



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, November 20

10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Church School Following Divine Liturgy

7:00 pm Festal Vigil

Monday, November 21: Entrance of the Theotokos

9:30 am Festal Liturgy

Tuesday, November 22

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, November 17 (US Thanksgiving Day)

No Matins or Office Hours

Saturday, November 26

4:00 pm Community Food Pantry

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

6:00 pm Social Night

Sunday, November 27

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

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

November 20, 2022

Announcements

➤ Our Annual **St Nicholas Day Luncheon** will be held on Sunday, December. Everyone is invited to attend. In the past few years, we have sought to provide this dinner for no charge, in order to encourage everyone to attend. We want to continue that worthy tradition. **We are seeking five sponsors of the dinner at \$100 each.** Please see Fr Thomas if you can be a sponsor. Thanks!

➤ Congratulations to Angelica and Alex Scales on the birth of their daughter, **Penelope Loren!** She was born on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 11:29am, weighing 6lb 9oz and measuring 19.5". Mom and daughter are healthy and Dad and big brother are thrilled! May God grant the Scales family many blessed years!

➤ Our annual Christmas Angel Tree Project kicks off today! It's easy! Take an angel ornament from the tree downstairs and bring back to our church **new, unwrapped gifts** for those in need. See Donya Yewisiak with any questions. Deadline to return the gifts is Sunday, December 11.

➤ **Annual Parish Christmas Card.** Deadline is **next Sunday, November 27, 2022.** Please see Jan Widel or Marsha Wasilko to participate. \$10 to have your family name listed. Proceeds go to our monthly Community Food Pantry.

➤ **The Orthodox Men's Group** will be holding a Nativity Fast Book Discussion on the book "Thinking Orthodox" by Dr Eugenia Constantinou. Please contact Deacon Luke if you're interested.

➤ Our parish has contracted with **Kayafas Architects** of Wheeling WV to **draw up designs** for the following projects: solutions to the roof water intrusion, restoration of the domes, adding interior stairs and an elevator for accessible entry to the church and parish hall, and refinishing the parish hall and hall interior lighting.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized;* (none). *Home:* George Shaytar. Natalie Toooh. *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, for Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servants, Aunt Mary Hollenbach and Carol Kowalcheck; for the health of Irene Kulchock. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, Godmother Mary Hollenbach and Carol Kowalcheck; God Bless our Veterans! From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, Aunt Mary Hollenbach and Carol Kowalcheck. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servant, Carol Kowalcheck; for special intention. From **John & Olga** for the departed servants, Anatoly Vilkov & Carol Ann Kowalcheck; for the health of Galina Vilkova. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the health of husband, George. From **George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of Jim. From **John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the health of our grandchildren and Irene Kulchock. From **Annaliese Mertz** for the health of Kristie and Theo Mertz. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, daughter, Amelia, and Aunt Helen—Memory Eternal; for the health of my family, Eleanor, Carol, Mary Bet and Owen; special intentions. From **Jeff & Luann Kopycinski** for the departed servants, parents, Dorothy & Ellsworth. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton and family.

Thank You

➤ Thank you to our **November** donors: from **Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10) in loving memory of Deacon Joseph Mell.

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.

Church School This Week

Today's Lesson: St John and Revelation

Questions to ask/review:

- Who was the Apostle John?
- Describe John's role in the early Church.
- What scriptures were written by John?
- How is his Gospel unique?
- What does the book of Revelation describe?
- Where did John write the book of Revelation? Why?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Read a few of these passages at bedtime. Discuss John's experiences: Luke 5:7-11, Mark 5:35-42, Mark 6:7-13, Luke 9:28-32, John 13:21-26, John 19:25-27, John 20:1-8, Acts 3:1-6, I John 1:1-3, Revelation 1:9-11
- Make paper angels or dress as angels. Discuss references to angels in the liturgy or the book of Revelation.

Prayer: Lord, send my guardian angel to keep watch over me.

➤ Don't forget to visit, like, and share **our Social Media pages!**

On the web at orthodoxpittsburgh.org

Facebook at facebook.com/orthodoxpittsburgh

YouTube at youtube.com/orthodoxpittsburgh

Instagram at Instagram.com/orthodoxpittsburgh

The Nativity Fast began on Tuesday, November 15. As we prepare ourselves for the Nativity of Christ, we abstain from meat and dairy, increasing prayer, and charity for others.

Women's Night on Friday, Dec 16 at Apteka in Lawrenceville. Please RSVP by phone or text to Jessica Krchmar at 412-290-3526.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, November 20

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.

Tone 4 Troparion (Forefeast)

Today Anna bequeaths joy to all instead of sorrow,

by bringing forth her fruit, the only ever-Virgin.

In fulfillment of her vow,

today with joy she brings to the temple of the Lord //

the true temple and pure Mother of God the Word.

Tone 4 Troparion (Sts. Gregory and Proclus)

The twofold lamps of divine gifts,

Proclus, shepherd of New Rome, and Gregory, scion of Decapolis,

guide us by the light of grace as divinely-inspired fathers.

Let us draw near and eagerly beseech them, //

that we may receive forgiveness and salvation of our souls!

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

Tone 6 Kontakion (Resurrection)

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,

He bestowed resurrection on the human race. //

He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 Kontakion (Forefeast)

Today the universe is filled with joy

at the glorious feast of the Mother of God, //

and cries out: “She is the heavenly tabernacle.”

Tone 6 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

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

Epistle of the Sunday (Ephesians 2:4-10)

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 12:16-21)

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.

And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

“So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Communion Hymn

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

St Jerome on Today’s Epistle

The sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the future glory that will be revealed in us. If so, we are saved by grace rather than works, for we can give God nothing in return for what he has bestowed on us.

Some may ask how God who has saved us and raised us with him has also made us sit with Christ. A simple response would be indeed that, in the light of God’s foreknowledge, Paul is speaking of what is to come as though it had already been done. ... One who understands the resurrection and the kingdom of Christ spiritually does not scruple to say that the saints already sit and reign with Christ! Just as a person may become truly holy even in the flesh, when he lives in the flesh and has his conversation in heaven, when he walks on earth and, ceasing to be flesh, is wholly converted into

spirit, so he also is seated in heaven with Christ. For indeed “the kingdom of God is within us.”

How abundant is his grace and how multifaceted is the glory in which God has caused us to be seated and reign with Christ, after freeing us from the tribulations of the age! This is shown above all by the fact that in the ages to come he will shed his glory upon us in the sight not of some but of all rational creatures.... But an attentive reader might inquire: “Are you saying then that the human arena is greater than the angels and all the heavenly powers?” No.... Some might conceivably argue that “he made us sit with him in heavenly places” refers not to the good angels but to the bad angels, the banished angels and the prince of this world, and Lucifer who rises in the morning, over whom the saints will be enthroned with Christ.... But a better argument will translate [the reference to Christ’s grace] as meaning that we are saved not by our own merit but by his grace and that it is a proof of greater goodness to die for sinners rather than for the just.

Paul says this in case the secret thought should steal upon us that “if we are not saved by our own works, at least we are saved by our own faith, and so in another way our salvation is of ourselves.” Thus he added the statement that faith too is not in our own will but in God’s gift. Not that he means to take away free choice from humanity, but that even this very freedom of choice has God as its author, and all things are to be referred to his generosity, in that he has even allowed us to will the good.

