



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 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

Tuesday, February 16

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, February 18

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

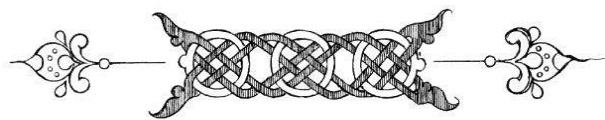
Saturday, February 20

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, February 21

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*

36th Saturday after Pentecost/Zacchaeus Sunday

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org February 13-14, 2021

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 is completing the drawings in the candle kiosk room and will complete the work, God willing, this year.

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

➤ **Next Sunday** we will have the pleasure of welcoming **the Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, Fr Alexander Rentel** to our parish, to lead us in the Divine Liturgy. In addition to being the first priest of the OCA, he is an accomplished scholar and professor at St Vladimir's Seminary in Crestwood NY. Please join us next Sunday to greet Fr Alexander after the Divine Liturgy at coffee hour.

➤ Our next **St Nicholas Community Food Pantry** will be held on Saturday, February 27. 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.



Prayers

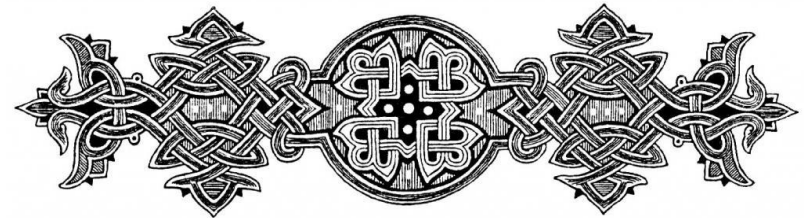
➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* George Shaytar, Sandi Tirpak, Paul Yewisiak, *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Olga Tryszyn.

➤ **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 **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Doris Wasilko** for departed servant (brother) Raymond; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **John Kowalcheck and Olga Cozza** for the health of Nora Xenia Kowalcheck and the child to be born of her; for the health of Galina Vilkova. From the **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends and family, and for a safe trip. From the **Robes family** for the departed servants of God Georgiann (1 year) and Thomas Robes.



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).



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: Saul

Scripture reference: I Samuel 9-31

Questions to ask/review:

- How was Israel governed in its early years?
- Who were some of the leaders God used to lead His people?
- Why might people want a king? Did other countries have kings?
- How did Saul come to be King of Israel?
- What was Saul's downfall?
- What was Saul's relationship with David? Why did Saul turn against David?
- Samuel said to Saul, "to obey is better than sacrifice". What does that phrase mean? Why does God prefer obedience to sacrifice?
- After Samuel died, where did Saul turn for advice?
- In addition to "mediums", what are some other examples of counterfeit spiritual forces in our society?
- Why should Christians avoid these types of false "spirituality" or "prophecy"?

Suggested Activities at home:

Read stories of great Kings and failed Kings. How did they rule differently? What Godly characteristics did the good Kings have?

Prayer: Lord our King, help us to rule our lives in obedience to You.

Hymns and Readings for Saturday, Feb 13

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 (1 Thes 5:14-23)

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who
are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the
weak, be patient with all. See that no one
renders evil for evil to anyone, but always
pursue what is good both for yourselves and for
all.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in
everything give thanks; for this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise
prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is
good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you
completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and
body be preserved blameless at the coming of
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel of the Saturday (Luke 17:3-10)

Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins
against you, rebuke him; and if he repents,
forgive him. And if he sins against you seven
times in a day, and seven times in a day returns
to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our
faith."

So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard
seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be
pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,'
and it would obey you. And which of you, having
a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to
him when he has come in from the field, 'Come
at once and sit down to eat'? But will he not
rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my
supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I
have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will
eat and drink'? Does he thank that servant
because he did the things that were commanded
him? I think not. So likewise you, when you
have done all those things which you are
commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants.
We have done what was our duty to do.' "

Communion Hymn of Saturday

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

On Forgiveness

As it is not to be imagined that the fornicator
and the blasphemer can partake of the sacred
Table, so it is impossible that he who has an
enemy, and bears malice, can enjoy Holy
Communion. [...] I forewarn, and testify, and
proclaim this with a voice that all may hear! 'Let
no one who has an enemy draw near the sacred
Table, or receive the Lord's Body! Let no one
who draws near have an enemy! Do you have an
enemy? Do not approach! Do you wish to draw
near? Be reconciled, and then draw near, and
only then touch the Holy Gifts!' (Homily 20)

Thou dost not so much desire thy sins to be
forgiven, as He desires to forgive thee thy sins.
In proof that thou dost not so desire it, consider
that thou hast no mind either to practice vigils,
or to give thy money freely: but He, that He
might forgive our sins, spared not His Only-
Begotten and True Son, the partner of His
throne.

St John Chrysostom

'And forgive us our debts as we also forgive our
debtors.' For we have many sins. For we offend
both in word and in thought, and very many
things we do worthy of condemnation; and 'if
we say that we have no sin' (1 John 1.8), we lie,
as John says. [...] The offenses committed
against us are slight and trivial, and easily
settled; but those which we have committed
against God are great, and need such mercy as is
His only. Take heed, therefore, lest for the slight
and trivial sins against you, you shut out for
yourself forgiveness from God for your very
grievous sins. (Catechetical Lectures, 23.16)

For God seeks nothing else from us, save a good
purpose. Say not, How are my sins blotted out? I
tell thee, By willing, by believing. What can be
shorter than this? But if, while thy lips declare
thee willing, thy heart be silent, He knoweth the
heart, who judgeth thee. Cease from this day

from every evil deed. Let not thy tongue speak
unseemly words, let thine eye abstain from sin,
and from roving after things unprofitable.
(Procatechesis) St Cyril of Jerusalem

Do we forgive our neighbours their trespasses?
God also forgives us in His mercy. Do we refuse
to forgive? God, too, will refuse to forgive us. As
we treat our neighbours, so also does God treat
us. The forgiveness or non-forgiveness, then, of
your sins—and hence also your salvation or
destruction—depend on you yourself, man. For
without forgiveness of sins there is no salvation.
You can see for yourself how terrible it is.
St Philotheos of Sinai

No one is as good and kind as the Lord is; but He
does not forgive one who does not repent.
St Mark the Ascetic

Even if all spiritual fathers, patriarchs,
hierarchs, and all the people forgive you, you
are unforgiven if you do not repent in action.
St Kosmas Aitolos

Forgiveness is better than revenge.
St Tikhon of Zadonsk

Abba Poemen also said this about Abba Isidore
that whenever he addressed the brothers in
church he said only one thing, 'Forgive your
brother, so that you also may be forgiven.'
From the Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Often during the day I have been a great sinner,
and at night, after prayer, I have gone to rest,
justified and whiter than snow by the grace of
the Holy Spirit, with the deepest peace and joy
in my heart! How easy it will be for the Lord to
save us too in the evening of our life, at the
decline of our days! O save, save, save me, most
gracious Lord; receive me in Thy heavenly
Kingdom! Everything is possible to Thee
St John of Kronstadt

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Feb 14

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 (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 3 Kontakion (Resurrection)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One,

leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;

with the Prophets and Patriarchs//

they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

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 3 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing

praises to our King, sing praises! (Ps

46/47:6)

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Timothy 4:9-15)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all

acceptance. For to this end we both labor and

suffer reproach, because we trust in the living

God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of

those who believe. These things command and

teach.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 19:1-10)

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus

who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.

And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could

not because of the crowd, for he was of short

stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a

sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to

pass that way. And when Jesus came to the

place, He looked up and saw him, and said to

him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down,

for today I must stay at your house." So he made

haste and came down, and received Him

joyfully. But when they saw it, they all

complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord,

"Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor;

and if I have taken anything from anyone by

false accusation, I restore fourfold."

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has

come to this house, because he also is a son of

Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek

and to save that which was lost."

Communion Hymn of Sunday

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in

the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Alleluia, Alleluia,

Alleluia!



On Zacchaeus

Christ proclaims to him the good tidings of his salvation. By this house He means Zacchaeus, for the Lord would not call a building without a soul a son of Abraham. It is clear that the Lord named this living master of the house a son of Abraham, because Zacchaeus was like the patriarch in two respects: he believed and was counted righteous by faith, and with money he was magnanimous and generous to the poor. See that the Lord says that Zacchaeus is now a son of Abraham, and that in his present behavior the Lord sees the likeness to Abraham. The Lord did not say that Zacchaeus had always been a son of Abraham, but that he is now a son of Abraham. Before, when he was a chief publican and tax collector, he bore no resemblance to that righteous man, and was not his son. To silence those who were complaining that the Lord went to be the guest of a sinful man, He says, The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Anyone who is chief among many in wickedness is little in spiritual stature, for flesh and spirit are opposites to one another, and for this reason he

cannot see Jesus for the crowd. Crowded in by a multitude of passions and worldly affairs, he is not able to see Jesus acting, moving and walking about. Such a man as this cannot recognize Christian acts for what they are—Christ acting and moving in us. But such a man, who never sees Jesus passing by and cannot perceive Christ in Christian acts, will sometimes change from negligence and come to his senses. Then he will climb up to the top of the sycamore-fig, passing by every pleasure and sweetness, as signified by the figs, and counting them as foolish and dead. Becoming higher than he was and making ascents in his heart (Ps. 83:6), he is seen by Jesus and can see Jesus, and the Lord says to him, Make haste, and come down, which means, "Through repentance you have ascended to a higher life; come down now through humility lest pride and high mindedness make you fall. Make haste, and humble yourself. If you humble yourself, I must abide at your house, for it is necessary that I abide in the house of a humble man. Upon whom shall I look, if not upon him who is humble and meek, who trembles at My words? (Is. 66:2) Such a man gives half of his goods to the destitute demons. For our substance is twofold: flesh and spirit. The righteous man imparts all his fleshly substance to the truly poor, the demons who are destitute of everything good. But he does not let go of his spiritual substance, for as the Lord likewise said to the devil concerning Job, Behold, I give into thine hand all that he has, but touch not his soul (Job 1:12). And if he has taken any thing from any man by false accusation, he restores it to him fourfold. This suggests that if a man repents and follows a path that is opposite to his former way of wickedness, he heals his former sins through the four virtues (courage, prudence, righteousness, and self-control), and thus receives salvation and is called a son of Abraham. Like Abraham, he also goes out of his land and out of his kinship with his former wickedness and out of the house of his father (Gen. 12:1), meaning, he comes out from his old self and rejects his former condition. He himself was the house of his father, the devil. Therefore, when he went out of the house of his father, that is, when he went out of himself and changed, he found salvation, as did Abraham. (St Theophylact)