  
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

## **Hymn to the Theotokos** *of the Feast*

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin  
Theotokos, more honorable than the heavenly  
hosts!

No tongue knows how to praise you worthily, O  
Theotokos; even angels are overcome with awe  
praising you. But since you are good, accept our  
faith; for you know our love inspired by God!  
You are the defender of Christians, and we  
magnify you.

## **Communion Hymn** *of Sunday*

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in  
the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*) *The grace of God has  
appeared for the salvation of all men. (Titus 2:11)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

# St Gregory of Nyssa

Saint Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, was a younger  
brother of Saint Basil the Great (January 1).. In the  
year 372, he was consecrated by Saint Basil the Great  
as bishop of the city of Nyssa in Cappadocia.

Saint Gregory was an ardent advocate for Orthodoxy,  
and he fought against the Arian heresy with his  
brother Saint Basil. Gregory was persecuted by the  
Arians, by whom he was falsely accused of improper  
use of church property, and thereby deprived of his  
See and sent to Ancyra.

In the following year Saint Gregory was again  
deposed in absentia by a council of Arian bishops, but  
he continued to encourage his flock in Orthodoxy,  
wandering about from place to place. After the death  
of the emperor Valens (378), Saint Gregory was  
restored to his cathedra and was joyously received by  
his flock. His brother Saint Basil the Great died in  
379.

Only with difficulty did Saint Gregory survive the loss  
of his brother and guide. He delivered a funeral  
oration for him, and completed Saint Basil’s study of  
the six days of Creation, the Hexaemeron. That same  
year Saint Gregory participated in the Council of  
Antioch against heretics who refused to recognize the  
perpetual virginity of the Mother of God. Others at  
the opposite extreme, who worshipped the Mother of  
God as being God Herself, were also denounced by the  
Council. He visited the churches of Arabia and  
Palestine, which were infected with the Arian heresy,  
to assert the Orthodox teaching about the Most Holy  
Theotokos. On his return journey Saint Gregory  
visited Jerusalem and the Holy Places.

In the year 381 Saint Gregory was one of the chief  
figures of the Second Ecumenical Council, convened  
at Constantinople against the heresy of Macedonius,  
who incorrectly taught about the Holy Spirit. At this  
Council, on the initiative of Saint Gregory, the Nicene  
Symbol of Faith (the Creed) was completed.

In the year 383, Saint Gregory of Nyssa participated  
in a Council at Constantinople, where he preached a  
sermon on the divinity of the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
In 386, he was again at Constantinople, and he was  
asked to speak the funeral oration in memory of the  
empress Placilla. Again in 394 Saint Gregory was  
present in Constantinople at a local Council, convened  
to resolve church matters in Arabia.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa was a fiery defender of  
Orthodox dogmas and a zealous teacher of his flock, a  
kind and compassionate father to his spiritual  
children, and their intercessor before the courts. He  
was distinguished by his magnanimity, patience and  
love of peace.

Having reached old age, Saint Gregory of Nyssa died  
soon after the Council of Constantinople. Together  
with his great contemporaries, Saints Basil the Great  
and Gregory the Theologian, Saint Gregory of Nyssa  
had a significant influence on the Church life of his  
time. His sister, Saint Macrina, wrote to him: “You  
are renowned both in the cities, and gatherings of  
people, and throughout entire districts. Churches ask  
you for help.” Saint Gregory left behind many  
remarkable works of dogmatic character, as well as  
sermons and discourses. He has been called “the  
Father of Fathers.”