



## 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 15

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

*No daily services this week. Fr Thomas will be attending an OCA Clergy retreat near Chicago.*

### Saturday, October 21

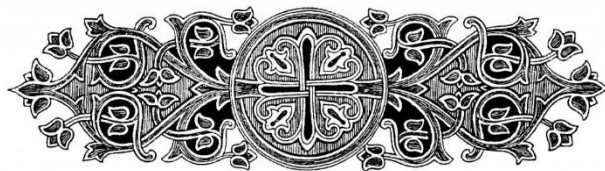
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Pan Orthodox Choir

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm St Nicholas Symposium

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, October 22

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

## Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

October 15, 2023

## Announcements

➤ **Thank you** to everyone who made the 2023 Slavic Food Fest a great success! We will have a full list of workers, volunteers, and donors in next week's bulletin. God bless you!

➤ **We will be selling food from the festival at 50% off, available for takeout.** Please avail yourself of this opportunity at coffee hour today. You may pay by cash or credit card. Thank you!

➤ **There will be no daily services or office hours this week.** Fr Thomas will be attending the national OCA Clergy Retreat at the University of St Mary in Mundelein IL on the subject of "The Prayer of the Heart." If there are any emergencies, please call or text Fr Thomas at 412-206-5012 or send an email to frthomas@orthodoxpittsburgh.org and he will return your message as soon as possible.

➤ Next Saturday, October 21, will be the relaunch of our **annual St Nicholas Symposium to be held from 2:00-4:00 pm.** The topic of the Symposium will be **Christian Iconography and the Second Commandment.** The speakers will be Dr Edith Humphrey, Jesse Cone, Randi Sider-Rose, and Fr Thomas. This will be perfect for Orthodox Christians, those non-Orthodox who are interested in icons, and those Christians who may disagree with iconography or icon veneration. A reception will be held after the event. Please support this important outreach event to share the truth of the Orthodox Christian faith!

## 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 newly departed servant, Gregory Nescott and for Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, brother, Robert (1 year), parents, Theresa, John, Uncle John, Uncle Frank, Kum Eli, and Baba Mary; for the health of Aunt Geri, family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for birthdays, anniversaries, special intention, and peace. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, Gregg Nescott. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, Gregg Nescott; for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha. From **Nancy Shaytar and George M. Shaytar** for the departed servant, George Shaytar; for the health of Donya Yewisiak. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton & Donya Yewisiak. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilкова. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends and family- John, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Daniel, and Mary; safe trip Patel family. From **Jeff & Luann Kopycinski** for the departed servant, father, Ellsworth. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Bruce, Lubyа Valentina, Diana, Rob, Marina, and Lida; for the health of Tatyana, Tatyana, Nina, Roma, Joe Jr., Adrianna, Veronika, Valera, Daniel, Olga, and Beth. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servant, daughter, Amelia on her birthday-Memory Eternal; for the health of Lindsay on her birthday-God grant you peace; special intentions. From **the Pravlochaks** for the health of Doris on her birthday, Alex & Anna on their wedding, Donya, and family.  
**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.

## This Week in Church School

**Today's lesson:** St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians

**Verse (younger classes):** II Corinthians 4:6- "For it is God Who commanded light to shine out of darkness, Who has shone in our hearts."

### Questions to ask/review:

- Why do we dislike darkness?
- Why is Jesus called the light of the world?
- How can we share His light?

**Verse (older classes):** II Corinthians 9:7- "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

### Questions to ask/review:

- Have you ever promised to give to something and then never followed through?
- How much of our lives do we owe to God?
- How much does God ask us to give back to Him?
- Do we have to be rich to give?
- With what attitude does God want us to approach giving - grudgingly or willingly? Is that how we usually feel when we give?

### Suggested Activities at home:

- Use the child's candle made in class, or another candle, every evening at your prayers. Remind them that Jesus is the light of the world.
- Look at physical sources of light: the sun, moon, stars, lamps, candles, etc.
- Sing "This Little Light of Mine".
- Set money aside for God or earn money at home and give a portion back to God.

**Prayer:** Let my light shine in the world with your holy light.

**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 Sunday, October 15

## **Tone 2 Troparion** (Resurrection)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,  
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.  
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

## **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 8 Troparion** (Ven. Euthymius)

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Father,  
for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ.  
By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away;  
but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal.//  
Therefore thy spirit, venerable Euthymius,  
rejoices with the angels.

## **Tone 2 Kontakion** (Resurrection)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,  
seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!  
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee,//  
and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

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

## **Tone 2 Kontakion** (Ven. Euthymius)

Crossing dry-shod through the storms of life,  
venerable and divinely wise Euthymius,  
thou didst mightily drown the bodiless foe in the streams of thy tears;  
thou didst receive the gift of miracles to heal all sufferings.//  
Unceasingly pray for us all!

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

## **Tone 6 Kontakion of the Theotokos**

Steadfast protectress of Christians,  
constant advocate before the Creator,  
do not despise the cry of us sinners,  
but in your goodness come speedily to help us  
who call on you in faith.  
Hasten to hear our intercessions and to intercede for us, O Theotokos  
For you always protect those who honor you.

## **Tone 2 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (Ps. 117:14)

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9)

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such

a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

## **Gospel of the Sunday** (Luke 8:5-15)

“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?”

And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that

‘Seeing they may not see,  
And hearing they may not understand.’

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

## **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

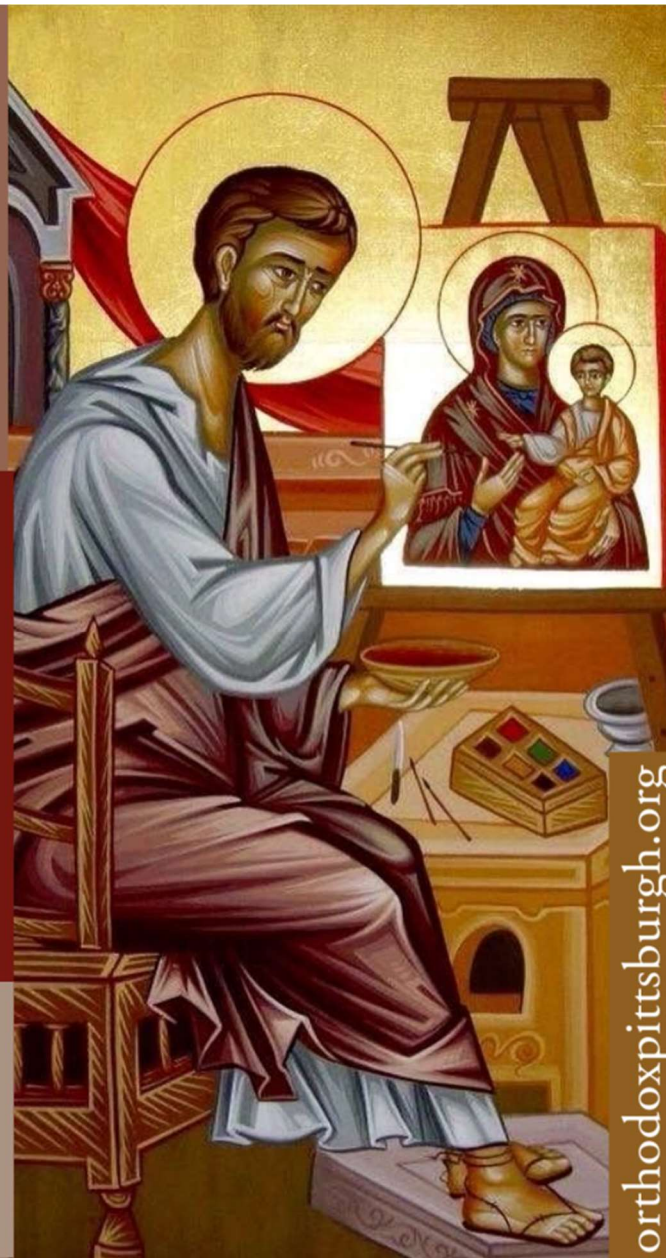
**Be careful not to receive the word on a stony ground**, which would produce the fruit of good works, but without the roots of perseverance. Because many love what they hear, and propose to undertake good works, but soon, fatigue due to difficulties makes them abandon what was started. The stony ground thus lacked moisture, since it could not bring what had sprouted to the fruit that perseverance produces. Many, indeed, when they hear talk against avarice, hate this greed and praise the scorn of all things. But as soon as their soul sees a desirable object, it forgets what it praised. Many, when they hear talk against lust, not only do not want to defile their flesh, but blush to have it defiled. However, as soon as a beauty of flesh appears in their eyes, their soul is carried away by desire as if they had not yet taken any resolution to resist such a desire. And they commit reprehensible acts, though they have previously condemned in their hearts those they remembered to have committed. (St Gregory Dia)

# CHRISTIAN ICONOGRAPHY AND THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

## ST NICHOLAS SYMPOSIUM

Saturday  
October 21  
2-4 pm

320 Munson Ave  
McKees Rocks PA  
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- **Dr Edith Humphrey**, Professor Emerita of New Testament, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- **Jesse Cone**, Headmaster of St Constantine Classical School, Pittsburgh
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