



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.. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

This Week

Today

After Liturgy – Trisagion for the Departed
In memory of Hristo from Albena Ivanova

Thursday, February 1

Entrance of Christ into the Temple

6:00 pm – Divine Liturgy/Blessing of Candles

Saturday, February 3

11:00 am – Pan-Orthodox Choir Rehearsal

4:30 pm - Confessions

5:00 pm – Great Vespers

Sunday, February 4

9:15 am – Adult Education

10:00 am – Divine Liturgy
Church School following

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 Jan 28, 2018

Announcements

➤ Dates to remember for 2018:

Monday, Feb 19 – Beginning of Great Lent
April 1 – Palm Sunday (and Western Easter)
April 8 – Holy Pascha

➤ **Our Yearly Parish Meeting** is scheduled to be held today after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 28. Only members in good standing may participate.

➤ **Our January hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, January 31. 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, January 28. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm January 31 at the church hall.

➤ **Sisterhood News:** There will be a very brief Sisterhood meeting next Sunday, Feb. 4th to confirm Alexandra Gajewski as our Vice President.



I also maintain that those who are punished in Gehenna are scourged by the scourge of love. For what is so bitter and vehement as the punishment of love? I mean that those who have become conscious that they have sinned against love suffer greater torment from this than from any fear of punishment. *St Issac the Syrian*

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be Hospitalized* John Shaytar (OV) .*Home:* Fred Zeleznik, Georgiann Robes, George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Olga Bednar, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **Vigil Lights From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, (godfather) Michael Dyczko (1/26/84); Happy Birthday & Many Years to Donya! **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, Dn. Joe Mell, (uncle) Mike Dyczko and (grandmother) Susan Wasilko. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, (grandmother) Susan Wasilko, Dn. Joe Mell and Stefanie Kowal; for the health of Donya Yewisiak and Gregory Mell on their birthdays. **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Slava, Galina, Bruce and Valentina; for the health of Jess, Diana and Veronica. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell. **From John Kowalcheck** for the health of Olga Cozza. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servant, Theodore; for the health of Donya on her birthday (1/24) and Theodore; special intentions.

Thank You

➤ to all those who donated to assist widow Olga Kamaev with her trip back to Russia to return her husband's remains to his homeland and be reunited with her children. Our Church collected approximately \$1,140. If you would like to donate, please do not hesitate. You may submit a donation at the candle desk. God bless you.

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.

Publican and Pharisee

Synaxarion of the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

On the Publican and the Pharisee

He who lives like a Pharisee is far from the Church, for Christ is received within, O ye humble of heart.

By the grace of God on this present day we begin the *Triodion*, the hymns of which were composed by many of our holy and God-bearing Fathers, inspired by the Holy Spirit according to their worthiness. or it was our Holy Fathers' idea that through the entire Triodion would be commemorated in a concise form all God's benefits to us from the beginning, using it as a reminder for all of us that we were created by Him, and were exiled from Paradise through the tasting of the fruit, rejecting the commandment that was given to us for our knowledge, and we were cast out through the envy of the arch villain serpent and enemy, who was made to crawl for his arrogance. That we remained cut off from the benefits of Paradise and were led by the devil. That the Son and Word of God, having suffered in His mercy, bowing the heavens, descended and made His abode in the Virgin and became man for our sake, showing us through His life the ascent into the heavens, through humility first of all then fasting and the rejection of evil and through His other deeds. That He suffered and rose from the dead and ascended once more into heaven, and He sent down the Holy Spirit upon His holy disciples and Apostles, who all proclaimed Him to be the Son of God and the most perfect God. And that once more the divine Apostles acted through the grace of the most Holy Spirit and gathered all the saints from the ends of the earth through their preaching, filling the world on high, which was the intention of the Creator from the beginning. (continued below)

Hymns and Readings for Today

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,

Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:

“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Thy Kingdom!//

Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

Troparion of the New Martyrs of Russia Tone 4

Today the Church of Russia joyfully forms a chorus, praising her new martyrs and confessors;

hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses,

venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians.

Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution,

they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood.//

By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

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 from the Lenten Triodion Tone 4

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee!

Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears!

Let us cry to our Savior:

“Have mercy on us,//

O only merciful One!”

Prokeimenon Tone 1

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee!

Epistle of the Sunday (2 Tim 3:10-15)

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 18:10-14)

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Communion Hymn (Ps 148)

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!



Publican and Pharisee

Now the purpose of the Triodion intended by the Holy Fathers on these three present feasts of the Publican and the Pharisee, the Prodigal Son, and the Second Coming is a kind of preparatory lesson and stimulation to prepare ourselves for the spiritual labors of the Fast, having put aside our usual corrupt habits.

First of all they present to us the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee, and they call the week following precursory. For those who desire to go off to do military battle, first ascertain the time of the battle from the leaders, so that having cleaned and polished their weapons, and preparing well all their other matters, and having removed all obstacles from their path, they earnestly go forth to their labors, taking the necessary supplies.

Now the first weapon among the virtues is repentance and humility. And the temptation to attain the greatest humility is pride and arrogance. So they place before us first of all this present trustworthy parable from the Divine Gospel. It encourages us to shun the desire for the pride and arrogance of the Pharisee, and to cultivate the opposite desire of the Publican for humility and repentance. For the greatest and most grievous passion is pride and arrogance, since this is how the Devil fell from the heavens before the morning star and was cast into darkness. Because of this Adam, the father of our race, was driven from Paradise through partaking of the fruit. Through this example the Holy Fathers encourage all not to be proud of their successes, but always to be humble. For the Lord sets Himself against the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. Better a man who has sinned, if he knows that he has sinned and repents, than a man who has not sinned and thinks of himself as righteous. For Christ said, "I say to you that the Publican went down to his house justified rather than the Pharisee." This parable reveals that no one should exalt himself, even though he has done good deeds, but rather should always be humble and pray from his heart to God, for even if he should fall into the most serious sin, salvation is not far off.

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: Publican and Pharisee

Questions to ask/review:

- What is a publican? (tax collector like Zaccheus and Matthew)
- What did the publican pray when he entered the temple?
- What is a Pharisee? (a respected man of the temple who put heavy emphasis on following details of rules)
- What did the Pharisee pray in the temple?
- Which did God listen to? Why?
- How do you feel when you win a race? Get a prize? Do something good? (pride)
- Have you ever “bragged” about something you did? Why? How does it make you feel? Others feel? (makes us think we are “better” than others, but we are all equal before God)
- How did the pray differently in actions? (Pharisee prayed “with/to” himself; Publican beat his chest with great reverence to God)
- Remember the first beatitude: “Blessed are the poor in spirit”. Who in the story followed this? How?

Suggested activities at home:

- Read the scripture together before bed: Luke 18:9-14.
- Practice the prayer of St. Ephraim in preparation for lent: O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.
- Practice the prostrations between each verse with your child.
- The Jesus Prayer: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner. Amen.