



Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*

Sunday After Theophany

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org January 9, 2022

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!

Services This Week

- Sunday, January 9
10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
- Tuesday, January 11
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
- Wednesday, January 12
6:30 pm Daily Vespers
7:00 pm Bible Study
- Thursday, January 13
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
- Saturday, January 15
5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil
- Sunday, January 16
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.

Announcements

➤ The 2022 calendars and offering envelopes are available at the candle desk.

➤ Please remember that we are asking every household to consider completing the Anticipated Giving form for 2022 so that we can budget accordingly. We appreciate your prayerful planning regarding your offering to our parish. We have many wonderful plans for 2022 but we can only accomplish these things with your faithful support. As Christians, we give the first fruits of our income as a cheerful offering to God in thanksgiving for His blessings to us.

➤ Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, January 12.

➤ Those who wish to have their home blessed after Jan 6 should contact Fr Thomas directly.

➤ Please consider being a monthly sponsor for the categories of bulletin, prosphora, altar candles, communion wine, and/or incense. You can find the form at the candle desk. Your name and remembrance will be published in each bulletin for the month.

➤ Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30 after the Divine Liturgy. Only adult parishioners in good standing may vote in the meeting. Please see Fr Thomas for any questions. *Reports from officers and organizations are due to Deb Burgess by Thursday, January 20.*

Prayers

➤ Ill and infirm: *Known to be hospitalized:* (none)
Home: George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka, Olga Tryszyn
➤Vigil Lights From Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell for the newly departed, Amelia Kuck and Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From Marsha Wasilko for the departed servant, Amelia Kuck; for the health of Fr. Tom; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Nancy Shaytar, Jan Widel and Sandi Tirpak! From Charles A. Wasilko for the departed servants, Nick Yurkowski and Mat. Olga Soroka. From Doris Wasilko for the departed servant, Amelia Kuck; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Nancy Shaytar, Jan Widel and Sandi Tirpak! From Alexandria Tirpak for the newly departed servant, daughter, Amelia; special intentions. From George & Nancy Shaytar for the departed servant, mother, Sophia Kraynak. From Nancy Shaytar for the health of my husband, George. From John Mahalchak family for the health of friends & family, Cheryl, John, Gregory, Cindy, and Kayla Elizabeth. From Mat. Joni Soroka for the health of Fr. Thomas and father, John Naiser on his 91st birthday. From Cathy Namisnak for the departed servant, Amelia Kuck; for the health of Sandi Tirpak. From John & Olga for the health of Galina Vilkova and Matthew Heuer on his birthday. From Kristie Mertz for the health of family; Happy New Year! From Irene Kulchock for the health of Jan Pravlochak.

Thank You

➤ to our January donors, Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10) in memory of Deacon Joseph Mell and for the health of their family.

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: The Transfiguration

Questions to ask/review:

- What does Transfiguration mean? (change)
- What happened before the Transfiguration? (Jesus told the disciples about His suffering to come and told them that some of them would die before seeing Him in His glory)
- In what way was Jesus preparing his disciples for his crucifixion?
- What does Christ reveal through His Transfiguration? (his divine and human nature)
- How is the Trinity revealed through the Transfiguration?
- Why are Moses and Elijah there with Christ? (the Law and the Prophets are fulfilled in Christ)
- How did the disciples react? How is this similar to how we should react when in the presence of God? (they were "afraid" but also said "it is good to be here")

Suggested activities at home:

- Read the scripture together before bed: Luke 9:28-36, Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:1-9.
- Show the icon. Identify everyone in the icon.
- Make a fruit basket and deliver to a shut-in or person in need.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you who were transfigured on the Mount Tabor, save us who sing to you. Alleluia. Amen.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, January 9

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 1 Troparion (Feast)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself// and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

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

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! divine majesty of Thy power.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 Kontakion (Feast)

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises: “Thou hast come and revealed Thyself,// O unapproachable Light.”

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (Sunday After)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee! (*Ps. 32:22*)

Epistle of the Sunday After (Eph 4:7-13)

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...

Gospel of the Sunday After (Matthew 4:12-17)

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death, light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Hymn to the Theotokos (Feast)

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honorable than the heavenly hosts!. No tongue is capable of praising you worthily; the angelic mind is over-awed in exalting you, O Theotokos! But accept our faith, since you are gracious and know our divine love. You are the Protectress of Christians and we praise you!

Communion Hymn of Sunday

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*) The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men. (*Titus 2:11*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

The Waters of Your Baptism

St. Hippolytus of Rome (c 200 AD)

But give me now your best attention, I pray you, for I wish to go back to the fountain of life, and to view the fountain that gushes with healing. The Father of immortality sent the immortal Son and Word into the world, who came to man in order to wash him with water and the Spirit; and He, begetting us again to incorruption of soul and body, breathed into us the breath (spirit) of life, and endued us with an incorruptible panoply.

If, therefore, man has become immortal, he will also be God. And if he is made God by water and the Holy Spirit after the regeneration of the layer he is found to be also joint-heir with Christ after the resurrection from the dead. Wherefore I preach to this effect: Come, all you kindred of the nations, to the immortality of the baptism. I bring good tidings of life to you who tarry in the darkness of ignorance. Come into liberty from slavery, into a kingdom from tyranny, into incorruption from corruption.

And how, says one, shall we come? How? By water and the Holy Spirit. This is the water in

conjunction with the Spirit, by which paradise is watered, by which the earth is enriched, by which plants grow, by which animals multiply, and (to sum up the whole in a single word) by which man is begotten again and endued with life, in which also Christ was baptized, and in which the Spirit descended in the form of a dove.

This is the Spirit that at the beginning “moved upon the waters; “by whom the world moves; by whom creation consists, and all things have life; who also wrought mightily in the prophets, and descended in flight upon Christ. This is the Spirit that was given to the apostles in the form of fiery tongues. This is the Spirit that David sought when he said, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

Of this Spirit Gabriel also spoke to the Virgin, “The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you.” By this Spirit Peter spoke that blessed word, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” By this Spirit the rock of the Church was established. This is the Spirit, the Comforter, that is sent because of you, that He may show you to be the Son of God.

For he who comes down in faith to the laver of regeneration, and renounces the devil, and joins himself to Christ; who denies the enemy, and makes the confession that Christ is God; who puts off the bondage, and puts on the adoption,— he comes up from the baptism brilliant as the sun, flashing forth the beams of righteousness, and, which is indeed the chief thing, he returns a son of God and joint-heir with Christ.

To Him be the glory and the power, together with His most holy, and good, and quickening Spirit, now and ever, and to all the ages of the ages. Amen.