



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 27

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, February 28

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Tuesday, March 2

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, March 4

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, March 6

10:00 am Memorial Divine Liturgy/CS

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, March 7

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*

38th Saturday after Pentecost/Prodigal Son

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org February 27-28, 2021

Announcements

➤ This Lent, we will start a **Lenten Prayer Partners program with the youth and adults in our parish**. The goal is to create a structured opportunity for youth to have fellowship with adult members of our parish. Each youth will be paired with an adult to share a weekly prayer request and exchange simple get-to-know-you questions. This is not a large time commitment! If you are interested in participating, please contact Dn. Luke or Mat. Ashley (ashley.loboda@gmail.com, #412-715-2163).

➤ The **Orthodox Men's Group will be hosting a book group** this Lent. The group will discuss the book "Live Not By Lies" by Rod Dreher. If you are interested, please see Deacon Luke for more information.

➤ **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.

➤ **The Lenten Schedule will be included in Sunday's bulletin**. Please post it in a prominent place to make every effort to attend the Divine Services during Great Lent. We will not be curtailing services, we will actually be increasing the number of services we normally offer, since we will have all four Memorial Saturday Liturgies. May God bless your faithfulness as we approach the Lenten season.

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 **Dawna Beckett** for the departed servant Gregory Beckett (18th anniversary of his repose); for the health of our family. From **John Mahalchak** in memory of baby Patel; for the health of friends and family, especially John, Cheryl, Gregory, Kayla Elizabeth, Kevin, Steven, Theresa, Daniel, and Mary. From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko and Dyczko families. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Chuck Wasilko** for the health of sisters Doris and Marsha.

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: David (Part 2)

Scripture reference: I Samuel/Kingdoms 16-20 and II Samuel/Kingdoms 11-12

Questions to ask/review:

- What does the statement that Jonathon and David became "one in spirit" mean? How would David's life have been different without Jonathon's friendship?
- Which of these friendship characteristics do your friends exhibit? What is your own strongest friendship characteristic? Your weakest?
- Are our friends perfect? What happens when we expect them to be perfect?
- What's the greatest risk you've taken for a friend? Your friend for you? How does God work through our friendships?
- What are some famous Psalms written by David? What are they about?
- What sin did David commit? Who was Bathsheba?
- What makes us want things that aren't ours? Can you think of a time you wanted something that wasn't yours? What happened?
- What are the consequences of various sins? Give examples.
- Even though God forgives our sins, does he always eliminate the consequences? What were the consequences for David and Bathsheba?
- When you get caught doing something wrong, what do you tend to do? Why?
- In what areas of life do people tend to hide their sin the most? Why?
- Why didn't God condemn David and void His covenant with David?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Read or sing Psalms written by David from the book of Psalms.

Prayer: Lord, help us to see our sins and seek your mercy. Amen.

Hymns and Readings for Saturday, Feb 27

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 (St. Raphael)

Your proclamation has gone out through North
America,
calling the scattered sheep into the unity of the
Church.
Hearing your voice, they respond to your
teaching,
and through your writings you instructed them
in piet̄y.
Now guided by your example, O Father Raphael,
we sing hymns of praise to Christ our God:
“Glory to Him Who gave you strength!
Glory to Him Who granted you a ^crown!//
Glory to Him Who, through you, grants healing
to all!”

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

Tone 8 Kontakion (St. Raphael)

You were a guardian and a defender of the
Church’s teaching,
you protected your flock from false doctrines
and confirmed them in the trūe faith!
O holy Father Raphael, son of Syria and glory of
North America, //
always intercede before the Lord that our souls
may be saved!

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 (2 Timothy 3:1-9)

But know this, that in the last days perilous
times will come: For men will be lovers of
themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud,
blasphemers, disobedient to parents,
unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving,
slanderers, without self-control, brutal,
despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty,
lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
having a form of godliness but denying its
power. And from such people turn away! For of
this sort are those who creep into households
and make captives of gullible women loaded
down with sins, led away by various lusts,
always learning and never able to come to the
knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and
Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist
the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved
concerning the faith; but they will progress no
further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as
theirs also was.

Gospel of the Saturday (Luke 20:46-21:4)

“Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around
in long robes, love greetings in the
marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues,
and the best places at feasts, who devour
widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long
prayers. These will receive greater
condemnation.”

And He looked up and saw the rich putting their
gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain
poor widow putting in two mites. So He said,
“Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put

in more than all; for all these out of their
abundance have put in offerings for God, but she
out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that
she had.”

Communion Hymn of Saturday

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

The Widow’s Mite

BEDE; In the Greek language, signifies to keep,
and gaza in Persian means riches, hence
gazophylacium is used for the name of the place
in which money is kept. Now there was a chest
with an opening at the top placed near the altar,
on the right hand of those entering the house of
God, into which the Priests cast all the money,
which was given for the Lord’s temple. But our
Lord as He overthrows those who trade in His
house, so also He remarks those who bring gifts,
giving praise to the deserving, but condemning
the bad. Hence it follows, And he saw also a
certain poor widow casting in there two mites.

CYRIL; She offered two oboli, which with the
sweat of her brow she had earned for her daily
living, or what she daily begs for at the hands of
others she gives to God, showing that her
poverty is fruitful to her. Therefore does she
surpass the others, and by a just award receives
a crown from God; as it follows, Of a truth I say
to you, that this poor widow has cast in more,
&c.

BEDE; For whatever we offer with an honest
heart is well pleasing to God, who has respect to
the heart, not the substance, nor does He weigh
the amount of that which is given in sacrifice,
but of that from which it is taken as it follows,
For all these have cast in of their abundance, but
she all that she had.

CHRYS. For God regarded not the scantiness of

the offering, but the overflowing of the
affection. Almsgiving is not the bestowing a few
at things out of many, but it is that of the widow
emptying herself of her whole substance. But if
you cannot offer as much as the widow, at least
give all that remains over.

BEDE; Now mystically, the rich men who cast
their gifts into the treasury signify the Jews
puffed up with the righteousness of the law; the
poor widow, the simplicity of the Church which
is called poor, because it has either cast away
the spirit of pride, or its sins, as if they were
worldly riches. But the Church is a widow,
because her Husband endured death for her. She
cast two mites into the treasury, because in
God’s sight, in whose keeping are all the
offerings of our works, she presents her gifts,
whether of love to God and her neighbor, or of
faith and prayer. And these excel all the works
of the proud Jews, for they of their abundance
cast into the offerings of God, in that they
presume on their righteousness, but the Church
casts in all her living, for every thing that has
life she believes to be the gift of God.

THEOPHYL. Or the widow may be taken to mean
any soul bereft as it were of her first husband,
the ancient law, and not worthy to be united to
the Word of God. Who brings to God instead of a
dowry faith and a good conscience, and so seems
to offer more than those who are rich in words,
and abound in the moral virtues of the Gentiles.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Feb 28

Tone 5 Troparion of the Resurrection

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 4 Troparion of 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 of St Nicholas

You appeared as a priest in Myra, O Saint Nicholas, Fulfilling the gospel of Christ, O ven'rable one; You laid down your life for your people And rescued the innocent from death. Therefore you have been blest as a great init'ate of the grace of God.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 Kontakion from the Lenten Triodion

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me. And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal: "I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father;

receive me as a penitent, // and make me as one of Thy hired servants!"

Tone 5 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever. (*Ps. 11:7*)

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 15:11-32)

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all

together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.' "

"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

"Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'

"But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo,

these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

"And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

Communion Hymn of Sunday

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Prodigal Son

Since there are some who are conscious of having lived prodigally from a very early age, giving themselves over to drunkenness and licentiousness and falling thereby into a depth of evils, and have reached despair, which is the offspring of vaunting; and since, for this reason, they have no desire to devote themselves to the pursuit of virtue, putting forward the swarm of their evils as an excuse, and since they are forever falling into the same evils and worse than these, the Holy Fathers, wishing, in their paternal loving-kindness towards such people, to lead them away from despair, placed this parable here after the first one, pulling out the passion of despair root and branch and arousing them to acquire virtue, and, through the story of the Prodigal Son, showing God's loving and exceedingly good mercies towards those who have sinned very greatly, proving from this parable of Christ's that **there is no sin which can overcome His love for mankind.**