



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, 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
Meatfare Luncheon following

Tuesday, March 9

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, March 10

7:00 pm Bible Study (Online only)

Thursday, March 11

NO MATINS OR OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, March 13

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, March 14

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
Blini Luncheon following

7:00 pm Forgiveness Vespers

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*

Meatfare Saturday/Sunday Last Judgment

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

March 6-7, 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 is now available at the candle desk**. 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.

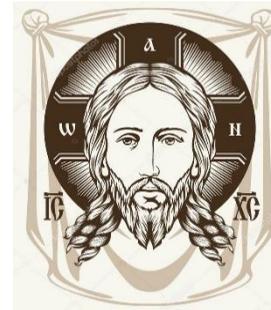
Prayers

➤ **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 **John Kowalcheck and Olga Cozza** for the health of Galina Vilkova. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant of God John Polny and Happy Birthday and Many Years to Chuck Wasilko. From **Chuck Wasilko** for the departed servant of God John Polny. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant of God John Polny; for Chuck on his birthday. From the **John Mahalchak Family** for the health of friends and family, especially John, Cheryl, Gregory, Kayla Elizabeth, Mary, Daniel, Steven, and Theresa. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servants of God, Michelle Bittner (1 year), and Reader Leonard Soroka (2 years); for the health of John Naiser.

Thank You

➤ to **John and Deb Burgess** for sponsoring these categories of monthly donations for March: (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25) and to the **John Mahalchak family** (Incense \$10) for the health of friends and 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.

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Solomon

Scripture reference: I/III Kings 1-3, 6-7, II Chronicles 3-9, Proverbs

Questions to ask/review:

- Who was Solomon? Who was his mother? His father?
- Who tried to steal Solomon's throne before David was even dead?
- What did the people shout when Solomon was anointed king?
- What animal did Solomon ride to be anointed king?
- Who was the prophet of David and Solomon?
- How did God appear to Solomon? What did Solomon ask for? Why?
- What actions demonstrated Solomon's wisdom?
- What great achievement did God allow Solomon to accomplish?
- Describe the design of Solomon's temple. What was the purpose of the inner/outer courts and the Holy of Holies?
- What three books of the Bible did Solomon write? How is each book different?
- When is the book of Proverbs read in the church? What are some themes from the Book of Proverbs?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Build a model of Solomon's temple out of cardboard or another material.
- Challenge each member of the family to memorize a memorable verse from Proverbs.

Prayer: Lord, gives us the wisdom of Solomon. Amen.

Hymns and Readings for Saturday, Mar 6

Tone 8 Troparion for the Departed

Thou only Creator Who, with wisdom profound,
mercifully orderest all things,
and givest unto all that which is useful:
Give rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy servants
who have fallen asleep,//
for they have placed their trust in Thee, our
Maker and Fashioner, and our God.

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

Tone 8 Kontakion for the Departed

With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls
of Thy servants,
where sickness and sorrow are no more
neither sighing, but life everlasting!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 8 Theotokion for the Departed

We have thee as a wall and a haven
and an intercessor well-pleasing unto God,//
Whom thou hast borne O Virgin Theotokos, the
salvation of the faithful.

Tone 6 Prokeimenon for the Departed

Their souls shall dwell with the blessed. (*Ps.*
24:13a)

Epistle of the Saturday (1 Corinthians 10:23-28)

All things are lawful for me, but not all things
are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not
all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but
each one the other's well-being.

Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking
no questions for conscience' sake; for "the earth
is the Lord's, and all its fullness."

If any of those who do not believe invites you to
dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set
before you, asking no question for conscience'

sake. But if anyone says to you, "This was
offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the
one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for
"the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."

Epistle for the Departed (1 Thes 4:13-17)

I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren,
concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest
you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if
we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even
so God will bring with Him those who sleep in
Jesus.

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive and remain until the
coming of the Lord will by no means precede
those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will
descend from heaven with a shout, with the
voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of
God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then
we who are alive and remain shall be caught up
together with them in the clouds to meet the
Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be
with the Lord.

Gospel of the Saturday (Lk 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36)

And He said: "Take heed that you not be
deceived. For many will come in My name,
saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn
near.' Therefore do not go after them. But when
you hear of wars and commotions, do not be
terrified; for these things must come to pass
first, but the end will not come immediately."

"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon,
and in the stars; and on the earth distress of
nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves
roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and
the expectation of those things which are
coming on the earth, for the powers of the
heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the
Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and
great glory.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words
will by no means pass away.

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be
weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and
cares of this life, and that Day come on you
unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all
those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.
Watch therefore, and pray always that you may
be counted worthy to escape all these things
that will come to pass, and to stand before the
Son of Man."

Gospel for the Departed (John 5:24-30)

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My
word and believes in Him who sent Me has
everlasting life, and shall not come into
judgment, but has passed from death into life.
Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming,
and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of
the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For
as the Father has life in Himself, so He has
granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has
given Him authority to execute judgment also,
because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at
this; for the hour is coming in which all who are
in the graves will hear His voice and come
forth—those who have done good, to the
resurrection of life, and those who have done
evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. I can
of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My
judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My
own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

Communion Hymn for the Departed

Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen and
taken, O Lord. Their memory is from generation
to generation. (*Ps. 64:4a; 101:12b*) Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Souls Saturday

We always commemorate souls on Saturday,
because Sabbaton (Sabbath) means "rest" in

Hebrew; and since the dead have rested from
worldly and all other cares, we offer
supplications for them also on the day which
means "rest." It has become customary for us to
do this every Saturday. On the present Saturday,
we observe a universal commemoration,
beseeching God for all the pious. The Fathers,
knowing well that what is done on behalf of the
reposed, that is, memorial services, almsgiving,
and Liturgies, affords them great respite and
benefit, allow the Church to do so on both an
individual and a general basis, a tradition which
they received from the Holy Apostles, as St.
Dionysios the Areopagite tells us.

Until the Second Coming of Christ, whatever is
done on behalf of the departed brings benefit to
them, as the Divine Fathers affirm, and, in
particular, to those who did even some small
amount of good when they were numbered
among the living. Although Holy Scripture says
certain things—and rightly so—for the
chastening of the many, yet God's love for
mankind prevails for the most part. We should
know that in the next world all will recognize
each other, both those whom they know and
those whom they have never seen, as the Divine
Chrysostomos says, proving this from the
parable of the Rich man and Lazarus. They will
not, however, be recognized in bodily form, for
everyone will be the same age, and their
physical characteristics will be absent, but only
by the clairvoyant eye of the soul, as St. Gregory
the Theologian says in his funeral oration for
Cæsarios: "Then shall I see Cæsarios... brilliant,
glorious,...such as in my dreams I have often
beheld you, dearest of brothers." St. Athanasios
the Great, in his oration on the departed, says:
"Even before the general Resurrection, it is
given to the Saints to know each other and to
make glad with one another, whereas sinners
are deprived of this; and to the Holy Martyrs it
is given to see what we do and to visit us in our
needs. At the general Resurrection, all will
recognize each other and the secrets of all will
be made manifest."

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, March 7

Tone 6 Troparion of the 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 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 1 Kontakion from the Lenten Triodion

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with
glory,
all things shall tremble,
and the river of fire shall flow before Thy
judgment seat;

the books shall be opened, and the hidden things
disclosed;
then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, //
and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand,
O Righteous Judge!

Tone 3 Prokeimenon of the Triodion

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, His
understanding is beyond measure. (Ps. 146:5)

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2)

But food does not commend us to God; for
neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do
not eat are we the worse.

But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours
become a stumbling block to those who are
weak. For if anyone sees you who have
knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not
the conscience of him who is weak be
emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?
And because of your knowledge shall the weak
brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when
you thus sin against the brethren, and wound
their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.
Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I
will never again eat meat, lest I make my
brother stumble.

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not
seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work
in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet
doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my
apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 25:31-46)

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and
all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on
the throne of His glory. All the nations will be
gathered before Him, and He will separate them
one from another, as a shepherd divides his
sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep

on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then
the King will say to those on His right hand,
‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the
kingdom prepared for you from the foundation
of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me
food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was
a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and
you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I
was in prison and you came to Me.’

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying,
‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed
You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we
see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and
clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in
prison, and come to You?’ And the King will
answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you,
inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of
these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand,
‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the
everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his
angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no
food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I
was a stranger and you did not take Me in,
naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in
prison and you did not visit Me.’

“Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord,
when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a
stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did
not minister to You?’ Then He will answer them,
saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you
did not do it to one of the least of these, you did
not do it to Me.’ And these will go away into
everlasting punishment, but the righteous into
eternal life.”

Communion Hymn of Sunday

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

The Last Judgment

After this, the Lord will suddenly come from
Heaven like lightning, preceded by His honorable
Cross, and a river of boiling fire will go before
Him, cleansing the entire earth of pollution. The
Antichrist will immediately be seized, and he and
his minions will be handed over to the eternal fire.
As the Angels sound their trumpets, the entire
human race will be gathered together from the
ends of the earth, and from all the elements, in
Jerusalem, because this is the center of the world,
and there are set thrones for judgment, but with
their souls and bodies all transformed into
incorruption and having a single form, the
elements themselves having been transformed into
a superior state, and by a single word the Lord will
separate the righteous from the sinners; those who
have done good will depart, gaining eternal life,
whereas the sinners will go to eternal punishment,
and never will there be an end to their torments.
It should be known that Christ will not be looking
at that time for fasting, bodily hardships, or
miracles, good though these things are, but for
things that are far superior, namely, almsgiving
and compassion. To the righteous and the sinners
He will speak of six virtues: “For I was an hungred,
and ye gave Me food; I was thirsty, and ye gave Me
drink; I was a stranger, and ye took Me in; naked,
and ye clothed Me; I was sick, and ye visited Me; I
was in prison, and ye came unto Me; for inasmuch
as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My
brethren, ye have done it unto Me.” Everyone can
do these things according to his own ability. Then
every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. The torments which
the Holy Gospel recounts are these: “there shall be
weeping and gnashing of teeth, where their worm
dieth not, and the fire is not quenched; and cast
him into the outer darkness.” Clearly accepting all
these things, the Church of God believes that the
abiding of the Saints with God and the perpetual
effulgence of His light and their ascent to Him are
the delight of Paradise and the Kingdom of Heaven,
and that alienation from God and the consumption
of souls by the awareness that, through
carelessness and temporal pleasure, they have
been deprived of Divine illumination are the
torment, the darkness, and the like.