



## 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, August 6

10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy

### Tuesday, August 8

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

### Wednesday, August 9

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

7:00 pm Bible Study

### Thursday, August 10

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

### Saturday, August 12

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, August 13

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

**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

### Transfiguration of Christ

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

August 6, 2023

## Announcements

➤ We warmly welcome **Fr David Vernak** who is leading us in the Divine Liturgy today. May God grant him and **Matushka Mariam** all earthly and heavenly good things and many blessed years! Thank you for joining us today!

This week we will be **communally** working on repairing and painting the walls and ceilings of the Parish House which has become our primary educational building and office. **We are asking everyone that is physically capable of helping to assist in the work.** A dumpster will be available all week beginning Monday for old items that are no longer being used as well as the carpet which served us well for over three decades. Please see Deacon Luke to help!

➤ Tuesday, August 1 began the **Dormition Fast** through Monday, August 14. Please do your best to observe this fast in preparation for the celebration of the Dormition of the Mother of God.

➤ The **Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry** will sponsor a retreat at St George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland on Saturday, August 26 beginning at 10:00 am with two talks and a light lunch. Register at [tinyurl.com/ocpmevent2023](http://tinyurl.com/ocpmevent2023).

➤ **Looking ahead!**

**Community Day** Sunday, August 27

**Church Picnic** Sunday, Sept 3 at Clever Park

**Slavic Food Fest** TBD (Saturday Oct 14?)

## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** Known to be hospitalized:, Home: John Mahalchak (son). 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, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, brother, and newly departed, Connie; for the health of family, friends, siblings, serving soldiers, and Dad, Leo; for special intention, peace, birthdays, & anniversaries. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family; private intention. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha. From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends, family, John, and Cheryl. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, husband, George. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; special intention. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova and Rachel Heuer, on her birthday. From **Natallia** for the departed servants, Uladimir, Alexander, infant Alexandr, Zinaida, and Lubov. From **Faye D'Ippolito** for the departed servant, Dee D'Ippolito.



**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.**

## Prayers before Sleep

*Kiss the cross and make the sign of the Cross over the bed, head to foot and then side to side, saying this prayer to the precious Cross:*

Let God arise; let his enemies be scattered. Let those who hate him flee from before his face. As smoke vanishes so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire: so let demons flee at the presence of those who love God and sign themselves with the sign of the Cross, and say joyfully: Rejoice, most precious and life-giving Cross of the Lord, which drivest demons away through the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was crucified on thee, who descended into hell, trampled down the power of the devil, and gave to us his precious Cross for the routing of all enemies. Help me forever, most precious and life-giving Cross of the Lord, together with the holy Lady Virgin Theotokos and all the saints. Amen.

O God, absolve, remit, and pardon our transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, committed in word or deed, thought or intention, whether in knowledge or in ignorance, whether by day or by night: forgive us everything, for thou art good and lovest mankind.

*And, before falling asleep:*

Into thy hands, O Lord Jesus Christ my God, do I commend my spirit. Do thou bless me, have mercy on me, and grant me life everlasting. Amen.

*Then make the sign of the Cross.*

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, August 6

## The First Antiphon

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise! (*Ps. 65:1*)

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

The voice of Thy thunder was in the whirlwind; Thy lightning lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook. (*Ps. 76:17b-18*) (*Refrain*)

Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment. (*Ps. 103:2*) (*Refrain*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. (*Refrain*)

## The Second Antiphon

Mount Zion in the far north is the city of the great King. (*Ps. 47:2*)

**Refrain:** O Son of God, transfigured on the mountain, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia! And He brought them to the mountain of His sanctuary, this mountain which His right hand had won. (*Ps. 77:58*) (*Refrain*)

The Mount Zion which He loved, He built as His sanctuary with mighty strength. (*Ps. 77:73b-74a*) (*Refrain*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(*“Only-begotten Son... ”*)

## The Third Antiphon

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (*Ps. 124:1*) As the mountains are round about it, so the Lord is round about His people, from this time and forevermore. (*Ps. 124:2*)

*Troparion of the Feast*

O Lord, who shall sojourn in Thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell on Thy holy mountain? (*Ps. 14:1*) Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? (*Ps. 23:3*)

*Troparion of the Feast*

## Entrance Verse

Send out Thy light and Thy truth; they have led me and brought me to Thy holy mountain. (*Ps. 42:3*)

## Tone 7 Troparion

Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy Disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners, through the prayers of the Theotokos!// O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

## Tone 7 Kontakion

On the mountain Thou wast transfigured, O Christ God, and Thy Disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world// that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

## Tone 4 Prokeimenon

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all. (*Ps. 103:26*)

*Epistle of the Sunday (2 Peter 1:10-19)*

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

## Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 17:1-9)

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, “Arise, and do not be afraid.” When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.”

## Tone 4 Festal Hymn to the Theotokos

Magnify, O my soul, the Lord Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor! Thy childbearing was without corruption; God came forth from thy body clothed in flesh, and appeared on earth and dwelt among men.// Therefore we all magnify thee, O Theotokos.

## Communion Hymn

O Lord, we will walk in the light of Thy countenance, and will exult in Thy Name forever. (*Ps. 88:15*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**And so on the mountain** he showed his Apostles the glory of his divinity, concealed and hidden by his humanity. For they saw his face bright as lightning and his garments white as light. They saw two suns; one in the sky, as usual, and one unusually; one visible in the firmament and lighting the world, and one, his face, visible to them alone. His garments white as light showed that the glory of his divinity flooded from his whole body, and his light shone from all his members. For his flesh did not shine with splendor from without, like Moses,[10] but the glory of his divinity flooded from him. His light dawned and was drawn together in him. Nor did depart somewhere else and leave him, because it did come from another place and adorn him, nor was it for his use. And he did not display the whole depth of his glory, but only as much as the limits of their eyes could encompass (*St Ephraim the Syrian*)