



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 7

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

6:00 pm Diocesan Vespers (St Alexendr N.Hills)

Monday, April 8

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

Tuesday, April 9

9:00 am Lenten Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, April 10

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Lenten Fellowship Meal following Liturgy

Thursday, April 11

9:00 am Lenten Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Friday, April 12

7:00 pm Akathist to the Passion of Christ

Saturday, April 13

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, April 14

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Note: Clean up Day is Saturday, April 20 at 9a!

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, Rector

Deacon Luke Loboda, Attached

Deacon John Skowron, Attached

Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Veneration of the Precious Cross

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

April 7, 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.**

➤ **Dome Restoration Fund report:** We have are almost at our matching goal of \$25,000 by Pascha (\$22,696)! Help up us over the top! Remember, this is only one third of the **\$150,000 that we must raise by November**, but this is a great start! God bless all of our donors!

➤ **Diocesan Youth Day at PNC Park** (Pirates vs Cubs) Friday, May 10 at 6:40 pm. \$33 per person (which includes a \$10.00 food and beverage credit). Contact: Fr Alexander Cadman at 814-321-4473 or fralex@orthodoxclearfield.org. **Deadline to Order is April 10.**

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.

Prayers

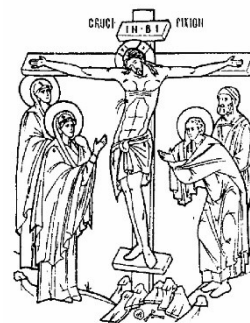
➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized* (none); *Home:* John Mahalchak (son). William Warnak, Nancy Shaytar, Donya Yewisiak. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka.

➤ **Vigil Lights From Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants from the Wasilko family; for the health of brother, Chuck. From **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, brother, Joseph, Nan and Paul; for the health of siblings, family, friends, & serving soldiers, especially Kiprian, Xena, and Jennifer, for special intentions, birthdays, peace, and prayer pals. From **Jim & Leslie Wokutch** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell, Olga Mell, and James V. Wokutch; for the health of James & Leslie, Gregory, and Mat. Nancy. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Nancy Shaytar and special intention. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, mother, Amelia, Aunt Ann & Uncle Michael; for the health of Andrea, Nicholas & families.

Thank you

➤ to our **April donors:**

Alexandria Tirpak (\$50 Holy Bread) for the health of family and friends and for all departed family members. **Mertz Family** (\$25 Altar Candles) for Theodor on his birthday.



This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Marriage

Questions to ask/review:

- What does God mean in Genesis when He says, "It is not good that man should be alone"?
- What did God command Adam and Eve in the garden? Who will be the citizens of their new kingdom?
- What is a martyr? In what way are a husband and wife martyrs to each other? Their children?
- Do we marry for self-satisfaction or for our salvation? How can marriage help save us? Is marriage for everyone? Why not?
- In what ways is a Christian marriage a partnership of equals? Does equality mean identical roles?
- According to Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, what is the role of the husband? What is the role of the wife?
- What are some common falsehoods and/or misunderstandings about marriage that are often taught in society today?
- How does the Church view divorce? What did Christ say about divorce?
- Describe the wedding service, its structure, and purpose.
- In what way are the newly crowned couple the King and Queen of their household?
- In what way are the crowns the crowns of the Kingdom?
- Which Old Testament couples are referred to in the wedding service? Why?
- What couples are mentioned from the New Testament? Why?
- How are these above couples good or bad examples of godly marriage?
- What do the Epistle and Gospel lessons of the service teach us?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Share photos, videos, and memories from your wedding or other family members.
- Make grape juice with your child from water; explain how Jesus made the water turn into wine without a can of juice.

Prayer: Our Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for blessing the wedding at Cana, and bless the marriages of your people.

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, April 7

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

Tone 1 Troparion of the Cross

O Lord, save Thy people,

and bless Thine inheritance!

Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians

over their adversaries;

and by virtue of Thy Cross,//

preserve Thy habitation!

Tone 1 Troparion (St. Tikhon)

Let us praise Tikhon, the Patriarch of All Russia,

and Enlightener of North America,

an ardent follower of the apostolic traditions,

and good pastor of the Church of Christ,

who was elected by Divine Providence,

and laid down his life for his sheep!

Let us sing to him with faith and hope,

and ask for his hierarchical intercessions:

keep the Church in Russia in tranquility,

and the Church in North America in peace;

gather her scattered children into one flock,

bring to repentance those who have renounced

the True Faith,

preserve our lands from civil strife,//

and entreat God's peace for all people!

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

Tone 2 Kontakion (St. Tikhon)

A gentle manner adorned thee:

thou didst show kindness and compassion to

those who repented;

thou wast firm and unbending in confessing the

Orthodox Faith,

and zealous in loving the Lord.

O holy Hierarch of Christ and Confessor Tikhon,

pray for us that we may not be separated from

the love of God,//

which is of Christ Jesus, our Lord!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 7 Kontakion (Cross)

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the

gates of Eden;

it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood

of the Cross.

The sting of death and the victory of hell have

been vanquished;

for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and cried to

those in hell://

“Enter again into Paradise!”

Instead of the Trisagion

Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O

Master, and Thy holy Resurrection we glorify.

Tone 6 Prokeimenon (Cross)

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine

inheritance! (*Ps. 27:9a*)

Epistle of the Sunday (*Hebrews 4:14-5:6*)

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest

who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the

Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For

we do not have a High Priest who cannot

sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all

points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us

therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,

that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help

in time of need.

For every high priest taken from among men is

appointed for men in things pertaining to God,

that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for

sins. He can have compassion on those who are

ignorant and going astray, since he himself is

also subject to weakness. Because of this he is

required as for the people, so also for himself, to

offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this

honor to himself, but he who is called by God,

just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become

High Priest, but it was He who said to Him:

“You are My Son,

Today I have begotten You.”

As He also says in another place:

“You are a priest forever

According to the order of Melchizedek.”

Gospel of the Sunday (*Mark 8:34-9:1*)

When He had called the people to Himself, with

His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever

desires to come after Me, let him deny himself,

and take up his cross, and follow Me. For

whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but

whoever loses his life for My sake and the

gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a

man if he gains the whole world, and loses his

own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange

for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and

My words in this adulterous and sinful

generation, of him the Son of Man also will be

ashamed when He comes in the glory of His

Father with the holy angels.”

And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you

that there are some standing here who will not

taste death till they see the kingdom of God

present with power.”

Hymn to the Theotokos (*Liturgy of St Basil*)

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace:

the assembly of angels and the race of men.

O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise,

the glory of virgins,

from whom God was incarnate and became a

Child –

our God before the ages.

He made your body into a throne,

and your womb He made more spacious than the

heavens.

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace.

Glory to you!

Communion Hymn

The light of Thy countenance has shone on us, O

Lord. (Ps. 4:7a) The righteous shall be in

everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil

tidings! (Ps. 111:6) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

On this third Sunday of the Great Fast we

celebrate the Veneration of the precious and life-

giving Cross. Since during the forty days of the

Fast we are also in a way crucified, mortified to

the passions, contrite, abased and despondent, the

precious and life-giving Cross is offered to us as

refreshment and confirmation, calling to mind the

Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and comforting us.

If our God was crucified for our sake, how great

should be our effort for His sake, since our

afflictions have been assuaged through the Lord's

tribulations, and by the commemoration and the

hope of the Cross of glory. For as our Savior in

ascending the Cross was glorified through

dishonor and grief; so should we also endure our

sorrows, in order to be glorified with Him. Also, as

those who have traveled a long hard road, weighed

down by the labors of their journey, in finding a

shady tree, take their ease for a moment and

continue their journey rejuvenated, so now in this

time of the Fast, this sorrowful and laborious

journey, the Holy Fathers have planted the life-

giving Cross, for our relief and refreshment, to

encourage and make easier the labors that lie

ahead. So it is fitting that the Holy Fathers have

planted the Tree of the Cross in the middle of the

Forty Day Fast to commemorate both Adam's

tasting of its sweet fruit and of its being taken

from us in favor of the Tree of the Cross, tasting of

which we shall in no way die, but will have even

greater life.