



## 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 14

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

### Monday, April 15

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

### Tuesday, April 16

9:00 am Lenten Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

### Wednesday, April 17

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Lenten Fellowship Meal following Liturgy

### Thursday, April 18

9:00 am Lenten Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

### Friday, April 19

7:00 pm Akathist to St Nicholas

### Saturday, April 20

9:00 am Church Clean-up Day

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, April 21

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

6:00 pm Deanery Vespers St John, New Ken

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, Rector

Deacon Luke Loboda, Attached

Deacon John Skowron, Attached

Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

**St John of "The Ladder of Divine Ascent"**

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

April 14, 2024

## Announcements

➤ This Saturday, April 20 beginning at 9:00 am, we will have our **annual Church Clean-up Day** to prepare our church and property for Holy Pascha. Besides the normal task of cleaning the inside of the church and all the brass work, we will be working on repairing and painting some damage in the educational building, and painting the container in the parking lot (weather permitting).

➤ **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!

**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 servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, Mary & Uncle John, parents, Pete, Dorothy, and Betty, brother, Robert; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for special intention, peace, anniversaries, and birthdays. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova and Nicholas, Elizabeth, & family on their travels. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Nancy Shaytar; special intention. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Kayla Elizabeth, Ivy, Scarlett, and Sarah. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton & Scott families, and Nancy Shaytar. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Nina, Sergei, Polina, Slava, Bruce, Galina, Luba, Daina, Marina, Roman, and Marina; for the health of Tatyana, Tomas, Veronika, Kristofer, Daniel, Nancy, Andreia, and Joe. From **Kristie Mertz** for the health of Cheryl.

## 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 14

## **Tone 4 Troparion** (Resurrection)

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is 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.

## **Tone 1 Troparion** (St. John Climacus)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! Glory to Him Who granted thee a ^crown!// Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

## **Tone 4 Kontakion** (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master,// He has risen on the third day!

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

## **Tone 4 Kontakion** (St. John Climacus)

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe,// O our father and teacher John.

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

## **Tone 6 Kontakion of the Theotokos**

Steadfast protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator, do not despise the cry of us sinners, but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our intercessions and to intercede for us, O Theotokos For you always protect those who honor you.

## **Tone 6 Prokeimenon** (Cross)

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

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (Hebrews 6:13-20)

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

## **Gospel of the Sunday** (Mark 9:17-31)

Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.” Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?”

And he said, “From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so

that many said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”

So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”

Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”

## **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**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! (Ps. 111:6) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

“Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly the angel who guards you will honor your patience. While a wound is still fresh and warm it is easy to heal, but old, neglected and festering ones are hard to cure, and require for their care much treatment, cutting, plastering and cauterization. Many from long neglect become incurable. But with God all things are possible [Matthew 19:26].” (Ladder of Divine Ascent)