



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!

Schedule This Week

Sunday, April 30

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Tuesday, May 2

9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am to Noon Office Hours

Thursday, May 4

9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am to Noon Office Hours

Saturday, May 6

No Services on Saturday

Sunday, May 7

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School



To our Visitors: Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, Rector
Deacon Luke Loboda, Attached
Deacon John Skowron, Attached
Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Holy Myrrhbearers
McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org April 30, 2023

Announcements

➤ The Parish Council will be conducting a **two-week period of feedback from parishioners** and regular attendees **regarding their experience of the current temple configuration** of a standing area and a seating area of pews. There are two ways you can give your feedback: on paper (the forms are at the candle desk), or via electronic form. *The electronic form will be sent via email today to everyone on the parish email list.* Your feedback is an important factor in expressing your views as individual members of the body of Christ and gauging our corporate view as a community. Your responses must include your name and signature (or email address, when electronic) Multiple submissions from one person will not be accepted. The feedback period will be open from Sunday, April 30 to Sunday, May 14, 2023.

➤ We are in great need of **coffee hour hosts**. Can you help? You can sign up either downstairs on the chart or to go <https://shorturl.at/gmsw8> and sign up. We need you!

➤ **Pro-Life Ministry Drive:** The mom and baby gift bags are due. Please see Matushka Joni or Mary Hoffman with your fulfilled bags. Thank you for your generosity!

➤ **Fr Thomas will be on a brief vacation** from Friday, May 5 through Sunday, May 7. For any emergencies, please contact him directly via text at 412-206-5012.



Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* John Mahalchak (son), *Home:* (none). *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka.
➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, for Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the departed servant, twin brother, Richard; for the health of Elaine, Hamilton, family, and friends. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, George Shaytar. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, father, Charles; the health of Doris. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova and for the health and salvation of our families. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, Robert, family members & newly departed; for the health of family, friends, siblings & serving soldiers-for special intention, peace, and birthday of sister, Tamara. From **Jan Widel** for the departed servant, George Shaytar-Memory Eternal. From **the Pravlochaks** for the health of brother, David and granddaughter, Christina. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, Daniel, Amelia, Ann, and Michael; for the health of my family; special intentions. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servant, George Shaytar. From **Larry & Suzy Polny** for the departed servant, George Shaytar; for the health of Nancy. From **the John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends and family-John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, and Cindy.

Thank You

➤ to our **April** donor Lindy Hamilton for all categories for donating all categories (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$50, 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: Protestant Reformation Part I

Questions to ask/review:

- What were "indulgences"? Why did this and other practices/beliefs in the Western church cause controversy?
- Who was Martin Luther? What did he teach? How do his teachings differ from Orthodoxy?
- Who was John Calvin? What did he teach? How do his teachings differ from Orthodoxy?

Suggested Activities at Home:
Reflecting upon this past Lent's services as a family, emphasize the beauty and depth of these services.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the gift of the Orthodox faith which is the fullness of the Truth.

"We do not change the boundaries marked out by the Fathers. We keep the Tradition we have received. If we begin to lay aside the Law of the Church even in the smallest things, the whole edifice will fall to the ground in no short time."
- St John of Damascus

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, April 30

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 2 Troparion (Pentecostarion)

The noble Joseph,
when he had taken down Thy most pure Body
from the Tree,
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with
spices,
and placed it in a new tomb.
But Thou didst arise on the third day, O Lord,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 8 Troparion (St. James)

Thou wast called to be a disciple and warrior of
Christ, one of the exalted choir of Apostles.
With thy brother John, thou didst abandon all to
follow the Master, O James;
thou wast filled with the Holy Spirit and didst
proclaim Him to all.
Thou didst bow thy head to the sword, the first
of the twelve to shed thy blood!//
We celebrate thy memory, O blessed one!

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

Tone 2 Kontakion (St. James)

O James, when thou didst hear the voice of the
Word calling thee,
thou didst abandon thy father’s love and ran to
Christ, together with thy brother John.
With him thou wast accounted worthy//
to behold the divine Transfiguration of Christ.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 2 Kontakion (Pentecostarion)

Thou didst command the Myrrhbearers to
rejoice, O Christ God.
By Thy Resurrection, Thou didst stop the
lamentation of Eve, the first mother.
Thou didst command them to preach to Thine
Apostles://
“The Savior is risen from the tomb!”

Tone 6 Prokeimenon

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine
inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

Epistle of the Sunday (Acts 6:1-7)

Now in those days, when the number of the
disciples was multiplying, there arose a
complaint against the Hebrews by the
Hellenists, because their widows were neglected
in the daily distribution. Then the twelve
summoned the multitude of the disciples and
said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the
word of God and serve tables. Therefore,
brethren, seek out from among you seven men
of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and
wisdom, whom we may appoint over this
business; but we will give ourselves continually
to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And
they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the
Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor,
Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from
Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and
when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

Then the word of God spread, and the number of
the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem,
and a great many of the priests were obedient to
the faith.

Gospel of the Sunday (Mark 15:43-16:8)

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council
member, who was himself waiting for the
kingdom of God, coming and taking courage,
went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.
Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and
summoning the centurion, he asked him if He
had been dead for some time. So when he found
out from the centurion, he granted the body to
Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him
down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he
laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of
the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of
the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the
mother of Josés observed where He was laid.

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary
Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and
Salome bought spices, that they might come and
anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the
first day of the week, they came to the tomb
when the sun had risen. And they said among
themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from
the door of the tomb for us?” But when they
looked up, they saw that the stone had been
rolled away—for it was very large. And entering
the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a
long white robe sitting on the right side; and
they were alarmed.

But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You
seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is
risen! He is not here. See the place where they
laid Him. But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—
that He is going before you into Galilee; there
you will see Him, as He said to you.”

So they went out quickly and fled from the
tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And
they said nothing to anyone, for they were
afraid.

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

“Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: ‘Rejoice,
your Son is risen from His three days in the
tomb!
With Himself He has raised all the dead.’”
Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the
Lord has shone on you. Exult now, and be glad,
O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the
Resurrection of your Son!

Communion Hymn of the Sunday

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of
immortality! Their proclamation has gone out
into all the earth, and their words to the ends of
the universe. (Ps. 18:4) Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia!

His Feast and Ours

(Gregory the Great) These women who come with
their spices see angels, for the souls who, moved
by holy desires, walk towards the Lord with the
perfumes of their virtues see the inhabitants of the
city from above. We need to notice what it means
to see the angel sitting on the right. What
symbolizes the left, if not the present life, and the
right, if not eternal life? This is why it is written in
the Song of Songs, "His left arm is under my head,
and his right embraces me" (Ct 2, 6). Since our
Redeemer had freed himself from the corruption of
the present life, it was natural for the angel who
came to announce his eternal life to be seated on
the right. He appeared dressed in a white dress,
because he announced the joys of our feast. The
shine of his garment is the sign of the splendor of
our solemnity. Should we call it our solemnity or
his? But to speak more exactly, let's call it both
hers and ours. The Resurrection of our Redeemer
was our feast, because it brought us back to
immortality; it was also the feast of the angels,
since in making us return to Heaven, she
completed their number. An angel appeared in
white clothing on this day, which is also his feast
and our feast, because while the Lord's
Resurrection brings us back to Heaven, it repairs
the losses suffered by the heavenly homeland.