



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 10: Meatfare Sunday

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Tuesday, March 12

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, March 13

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

7:00 pm Bible Study (final session before Lent)

Thursday, March 14

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, March 16

....Noon to 2:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Choir Rehearsal

4:30 pm Confession

5:00 pm Parish Vigil

Sunday, March 17: Cheesefare Sunday

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

7:00 pm Forgiveness Vespers

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 Last Judgment

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

March 10, 2024

Announcements

➤ The 2024 **Lenten Schedule** is included in the bulletin and is available for download online.

➤ You are invited to join the **Lenten Prayer Partners program** between the youth (3rd grade and above) 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 weekly prayer requests and answer simple get-to-know-you questions. This is not a large time commitment and enriches our church community! If you are interested in participating, please contact Dn. Luke or Mat. Ashley (ashley.loboda@gmail.com, #412-715-2163).

➤ **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.**

➤ **Looking ahead:**

Monday, March 18 – Great Lent Begins

Sunday, March 31 – Western Easter

Sunday, May 5 – Holy Pascha

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 servants, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, John Polny; for the health of Chuck on his birthday-Many Years! From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, John Polny. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, John Polny; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Chuck! From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, brother, and the newly departed; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for special intention, peace, and birthdays. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova, and for Olga Cozza and Nora Xenia on their birthdays. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of John Naiser and daughter, Natalie. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Kayla Elizabeth (child to be born), and Sarah (child to be born); safe travels for family & friends. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton and Scott families. From **the Pravlochaks** for the health of Chuck Wasilko on his birthday, and our family. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servants, Michelle Bittner and Reader Leonard Soroka. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of Charles on his birthday, health, and peace to my family; special intentions.

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.

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: Divine Liturgy Part I: Preparation to Liturgy of Catechumens

Questions to ask/review:

- What do the priest and deacon do before the liturgy begins? (Proskomedia)
- How can we best prepare for liturgy?
- What three songs do we sing at the beginning of liturgy? Where do the words come from?
- What happens at the Little Entrance?
- What songs are sung immediately after the Little Entrance?
- What is the Trisagion Hymn?
- What readings are chanted each Sunday?
- Why is this part of the liturgy known as the "Liturgy of the Catechumens"? (Catechumens could stay and participate fully during this part)

Suggested Activities at home:

- Make liturgy cards with brief descriptions. Shuffle them and have your child put them in order.
- Make a list of living and departed for your family to pray for on the way to Church. This will remind you of how the priest remembers them during the Proskomedia.

Prayer: Lord, bless us with the miracle of Your Body and Blood, this week and every week.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, March 10

Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change
weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ
God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//
granting 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 (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 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 (Lenten 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

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

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 Egypt - *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

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, “Who will render to every man according to his deeds” (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God’s mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ’s brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).