



**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*  
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*  
Mat. Janet Mihalick, *Choir Director*

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org Feb 25, 2018

## 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

### Tonight

4:30 pm *Pan-Orthodox Vespers*  
*Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Mt Lebanon*

### Monday, February 26

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

### Tuesday, February 27

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

### Wednesday, February 28

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  
Lenten Fellowship Meal

### Thursday, March 1

5:00 pm Lenten Vespers

### Friday, March 2

7:00 pm Panikhida for All the Departed

### Saturday, March 3

9:30 am Memorial Divine Liturgy  
4:30 pm Confessions  
5:00 pm Great Vespers

### Sunday, March 4

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

## Announcements

➤ **The Lenten season has begun.** The Church prescribes that we refrain from eating meat and dairy products throughout the entirety of Lent and Holy Week. While it is understood that some find the prescription challenging to attain (for this is indeed the very point – that we indulge too much in fleshly desires, and the challenge of the fast shows this!), **everyone is strongly encouraged to do something, and not to ignore the fast completely, which is both unchristian and unorthodox.** Be convinced to keep a fasting rule that is **challenging, but not discouraging.** Most importantly, as the Fathers remind us, we are also to “fast from sin as we fast from food.” May God strengthen you in your Lenten journey to enter the Lord's Pascha.

➤ **Our February hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, February 28. 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](mailto:rjmbmsam1@verizon.net). Orders are due on Sunday evening, February 25. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm February 28 at the church hall.

International Orthodox Christian Charities Syrian Relief Dinner and Prayer Service at St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland on Sunday, March 4, 2018: IOCC Syrian Relief Dinner at 4:00 p.m. Contact Mat. Ashley Loboda for tickets!

"All truths of Orthodoxy emerge from the one Truth and converge on one Truth, infinite and eternal. That Truth is the God-man Christ. If you experience any truth of Orthodoxy to its limit, you will inevitably discover that its kernel is the God-man Christ. In fact, all truths of Orthodoxy are nothing other than different aspects of the one Truth - the God-man Jesus Christ." -*St Justin Popovich*

## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be Hospitalized* (none).  
*Home:* Georgiann Robes. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Olga Bednar, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and victims of Florida school shooting; for the health of family.  
**From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha. **From Doris Wasilko** for the health of Fr. Igor and the Wasilko family. **From John Kowalcheck & Olga Cozza** for the departed servant, Ann Marie Kowalcheck; for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov and Elizabeth Grace Kowalcheck on her birthday. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, (brother) John Shaytar; for the health of Maryanne Lugin.



**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.**

## Thank You

➤ to Bob and Mary Beth Madalinsky for sponsoring the bulletin for the month of February. May God richly bless them!

## Triumph of Orthodoxy

(Excerpts from a sermon by Fr Alexander Schememann)  
Do all the triumphs of Orthodoxy, all the victories, belong to the past? Looking at the present today, we sometimes feel that our only consolation is to remember the past. Then Orthodoxy was glorious, then the Orthodox Church was powerful, then it dominated. But what about the present? My dear friends, if the triumph of Orthodoxy belongs to the past only, if there is nothing else for us to do but commemorate, to repeat to ourselves how glorious was the past, then Orthodoxy is dead. But we are here to witness to the fact that Orthodoxy not only is not dead but also that it is once more and forever celebrating its own triumph — the triumph of Orthodoxy. We don't have to fight heresies among ourselves, but we have other things that once more challenge our Orthodox faith...

The past, the present, the future: At the beginning, one lonely man on the cross — the complete defeat. And if at that time we had been there with all our human calculations, we probably would have said: “That's the end. Nothing else will happen.” The twelve left Him. There was no one, no one to hope. The world was in darkness. Everything seemed finished. And you know what happened three days later. Three days later He appeared. He appeared to His disciples, and their hearts were burning within them because they knew that He was the risen Lord. And since then, in every generation, there have been people with burning hearts, people who have felt that this victory of Christ had to be carried again and again into this world, to be proclaimed in order to win new human souls and to be the transforming force in history.

Today this responsibility belongs to us. We feel that we are weak. We feel that we are limited, we are divided, we are still separated in so many groups, we have so many obstacles to overcome. But today, on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we close our eyes for a second and we rejoice in that unity which is already here: (continued below)

**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 5*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,  
Co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born for our salvation from the Virgin.  
For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh  
to endure death  
and to raise the dead,  
by His glorious resurrection.  
granting the world great mercy!"

## **Troparion of the Feast** *Tone 2*

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One,  
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ  
our God.  
Of Thy good will Thou was pleased to ascend the  
cross in the flesh  
and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the  
enemy.  
Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:  
Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,  
for Thou didst come to save the world.

## **Kontakion of the Triodion** *Tone 8*

No one could describe the Word of the Father;  
but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos, He  
accepted to be described,  
and restored the fallen image to its former state by  
uniting it to divine beauty.  
We confess and proclaim our salvation in words  
and images.

## **Prokeimenon** *Tone 4 (Song of the Three Youths)*

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers and  
praised and glorified is Thy name forever!

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (*Heb 11:24-26, 32-12:2a*)

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to  
be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing  
rather to suffer affliction with the people of God  
than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,  
esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches  
than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the  
reward.

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail  
me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and

Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the  
prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms,  
worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped  
the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire,  
escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness  
were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned  
to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received  
their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance,  
that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still  
others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes,  
and of chains and imprisonment. They were  
stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were  
slain with the sword. They wandered about in  
sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted,  
tormented— of whom the world was not worthy.  
They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens  
and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony  
through faith, did not receive the promise, God  
having provided something better for us, that they  
should not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so  
great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every  
weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us,  
and let us run with endurance the race that is set  
before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and  
finisher of our faith...

## **Gospel of the Sunday** (*Jn 1:43-51*)

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee,  
and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me."  
Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew  
and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him,  
"We have found Him of whom Moses in the law,  
and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth,  
the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him,  
"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip  
said to him, "Come and see."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said  
of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no  
deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know

me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before  
Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree,  
I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him,  
"Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King  
of Israel!"

Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to  
you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe?  
You will see greater things than these." And He  
said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter  
you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God  
ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

## **Communion Hymn** (*Ps 148, 32*)

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in  
the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!  
Praise befits the just

## **Triumph of Orthodoxy – Schememann** (*cont*)

We are already in a triumph, and may God help us  
keep that triumph in our hearts, so that we never give  
up hope in that future event in the history of orthodoxy  
when Orthodoxy will become the victory which  
eternally overcomes all the obstacles, because that  
victory is the victory of Christ Himself.

As we approach the most important moment of the  
Eucharist, the priest says, "Let us love one another,  
that with one mind we may confess...." What is the  
condition of the real triumph of Orthodoxy? What is  
the way leading to the real, the final, the ultimate  
victory of our faith? The answer comes from the  
Gospel. The answer comes from Christ Himself and  
from the whole tradition of Orthodoxy. It is love. Let us  
love one another, that with one mind we may confess .  
. . . confess our faith, our Orthodoxy. Let us, from now  
on, feel responsible for each other. Let us understand  
that even if we are divided in small parishes, in small  
dioceses, we first of all belong to one another. We  
belong together, to Christ, to His Body, to the Church.  
Let us feel responsible for each other, and let us love  
one another. Let us put above everything else the  
interests of Orthodoxy in this country. Let us  
understand that each one of us today has to be the  
apostle of Orthodoxy in a country which is not yet  
Orthodox, in a society which is asking us: "What do  
you believe?" "What is your faith?" And let us, above  
everything else, keep the memory, keep the  
experience, keep the taste of that unity which we are  
anticipating tonight...

We have the promise of Christ, that the gates of hell  
will never prevail against the Church. We have the  
promise of Christ that if we have faith, all things are  
possible. We have the promise of the Holy Spirit, that  
He will fill all that which is weak, that He will help us at  
the moment when we need help. In other words, we  
have all the possibilities, we have everything that we  
need, and therefore the victory is ours. It is not a  
human victory which can be defined in terms of  
money, of human success, of human achievements.  
And that victory of Christ in us, of the one who for us  
was crucified and rose again from the dead, that  
victory will be the victory of His Church.

## Today in Church School

### **Today's lesson: Miracles and Healings of Christ** **Questions to ask/review:**

- What kinds of problems did Jesus heal?
- What kinds of people did Jesus heal?
- Did He heal the same way each time? Why may He have healed some differently?
- Did Jesus have to touch someone to heal them? (no, the centurion's servant was far away when healed)
- Can miraculous healing occur today? Why do we believe it can/does?
- What is the sacrament of Holy Unction?
- Why do people get sick? Why doesn't Jesus heal everyone? (the world is fallen and sinful, God uses suffering for good when possible)
- How can we, the Church, help those who are sick?

### **Suggested activities at home:**

- Remember an ill friend or relative in your prayers this week.
- Light a candle in church for this person.
- Visit someone who is shut-in, ill, or in a nursing home; take something special (card, cookies, flowers) which you and your child have made.
- Pray each day for someone who is sick: O Lord Almighty, the Healer of souls and bodies, do thou now visit in thy Mercy your servant \_\_\_\_\_, who is ill, and get him up from his bed and cure him of his illness. Amen.
- Prayer: Dear Jesus, for the sick and the suffering, for captives and their salvation, Lord have mercy. Amen.