



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, March 3

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

5:30 pm Pan-Orthodox Choir Concert/Mt Lebanon

Tuesday, March 5

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, March 7

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, March 9

....11:00 am Retreat at Cathedral/Allison Park PA

4:30 pm Confession

5:00 pm Parish Vigil

Sunday, March 10

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

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

March 3, 2024

Announcements

➤ **We are pleased to announce that an anonymous donor has pledged \$25,000 as a matching donation challenge to kick off the dome restoration fund.** This particular matching challenge will end on Pascha.

We prayerfully ask that you consider giving a generous donation to help meet this matching challenge by Pascha (May 5, 2024).

While we do not have the exact cost for the front three domes, our estimate is \$350,000-400,000. **Our goal is to raise at least \$150,000 this year.**

On the Two Sons: For some there are who live a perfectly honorable and consistent life, practicing every kind of virtuous action, and abstaining from every thing disapproved by the law of God, and crowning themselves with perfect praises in the sight of God and of men: while another is perhaps weak and trodden down, and humbled unto every kind of wickedness, guilty of base deeds, loving impurity, given to covetousness, and stained with all evil. And yet such a one often in old age turns unto God, and asks the forgiveness of his former offences: he prays for mercy, and putting away from him his readiness to fall into sin, sets his affection on virtuous deeds. Or even perhaps when about to close his mortal life, he is admitted to divine baptism, and puts away his offences, God being merciful unto him. And perhaps sometimes persons are indignant at this, and even say, 'This man, who has been guilty of such and such actions, and has spoken such and such words, has not paid unto the judge the retribution of his conduct, but has been counted worthy of a grace thus noble and admirable: he has been inscribed among the sons of God, and honored with the glory of the saints.' Such complaints men sometimes give utterance too from an empty narrowness of mind, not conforming to the purpose of the universal Father. (St Cyril of Alexandria)

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** Known to be hospitalized (none); Home: John Mahalchak (son). William Warnak, Nancy Shaytar, Donya Yewisiak. *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, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family and Nancy Shaytar. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris and Marsha, and Natalie Toooh. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova. From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Kristie Mertz** for the departed servants, grandmother, Gertrude, grandfather, Bela, brother-in-law, Jurgen Mertz, and Grace Gaita. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton and Scott families, and Nancy Shaytar. From **the John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Gregory, Cindy, and Mary, Sarah (child to be born), and Kayla Elizabeth (child to be born).

Thank you

➤ to our **March donors: Charles Wasilko** (Altar Candles \$25) in thanksgiving on his birthday. John Mahalchak Family (Incense \$10) for the health of family and friends.

Looking ahead:

Sunday March 10 – Meatfare Sunday

Sunday, March 17 – Cheesefare Sunday

Monday, March 18 – Great Lent Begins

Sunday, March 31 – Western Easter

Sunday, May 5 – Holy Pascha

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Chrismation

Questions to ask/review:

- Who is the Holy Spirit? How is He described?
- How is our Chrismation like our personal Pentecost?
- What happened at Pentecost?
- What is the fruit of the Spirit?
- What is the meaning of the cutting of hair?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Make a seal using air-drying clay. Put a dove or flame on it and use it to seal letters. Discuss the meaning of your seal at Chrismation.

Prayer: Lord, fill me with the fire of your Holy Spirit, given to me at my chrismation.

Visit our **Church Library next door in the Educational Building!** We have over 1,000 books for people of all ages and learning levels! See our librarians, Kristie Mertz and Lindy Hamilton for assistance.

Suggested Lenten reading titles:

- The Lenten Spring - *Fr. Thomas Hopko*
- Way of the Ascetics - *Tito Colliander*
- The Life of St Mary of Eygpt - *St Sophronius of Jerusalem*
- **The Spiritual Psalter / Reflections on God** - *St Ephraim the Syrian*
- **Great Lent: Journey to Pascha** - *Fr Alexander Schmemmann*

Chapter books for the young readers:

- Beyond The White Fence and Down the Valley -*Edith M Humphrey*
- St Innocent of Alaska
- The Purple Mantle
- Keeper of Light

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 Sunday, March 3

Tone 6 Troparion (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 (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 (St Nicholas)

Thou didst appear as a priest in Myra, O Saint Nicholas

Fulfilling the gospel of Christ, O ven'rable one.

Thou didst lay down thy life for thy people,

and didst rescue the innocent from death,

Therefore thou hast been blest as a great initiate 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 6 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

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

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

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

As soon as the Prodigal Son came to himself, perishing as he was from a deficit of virtue, he went to his Father, saying: “Father, I have sinned against Heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.” The Father received him in repentance, not chiding him, but embracing him, showing His Divine and paternal compassion; and He gave him a robe, that is, Holy Baptism, and a ring, that is, a seal and a pledge, the Grace of the All-Holy Spirit; in addition to this, He gave him shoes, so that his godly footsteps might no longer be wounded by serpents and scorpions, but rather, that he might be able to crush their heads. Thereafter, in His exceeding joy, the Father sacrificed the fatted calf for him, His Only-Begotten Son, granting him to partake of His Flesh and Blood. And yet, the elder son, marvelling at His boundless compassion, said all that he said in the parable. But the loving Father calmly restrained him with kind and gentle words: “Son, thou art ever with me, and it was meet for thee to make merry with thy Father, and be glad: for this my son was formerly dead in sin, and is alive again, after repenting of his wicked deeds; having been lost and become estranged from me by his life of pleasure, he was found again through me, for I felt compassion and called him back by my sympathetic disposition.”



Orthodox Hymns of Lent and Pascha

Sunday, March 3, 2024 5:30 pm

St Paul's Episcopal Church
1066 Washington Road
Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228

performed by
**The Pan-Orthodox Choir
of Pittsburgh**

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh & Western Pennsylvania

WHAT DO PEOPLE NEED FROM THE CHURCH?

- How to Lead Effective Christian Ministry -

with **Steven Christoforou**

*Director of Operations & Community
Engagement for FOCUS North America*



RETREAT FOR LAITY

Saturday, March 9

\$20 registration at the door

Memorial Liturgy at 9am • Continental Breakfast, following
Session 1 at 11am • Lunch at 12pm • Session 2 at 1:15pm

ST. ALEXANDER NEVSKY CATHEDRAL

8290 Thompson Run Rd, Allison Park, PA 15101

To register contact - Fr. David Vernak

✉ frdavidvernak@verizon.net ☎ (201) 704-6217