



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, October 1

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Tuesday, October 3

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, October 5

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Festival Cooking Prep

Friday, October 6

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Festival Cooking Prep

Saturday, October 7

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Festival Cooking Prep

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Choir Reh.

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, October 8

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

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org October 1, 2023

Announcements

➤ **Food Pantry matching donation alert!** A kind parishioner has offered to match donations up to a **total of \$800** for the Food Pantry. Can you help? Every dollar will be matched this week. Please help! Earmark a special donation this week to the food pantry! Thank you!

➤ Slavic Food Fest News

Everyone is asked to join in supporting our annual Slavic Food Fest. It's an opportunity to reach out to the community and get a taste of our delicious hospitality, see our church, and also learn about our faith. There has been much work done to prepare, but there is still much to do. *(If you're unable to help, we would appreciate your considerate donation to help defray costs.)*

- Join us on Thursday/Friday/Saturday from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm to help **prepare food**.
- **Spread the word** by sharing on social media or take some handbills to post.
- **Yard signs** will be ready on Tuesday and Fr Tom will deliver to interested areas.
- Items for the **baskets** can be given today to Danielle Bartko.
- Sign up to **help** work at the Fest. See Kristie Mertz or Deb Burgess.

➤ Join us for the reboot of our **annual St Nicholas Symposium to be held on Saturday, October 21 from 2:00-4:00 pm**. The topic of the Symposium will be **Christian Iconography and the Second Commandment**. This Symposium will be a series of short talks discussing Iconography from a variety of perspectives. This will be perfect for Orthodox Christians, those who are interested in icons, and those who may disagree with icons but are interested in Orthodoxy. More info next week!

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized (none); Home:* John Mahalchak (son), Rick Porter, Donya Yewisiak. *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, Anne, Uncle John, and newly departed, Alma; for the health of Aunt Geri, family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for birthday blessings for husband, Richard, friends, Michael, Nikki, Diane, special intention, and peace. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of Donya Yewisiak and John Naiser. From **Nancy Shaytar and George M. Shaytar** for the departed servant, George Shaytar; for the health of Joanne Shaytar. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton & Elizabeth Hamilton. From **John & Olga** for the health and salvation of our Galina Vilкова and protection of Peter, Dana, and Mathilda on their travels. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of son, John (surgery), Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Daniel, and Mary. From **Kristie Mertz** for the health of Donya Yewisiak.

Thank You

➤ to our **October donors the Robes Family** all categories (Bulletin \$60), in memory of Thomas V Robes Sr, (Holy Bread \$50) for the health of Teresa Robes on her birthday, (Altar Candles \$25) for the health of the Robes children, (Communion Wine \$40) for the health of Roberts and Teresa on their anniversary, (Incense \$10) in memory of Georgiann and Thomas Robes Jr.

➤ to Mat Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell for donating two cases of the zapivka (warm wine and water) cups served after communion.

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: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

Verse (younger classes): "For I am determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:2)

Questions to ask/review:

- What challenges were the people of Corinth facing at the time of Paul's letter?
- What is sin? When have we sinned?
- What do our parents do when we sin?
- Did Jesus ever sin?
- What did God do because of our sins?
- Why is Jesus called the "Lamb of God"?
- Why is the cross the symbol of our faith?

Verse (older classes): "For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?" (1 Corinthians 5:12)

Questions to ask/review:

- Should we talk to our friends about wrong behavior? Under what circumstances?
- What is the difference between judging right from wrong and judging someone's salvation?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Read and discuss this week's Scripture verses.
- If your child is of confession age, encourage them to consider their sins and plan to attend confession.
- When children make mistakes at home, model God's love and forgiveness to them.

Prayer: O Lord, we ask that you help us to bear our cross. Teach us and lead us to your truth. Amen.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, October 1

Tone 8 Troparion (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!

Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 4 Troparion (Protection)

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy, illumined by thy coming, O Mother of God. Beholding thy pure image, we fervently cry to thee:

“Encompass us beneath the precious veil of thy protection;
deliver us from every form of evil
by entreating Christ, thy Son and our God,//
that He may save our souls.”

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 (St. Romanus)

Thou didst gladden Christ’s Church by thy melodies
like an inspired heavenly trumpet.
Thou wast enlightened by the Mother of God and didst shine on the world as God’s poet.//
We lovingly honor thee, O righteous Romanus.

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

Tone 8 Kontakion (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.

Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,//
and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Protection)

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church,
and with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us.
Angels and bishops worship,
Apostles and Prophets rejoice together,//
since for our sake she prays to the pre-eternal God.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)

Epistle of the Sunday (2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1)

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.”

Therefore

“Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you.”
“I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the Lord Almighty.”

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the

flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 6:31-36)

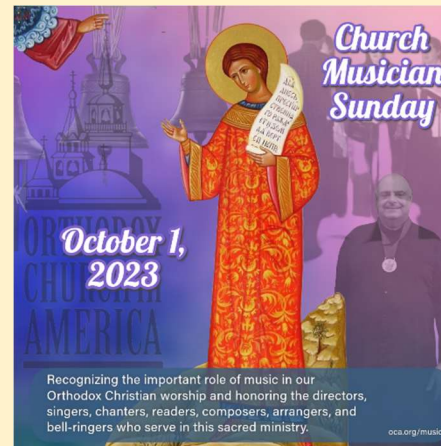
And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

“But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. (Ps. 115:4) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

We want to sincerely thank all of the wonderful Church musicians in our parish that help to lead us in our worship and make our services so inspiring. To our directors, (past and present), our singers, readers, bell ringers: God grant you many years!



The miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the **mid-tenth century** in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop’s Throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed “more than the rays of the sun.” Saint Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, “Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?” Epiphanius answered, “I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe.”

The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, “O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard.”

Saints Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and “for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation.”