



## 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, January 15

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

### Tuesday, January 17

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

### Thursday, January 19

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

### Saturday, January 21

12:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Choir Rehearsal

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, January 22

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

### 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

January 15, 2023

## Announcements

➤ **St Nicholas Women's Group** will be getting together on Friday Jan 20th at 6:30pm at Ruby's Winehouse in Coraopolis. Please RSVP to Jessica Krchmar by Jan 18th. 412-290-3526.

➤ **The Annual Parish Meeting** will be held in the parish hall on Sunday, January 29 after the Divine Liturgy. Parish members who are considered in good standing (sacramental and financial participation in the parish) may participate in the meeting. Please see Fr Thomas with any questions.

➤ A winter retreat on **Christian Ending and Burial** will be held on Saturday, January 28 from 9:15 am to 5:00 pm at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, 150 Elmtree Rd, New Kensington, PA 15068. Deacon Mark Barna and his wife Elizabeth, authors of "A Christian Ending," will be presenting the workshop at St. John's. The Barnas will be talking about practical things that we can do to prepare for our departure from this life and how we can offer funerals that are fully Orthodox, much more personal and significantly less expensive than most modern funeral services. **There is a cost of \$20 per person to participate in the event.** Please contact parkerthepriest@gmail.com or frdavidvernak@verizon.net for any questions.

➤ **The Pan-Orthodox Choir of Pittsburgh** begins rehearsals this Saturday at noon at our parish for the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers. All interested singers are welcomed and encouraged to join. See Fr Thomas with questions.

## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized;* John Mahalchak (son), *Home:* Irene Kulchock, Natalie Tooch. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, George Shaytar 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 A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, parents, Charles & Mary; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, father, Charles; for the health of George Shaytar. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, grandmother, Marie, father, John, daughter, Amelia, cousin Stephen and Sonia on their birthdays—memory eternal; for the health of my family, and Jan on her birthday; special intentions. From **John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the newly departed servant, Leigh Urda; for the health of Christina. From **Edith Humphrey** for the departed servant, Hank (Henry) and for the comfort of Harry & Barbara. From **John Kowalcheck** for the health of Olga Cozza and Galina Vilкова. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servants, Mom, Sophia Kraynak, and John Shaytar; for the health of husband, John. From **the John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Mary, and Daniel. From **Henry & Yelena Paclawski** for the departed servant, our loving son, Dylan (1-6-20). From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of family, friends and for peace.

## Thank You

➤ to our **January** donors: from **the John Mahalchak Family** (Altar Candles \$25) for the health of friends and family and a happy new year!

**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:** Canon of Scripture

### Questions to ask/review:

How did we get the Bible?

- What does "canon" mean?
- Name as many books of the Old Testament as you can.
- What are the main sections of the Old Testament? What is the purpose of each?
- How are books of the "Apocrypha" different?
- Name as many books of the New Testament as you can.
- Identify the four Gospel writers.
- Who wrote the letters of the Epistles? How were these used in the early Church?
- Who was Eusebius? How did he decide which books should be included in the Bible?
- What was the significance of the Council of Carthage in 397 AD?

### Suggested Activities at Home:

- Work to memorize as many names of Bible books as appropriate for the child's age. The smallest children should learn the names of the four gospels and Acts. The 8-10 year olds should learn all the books of the New Testament. Middle schoolers and older should learn all the books of the Bible.
- Do a Bible Relay Race. Write various Bible references on cards. Place a Bible on the table a few feet in front of each person. The first person in each line must find the first reference, then return and tag the next person, who finds the second reference, etc.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for giving us your Word and your teachings in the Divine Scriptures. Amen.

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, January 15

## **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** (Sts. Paul and John)

O God of our Fathers,  
always act with kindness towards us;  
take not Thy mercy from us,  
but guide our lives in peace //  
through the prayers of the venerable Paul and  
John!

## **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.

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

## **Tone 2 Kontakion** (St. John)

Longing for poverty in imitation of Christ,

thou didst abandon thy parents' wealth, O wise  
Father John;  
grasping the Gospel in thy hands, thou didst  
follow Christ God, //  
unceasingly praying for us all.

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

## **Tone 3 Kontakion** (St. Paul)

Today we gather and praise thee with hymns  
as an unwaning ray of the spiritual Sun;  
for thou dost shine on those in the darkness of  
ignorance,  
leading all ^mankind to the heights, //  
venerable Paul, adornment of Thebes and firm  
foundation of the fathers and ascetics.

## **Tone 6 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

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

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (1 Timothy 1:15-17)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all  
acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the  
world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.  
However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that  
in me first Jesus Christ might show all  
longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are  
going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now  
to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God  
who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever  
and ever. Amen.

## **Gospel of the Sunday** (Luke 18:18-27)

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good  
Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good?  
No one is good but One, that is, God. You know  
the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,'  
'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear

false witness,' 'Honor your father and your  
mother.' "

And he said, "All these things I have kept from  
my youth."

So when Jesus heard these things, He said to  
him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you  
have and distribute to the poor, and you will  
have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

But when he heard this, he became very  
sorrowful, for he was very rich.

And when Jesus saw that he became very  
sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those  
who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!  
For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye  
of a needle than for a rich man to enter the  
kingdom of God."

And those who heard it said, "Who then can be  
saved?"

But He said, "The things which are impossible  
with men are possible with God."

## **Communion Hymn**

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

## **Responding to the Gospel**

If someone believes the gospel of Jesus Christ,  
he or she repents. To repent is to turn toward  
God, again and again, both away from sin and  
also toward growth in obedience and love. As  
both Jesus and his forerunner John the Baptist  
said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at  
hand." Repenting, the believer humbly  
approaches the Church — which is Christ's Body,  
his active presence in the world — to be  
baptized, beginning the process by contacting  
the local parish pastor and doing as he instructs.  
Baptism mystically unites the believer to Christ

and makes him or her a Christian, part of his  
Body the Church. Before baptism, the believer is  
trained by the clergy and other teachers to be a  
faithful Christian. After baptism, the new  
Christian remains faithful through worship,  
through receiving the Holy Eucharist (and other  
sacraments as appropriate), through daily  
prayer, through guided asceticism (such as  
fasting), through almsgiving and other acts of  
charity, and through all kinds of self-denial and  
active love — increasing in love, in humility,  
discernment, and maturity. Repentance does not  
end with baptism. When a Christian fails to be  
faithful to God in this life, God continues to give  
the opportunity to repent, to live the angelic life.  
The return to faithfulness is always possible in  
this life, and God always extends forgiveness  
and healing to those who return to Him. The  
word gospel literally means "good news," and so  
it clearly is. In this process, men and women,  
rich and poor, young and old — people of every  
culture and background, without exception —  
have equal access to becoming like the angels,  
participating forever in God's life and glory by  
His grace, mercy, and love. (*orthodoxintro.org*)

► **The scaffolding in our church** has presented us  
with **an opportunity to re-acquaint ourselves** with  
the traditional beauty of Orthodox worship in a  
temple unhindered by a church full of rows of pews.  
While **we know the space is currently limited**,  
during this period, please keep in mind the following:

- The elderly, disabled, and pregnant or nursing  
moms should have **priority for seating**.
- Coats, etc, can be hung up in the vestibule. But  
please **keep valuables on your person**.
- Enjoy the **freedom** of not being pewed in.  
Walking around to venerate icons, praying, and  
lighting candles is a natural Orthodox activity,  
even during services. But please do so quietly and  
without distracting others.
- If you need to sit down for a few moments (or  
more), **don't be ashamed**. Feel free to do so. No  
one is judging you.
- Children may have an adjustment period, but the  
mostly universal experience of  
parents/caregivers is that children become much  
**more focused** without being pewed in.