



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

35th Saturday/Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org February 6-7, 2021

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, February 6

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, February 7

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Tuesday, February 9

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

Wednesday, February 10

7:00 pm Bible Study (online only)

Thursday, February 11

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

Saturday, February 13

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, February 14

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

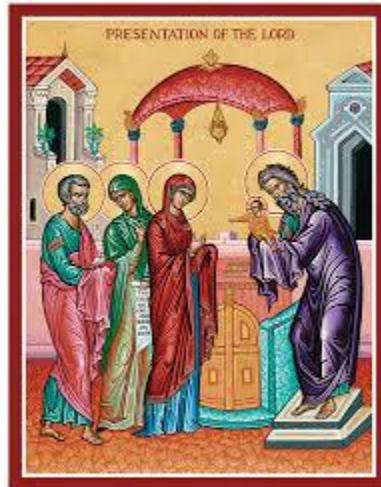
DATES TO NOTE
Orthodox Great Lent Begins Monday, March 15
Western Easter is on Sunday, April 4
Orthodox Pascha is on Sunday, May 2

Announcements

➤ **Donations are now being sought** for the completed iconography in the Children's ("cry") room. Please see Fr Thomas if you are able to support this incredible gift to our children. Fr Theodore will now begin working on the candle kiosk room. The desk will temporarily be located in the narthex.

➤ **Church offering envelopes are now available at the Candle Desk.** Individuals or families who generally donate via automatic payment may not have been issued envelopes. If you wish to have a set of envelopes or you cannot locate yours, please see Kristie Mertz.

➤ **Any elderly parishioners** who are seeking to receive the COVID-19 vaccine are not able to find a location, please contact Fr Thomas immediately.



It is no coincidence that the infant Christ appears to be handed to St Symeon **over the altar**. Just as the stone tablets are transformed, in the icon, into a Gospel-book, so too is the heavenly manna of the Jewish tabernacle transformed into the life-giving Lamb of God, Jesus Christ: a food also of divine origin, but inexhaustible, alive, and granting eternal life. Here, the references to St Symeon as "priest" are entirely appropriate, regardless of his actual role at the Temple in Jerusalem, as in the icon he receives the infant Jesus as the life-giving, sacrificial offering at the Christian liturgy. St Joseph even appears like a deacon attending to Symeon, shown in the same posture of supplication as the angels, who are painted with a deacon's vestments.

Prayers

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

➤ **Vigil Lights** from **Charles Wasilko** for the health of sisters Doris and Marsha. 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 departed servant Uncle Mike Dyczko; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **John Kowalcheck and Olga Cozza** for the health of Eleana Mayorova. From the **John Mahalchak** family for the health of friends and family; for the health of John, Cheryl, Gregory, Kayla, Daniel, Mary, Kevin, Steven, and Theresa.

Thank You

➤ to Bob and Mary Beth Madalinsky for sponsoring all categories of monthly donations for February: (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10).

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Hannah and Samuel

Scripture reference: I Samuel 1-4

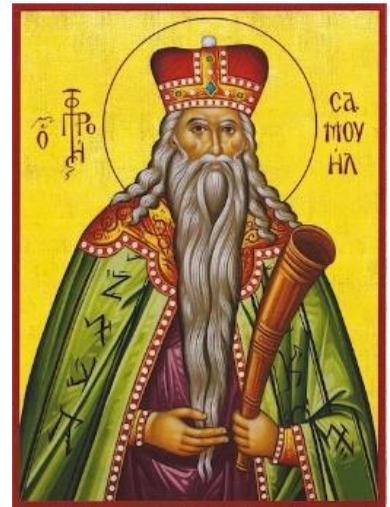
Questions to ask/review:

- Who was Hannah? What did she pray for?
- What did she promise the Lord? How did she fulfill her promise?
- How is Hannah's story similar and different to the recent feast of the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple?
- How did God speak to Samuel as a boy? How does He speak to us?
- Did Samuel know immediately that it was the Lord speaking? How did he learn this?
- What did the Lord tell Samuel? Did he want to tell Eli?
- How do you suppose Eli felt receiving such a prophecy? How was the prophecy fulfilled?
- Who were the Israelites fighting? What happened to Eli's sons? Why? To the Ark?
- Who took Eli's place as priest and judge?

Suggested Activities at home:

Have a family "sleepover" where the family sleeps in the same room. Children can sleep on a mat like Samuel.

Prayer: Lord, grant that we trust and serve You like Samuel did. Amen.



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, Feb 6

Tone 1 Troparion (*Feast*)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From you shone the Sun of Righteousness,
Christ our God,
enlightening those who sat in darkness.
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,
you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our
souls, //
Who grants us the Resurrection!

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 1 Kontakion (*Feast*)

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's
womb
and blessed Simeon's hands, O Christ God.
Now Thou hast come and saved us through
love. //
Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only
Lover of Man!

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (*Song of the Theotokos*)

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit
rejoices in God my Savior. (Lk. 1:46-47)

Epistle of the Saturday (Colossians 1:3-6)

We give thanks to the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since
we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of

your love for all the saints; because of the hope
which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you
heard before in the word of the truth of the
gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in
all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is
also among you since the day you heard and
knew the grace of God in truth.

Gospel of the Saturday (Luke 16:10-15)

He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also
in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is
unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not
been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who
will commit to your trust the true riches? And if
you have not been faithful in what is another
man's, who will give you what is your own?

“No servant can serve two masters; for either he
will hate the one and love the other, or else he
will be loyal to the one and despise the other.
You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money,
also heard all these things, and they derided
Him. And He said to them, “You are those who
justify yourselves before men, but God knows
your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among
men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Tone 3 (*Instead of “It is Truly Meet”*)

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians,
protect, preserve, and save those who hope in
you!

In the shadow and letter of the Law,
let us the faithful discern a figure:
every male [child] that opens the womb is holy
to God.
Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of the
Father Who has no beginning, //
the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not
known man.

Communion Hymn of Saturday

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the
Name of the Lord. (Ps. 115:4) Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia!

On the Presentation of Christ

Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine
splendor of the one who comes to expel the dark
shadows of evil and to make the whole universe
radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light.
Our candles also show how bright our souls
should be when we go to meet Christ.

The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin,
carried the true light in her arms and brought
him to those who lay in darkness. We too should
carry a light for all to see and reflect the
radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet
him.,

The light has come and has shone upon a world
enveloped in shadows; the Dayspring from on
high has visited us and given light to those who
lived in darkness. This, then, is our feast, and
we join in procession with lighted candles to
reveal the light that has shone upon us and the
glory that is yet to come to us through him. So
let us hasten all together to meet our God.

The true light has come, the light that enlightens
every man who is born into this world. Let all of
us, my brethren, be enlightened and made
radiant by this light. Let all of us share in its
splendor, and be so filled with it that no one
remains in the darkness. Let us be shining
ourselves as we go together to meet and to
receive with the aged Simeon the light whose
brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let
us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the
Father of the light, who sent the true light to
dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in
his splendor.

Through Simeon's eyes we too have seen the
salvation of God which he prepared for all the
nations and revealed as the glory of the new
Israel, which is ourselves. As Simeon was
released from the bonds of this life when he had
seen Christ, so we too were at once freed from
our old state of sinfulness.

By faith we too embraced Christ, the salvation of
God the Father, as he came to us from
Bethlehem. Gentiles before, we have now
become the people of God. Our eyes have seen
God incarnate, and because we have seen him
present among us and have mentally received
him into our arms, we are called the new Israel.
Never shall we forget this presence; every year
we keep a feast in his honor.

*(St. Sophronius was a simple monk who pursued
a life of prayer and sacrifice first in the desert of
Egypt, then near the Jordan River, then finally in
the Holy City of Jerusalem. He was ultimately
chosen to be bishop and Patriarch of Jerusalem in
the early 7th century. He valiantly defended the
true and full humanity of Christ in the face of the
heresy of Monothelitism, which denied that Jesus
had a human as well as a divine will. The year
before his death in 638, he witnessed the capture
of Jerusalem by the Muslims under the Caliph
Omar. Several of his sermons and poems have
survived till this day.)*



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Feb 7

Tone 2 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Tone 1 Troparion (*Feast*)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From you shone the Sun of Righteousness,
Christ our God,
enlightening those who sat in darkness.
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,
you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls,//
Who grants us the Resurrection!

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

Tone 2 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld
this and rejoiced with Thee,//
and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 1 Kontakion (*Feast*)

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb
and blessed Simeon's hands, O Christ God.
Now Thou hast come and saved us through love.//
Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

Tone 2 Prokeimenon (*Resurrection*)

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (*Ps. 117:14*)

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (*Song of the Theotokos*)

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (*Lk. 1:46-47*)

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Timothy 1:15-17)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 15:21-28)

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.”

But He answered her not a word.

And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.”

But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!”

But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.”

And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.”

Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Tone 3 (*Instead of “It is Truly Meet”*)

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians, protect, preserve, and save those who hope in you!

In the shadow and letter of the Law, let us the faithful discern a figure: every male [child] that opens the womb is holy to God.

Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of the Father Who has no beginning, // the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

Communion Hymn of Sunday

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*) I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. (*Ps. 115:4*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

On Humility

A humble man is never rash, hasty or perturbed, never has any hot and volatile thoughts, but at all times remains calm. Even if heaven were to fall and cleave to the earth, the humble man would not be dismayed. Not every quiet man is humble, but every humble man is quiet. There is no humble man who is not self-constrained; but you will find many who are self-constrained without being humble. This is also what the meek humble Lord meant when He said, ‘Learn of Me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.’ [Matt 11:29] For the humble man is always at rest, because

there is nothing which can agitate or shake his mind. Just as no one can frighten a mountain, so the mind of a humble man cannot be frightened. If it be permissible and not incongruous, I should say that the humble man is not of this world. For he is not troubled and altered by sorrows, nor amazed and enthused by joys, but all his gladness and his real rejoicing are in the things of his Master. Humility is accompanied by modesty and self-collectedness: that is, chastity of the senses; a moderate voice; mean speech; self-belittlement; poor raiment; a gait that is not pompous; a gaze directed towards the earth; superabundant mercy; easily flowing tears; a solitary soul; a contrite heart; imperturbability to anger; undistributed senses; few possessions; moderation in every need; endurance; patience; fearlessness; manliness of heart born of a hatred of this temporal life; patient endurance of trials; deliberations that are ponderous, not light, extinction of thoughts; guarding of the mysteries of chastity; modesty, reverence; and above all, continually to be still and always to claim ignorance. -*St Issac of Syria*

