



## Welcome!

Whether you're searching for a new church home or just visiting, we're 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. Please join us downstairs following the Divine Liturgy. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

## This Week

**Monday, November 20**  
**Great Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos**  
6:00 pm – Divine Liturgy

**Tuesday, November 21**  
7:00 pm – Virtual Catechism #3 (via Skype)

**Saturday, November 25**  
5:00 pm – Great Vespers

**Sunday, November 26**  
NO ADULT EDUCATION CLASS  
10:00 am - Divine Liturgy  
NO 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*  
Mat. Janet Mihalick, *Choir Director*

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org Nov 19, 2017

## Announcements

➤ **“Orthodox Perspectives on the Reformation: A Symposium”** will be held at our parish on **Saturday, December 16** beginning with Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am. Five respected and knowledgeable speakers will present on topics relevant to Orthodox views of Protestant themes. We'll be hosting people from all over Pittsburgh and we'll need help organizing the breakfast, lunch, a bookstore, and the talk venue. Please see Fr Thomas for more information or Heidi Lewis if you can help. More information coming!

➤ **2017 Parish Christmas Card:** It's time again for our annual Christmas Card Project which will run thru December 3, 2017. For a \$10 donation, you/your family's name will be listed on the Christmas card which will be sent in early December to parishioners and friends of St. Nicholas. Proceeds of the project will benefit our 2018 FOCUS ministry of serving meals. See Marsha Wasilko or Jan Widel to sign-up today! Thank you!

➤ **Our November hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, Nov 29. Italian Hoagies and wraps are \$6.00 each and the Turkey hoagies and wraps are \$6.50 each. Orders can be placed by calling 412-974-9912, faxing 724-926-4052 or emailing rjmbmsam1@verizon.net. Orders are due on Sunday evening, Nov 26. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm Nov 29 at the church hall

➤ **Our Annual St Nicholas Day Dinner** will be held on Sunday, December 3. **Advance Ticket Purchase is required.** Prices are \$12 for adults, \$5 for ages 5-12, and ages 4 and under are free. No tickets will be available the day of the dinner. See Sandi Tirpak for tickets!

## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm: Known to be Hospitalized:** Jack Saban (VA). *Home:* Jan Widel, Donya Yewisiak, Sandi Tirpak, Georgiann Robes, George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Olga Bednar, Stephanie Kowal, John Shaytar, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and John Karavlan; for the health of family. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the health of John Barsom & Georgiann Robes. **From John Kowalcheck** for the departed servant, Carol Ann Kowalcheck. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, (Godmother) Mary Hollenbach (11/18/80) and Carol Kowalcheck (11/18/10). **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the health of Rich Kulchock and our grandchildren. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, (Aunt) Mary Hollenbach and Carol Kowalcheck. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, (Aunt) Mary Hollenbach and Carol Kowalcheck; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Raisa Burd** for the health of Yevgeniy, Sergei, Marina, Roman, Polina, Vladimir, Raisa, Boris, Alla, Valentina, Ludmila, Olga, Tatyana, Katya, Liza, Diana and all our relatives & friends. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of the parishioners of St. Nicholas Church; for special intentions. **From Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, (father) Michael Kraynak; for the health of (husband) George and (brother) Steve.



## Thank You

➤ Thank you to our November bulletin donors: **Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** given in blessed memory of Deacon Joseph Mell.

## Thanksgiving Prayer

O Existing One, Master Lord, God, almighty and adorable Father: It is truly meet and right and befitting the majesty of Thy holiness that we should praise Thee, hymn Thee, bless Thee, worship Thee, give thanks unto Thee and glorify Thee, the only truly existing God, and offer unto Thee with contrite heart and spirit of humility this our rational worship; for Thou art He that hath graciously bestowed upon us the knowledge of Thy truth.

And who is sufficient to speak of Thy mighty acts, to make all Thy praises to be heard, or to tell of all Thy wonders at every season?

**O Master of all, Lord of heaven and earth,** and of all creation both visible and invisible, Who sittest upon the throne of glory and beholdest the depths, Who art unoriginate, invisible, immutable, the Father of our Lord: **the great God and Savior Jesus Christ,** our Hope, Who is the Image of Thy goodness, the Seal of equal type, in Himself showing forth Thee, the Father, the living Word, the true God, the Wisdom before all ages, the Life, Sanctification, Power, the true Light, through Whom **the Holy Spirit** was manifested: the Spirit of truth, the Gift of adoption, the Pledge of the inheritance to come, the First-fruits of eternal good things, the life-giving Power, the Fountain of sanctification, by Whom enabled every rational and intelligent creature doth serve Thee and ascribe to Thee perpetual praise, for all things are Thy servants.

Filled thus with great awe at Thine immeasurable mercies and love, do Thou receive the unfeigned praise and thanksgiving of our unworthy hearts for all that Thou hast provided for us in this world and the next, and enable us to walk before Thee in holiness and purity all the days of our life in fitting gratitude for Thy loving-kindness to us;

For blessed art Thou O Holy Father together with Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory and worship, now and every and unto ages of ages.

**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 Today

## **Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 7**

By Thy cross, Thou didst destroy death!  
To the thief, Thou didst open paradise!  
For the myrrh-bearers, Thou didst change weeping  
into joy!  
And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ  
God  
to proclaim that Thou art risen,  
granting the world great mercy.

## **Troparion of St Nicholas Tone 4**

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.

## **Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 6**

When Christ God the Giver of Life  
raised all 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.

## **Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 7**

The dominion of death  
can no longer hold men captive,  
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its  
powers!  
Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry:  
The Savior has come to those in faith,  
Enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!

## **Prokeimenon (Psalm 29) Tone 7**

The Lord shall give strength to His people! The  
Lord shall bless His people with peace!

## **Epistle of the Sunday (Eph 2:14-22)**

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both  
one, and has broken down the middle wall of  
separation, having abolished in His flesh the  
enmity, that is, the law of commandments  
contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself

one new man from the two, thus making peace,  
and that He might reconcile them both to God in  
one body through the cross, thereby putting to  
death the enmity. And He came and preached  
peace to you who were afar off and to those who  
were near. For through Him we both have access  
by one Spirit to the Father.

## **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 Hymns (Ps 148:1)**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the  
highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

# Meeting Notice

**A special parish meeting** will be held on Sunday,  
December 10, 2017 after the Divine Liturgy for the  
purpose of discussing a proposal to sell the St  
Mark's School and Convent building (next to our  
Church) which we currently own. Any questions  
about the proposed sale may be directed to Fr  
Thomas, Mary Hughes Kutnansky, or Jonathan  
Skowron. Only parish members in good standing  
may participate and vote in the meeting.

# Nativity Fast

On **Wednesday, November 15** we began,  
together, the Nativity Fast, sometimes called the St  
Philip's Fast, or sometimes called by the Western  
term, Advent. The Nativity Fast is a 40 day  
preparation to prepare our bodies, minds, and  
hearts for the Christmas feast.

We're encouraged to do the following things with  
God's help and through our effort:

- Eat less and give that money to the poor.
- Increase our prayer, scripture reading,  
silence and church attendance.
- Make a sincere confession and receive  
communion as often as possible.
- Fast from meat, (fish with backbones on  
weekdays), dairy, olive oil and wine (fish  
with backbones, wine, and olive oil are  
permitted every Saturday and Sunday  
before Dec 20,  
and on Nov 16 &  
30, Dec 4, 6, 12  
& 20.)

The fasting guidelines are  
maximal and are meant  
to be a goal combined  
with prayer and charity.  
Everyone should do what  
they can to strengthen  
their spiritual life, but not  
fast to discouragement.



**Today, let us dance, O faithful,  
singing to the Lord in psalms and  
hymns and honoring His sanctified  
Tabernacle, the living Ark, that  
contained the Word Who cannot be  
contained;  
for in wondrous fashion she is  
offered to the Lord as a young child  
in the flesh, and Zachariah, the great  
High Priest, joyfully receives her as  
the dwelling place of God.**

# Today in Church School

**Today's lesson:** Woman at the Well

## **Questions to ask/review:**

- Who made the well Jesus rested on?  
(Jacob)
- Why was the woman surprised that Jesus  
would speak to her? (at that time, men did  
not speak to women alone and she was a  
Samaritan, not a Jew)
- What kind of water did Jesus offer the  
woman? (living water that gives everlasting  
life)
- What two things caused the people of  
Samaria to believe that Jesus was the  
coming Messiah? (first they heard the  
account of the woman, then followed Jesus  
and heard for themselves)
- What is evangelism? How did the woman  
practice evangelism?
- Is there anyone you know who does not  
know about  
Jesus?  
Have you  
told them?  
Why or why  
not?



## **Suggested activities at home:**

- Have your  
child select  
a friend and  
tell him  
about  
Jesus.
- Have your child go to the "well" (a bucket of  
water) each time he wants a drink.  
Decorate the bucket to look like a well.
- Prayer: Jesus, teach me about You so that  
I can tell my friends about my wonderful  
Lord. Amen.