



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. Please join us downstairs following the Divine Liturgy. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

This Week

Sunday, May 5 – Holy Pascha

12:00 (noon) Paschal Vespers/Procession

Monday, May 6 – Bright Monday

9:30 am Resurrectional Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, May 7 – Bright Tuesday

Pilgrimage to Holy Transfiguration Monastery Ellwood City PA. (9:30 am) All are welcome!

Thursday, May 9– Bright Thursday

9:00 am Paschal Matins

9:30 am to Noon Office Hours

Friday, May 10

5:00-10:00 pm Paschal Open House Soroka Residence, Moon Township

Saturday, May 11 – Bright Saturday

1:30 pm St Alexander Nevsky Cemetery

3:00 pm Mt Calvary Cemetery

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, May 12 – St Thomas Sunday

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!
Christos voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese! (Russian)
Christos anesti! Alithos anesti! (Greek)

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, Rector
Deacon Luke Loboda, Attached
Deacon John Skowron, Attached
Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Holy Pascha: The Resurrection of Christ

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

May 5, 2024

Announcements

➤ **Thank you to everyone** who worked so hard Thanks to all those who worked so hard during the Lenten season and during Holy Week to make this Paschal Celebration special for everyone! To Deacon Luke, to the choir and our directors, the parish council, the custodians, the altar servers, to those who decorated the church, and to everyone who worked diligently to make sure everything was prepared. May God grant you many years!

➤ **Fr Thomas and Matushka Joni cordially invites everyone downstairs** to partake of Paschal food and drink after the blessing of the baskets. The food on the buffet is offered for the health of our family and in thanksgiving to God for the parish of St Nicholas. Thank you for all of your love and support!

➤ Everyone is invited to the **annual Soroka Paschal Open House** on Bright Friday, May 10 beginning at 5pm. Mark your calendars! We can't wait to see you!

➤ **The Blessing of Graves will be held on Saturday, May 11** this year, instead of Sunday, due to the Mother's Day holiday. 1:30 pm at St Alexander Nevsky Cemetery, 3:00 pm at Mt Calvary Cemetery.

➤ With great sorrow but in hope of the Resurrection, we mourn the falling asleep of life-long beloved parishioner, **Eleanor Kovacs**. She passed away this morning, Holy Saturday. Visitation will be at Szal Funeral Home in Wednesday, May 8, from 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm. A Parastas will be served at the funeral home at 7:30 pm. The funeral will be on Thursday, May 9 at St Nicholas Church at 10 am. May her memory be eternal!

➤ We invite everyone to consider a donation to our **Dome Restoration Fund**. We must raise at least \$150,000 by November. Please consider helping us!

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized (none); Home: John Mahalchak (son). William Warnak, Nancy Shaytar, Donya Yewisiak. Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home: Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka.*

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell, and Olga Bokun-40 days- Memory Eternal; for the health of family. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, Ann Polny; for the health of cousin, Cynthia; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Marsha!! From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of cousin, Cynthia and sister, Marsha on her birthday. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, Ann Polny; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Andrei, Valentina, Diana, Rob, Tony, Nina, Stephen, Roman, Marina, and Luby; for the health of Veronika, Tatyana, Nick's Dad, Joe, Beth, Christopher, Thomas, Tatiana, Adrianna, Irina, and Sergei. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of Fr. Thomas and Jacqueline on their birthdays. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the departed servant, twin brother, Russell Hamilton; for the health of the Hamilton and Scott families, and Nancy Shaytar. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Nancy Shaytar. From **Rick Porter** for the health of Bob Herm and Susan. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Kayla Elizabeth, and Sarah, Ivy, and Scarlett..

Thank You

➤ to our **May donors Mat. Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** for (Bulletin \$60, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$50) in memory of Philip and Ella Karavlan. From **Marsha Wasilko** (Holy Bread \$50) on the occasion of her birthday. From **Fr Thomas and Mat. Joni Soroka** (Incense \$10) for the health and salvation of daughter, Jacqueline, on her birthday.

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.

Resurrection

On the Holy and Great Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the life-bearing Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

v. Christ descended to do battle with Hades alone; He ascended after taking many spoils of victory.

We call the present Feast "Pascha," which means "Passover" (in the Hebrew language); for this is the day on which God originally brought the world into existence from non-being. It was on this day that He conveyed the people of Israel across the Red Sea and snatched them out of the hands of Pharaoh; on this day also, descending from Heaven, He came to dwell in the Virgin's womb. And now, after snatching the whole of mankind from the depths

of Hades, He has raised it up to Heaven and restored to it the ancient dignity of incorruption. But when He descended to Hades, He did not resurrect all, but only those who chose to believe in Him. He freed the souls of the Saints from all



the ages who were being forcibly held by Hades, and allowed all of them to ascend to Heaven. For this reason, rejoicing exceedingly, we celebrate the Resurrection with splendor, offering an image of the joy in which our nature abounds through the tender mercy of God. Likewise, demonstrating the destruction of enmity and our unity with God and the Angels themselves, we give each other the customary kiss of peace. (*The Synaxarion*)

days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Gospel of the Feast (John 1:1-17)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.

He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’”

And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace: “Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: ‘Rejoice, your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! With Himself He has raised all the dead.’” Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now, and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

Communion Hymn of the Feast

Receive the Body of Christ! Taste the Fountain of Immortality!

Dismissal Hymn of the Feast

And unto us He has given eternal life! Let us worship His resurrection on the third day!

Note: Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer and fasting.



Hymns of Matins

The Paschal Canon

Ode 1

This is the day of resurrection. Let us be illumined, O people. Pascha, the Pascha of the Lord. For from death to life and from earth to heaven has Christ our God led us, as we sing the song of victory:

R/ Christ is risen from the dead!

Let us purify our senses and we shall see Christ shining the unapproachable light of His resurrection. We shall clearly hear Him say: Rejoice, as we sing the song of victory.

(*Tropar*) Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (3x)

Ode 3

Come, let us drink, not miraculous water drawn forth from a barren well, but a new vintage from the fount of incorruption, springing from the tomb of Christ. In Him we are established.

R/ Christ is risen from the dead!

Now all is filled with light: heaven and earth and the lower regions. Let all creation celebrate the rising of Christ. In Him we are established.

(*Tropar*) Christ is risen from the dead... (3x)

Ode 4

The inspired prophet Habakkuk now stands with us in holy vigil. He is like a shining angel who cries with a piercing voice: Today salvation has come to the world, for Christ is risen as all powerful.

R/ Christ is risen from the dead!

Christ our Pascha has appeared as a male child, the son that opens a virgin womb. He is called the Lam as one destined to be our food, unblemished for He has not tasted of defilement, and perfect because He is our true God.

(*Tropar*) Christ is risen from the dead... (3x)

Ode 5

Let us arise at the rising of the sun and bring to the Master a hymn instead of myrrh, and we shall see Christ, the sun of righteousness, Who causes life to dawn for all.

R/ Christ is risen from the dead!

The souls bound in the chains of hell, O Christ, seeing Thy compassion without measure, pressed onward to

the light with joyful steps, praising the eternal Pascha.

(*Tropar*) Christ is risen from the dead... (3x)

Ode 6

Thou didst descend, O Christ, to the depths of the earth. Thou didst break the everlasting bars which held death’s captives, and like Jonah from the whale on the third day, Thou didst arise from the grave.

R/ Christ is risen from the dead

Thou didst arise, O Christ, and yet the tomb remained sealed, as at Thy birth the Virgin’s womb remained unharmed; and Thou hast opened for us the gates of paradise.

(*Tropar*) Christ is risen from the dead... (3x)

Kontakion

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, Thou didst destroy the power of death. In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, proclaiming “Rejoice” to the myrrhbearing women, granting peace to Thy apostles and bestowing resurrection on the fallen?

Hymn of the Resurrection

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship, the holy Lord Jesus, the only Sinless One! We venerate Thy Cross, O Christ, and Thy Holy Resurrection we praise and glorify; for Thou art our God, and we know no other than Thee; we call on Thy name. Come, all you faithful, let us venerate Christ’s Holy Resurrection! For, behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. Let us ever bless the Lord, praising His Resurrection. By enduring the Cross for us, He destroyed death by death! Jesus has risen from the tomb, as He foretold, granting us eternal life and great mercy.

The Paschal Canon (continued)

Ode 7

He who saved the three young men in the furnace became incarnate and suffered as a mortal man. Though His sufferings He clothed what is mortal in the robe of immortality. He alone is blessed and most glorious: the God of our Fathers.

R/ Christ is risen from the dead!

The godly women hastened to the Thee with myrrh, O Christ. In tears they had sought Thee as a dead man, but in joy they worshipped Thee as the living God and proclaimed the mystical Pascha to Thy disciples.

(*Tropar*) Christ is risen from the dead...(3x)

Ode 8

This is the chosen and holy day, first of Sabbaths, kind and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days. On this day we bless Christ forevermore.

R/ Christ is risen from the dead
Come on this chosen day of the resurrection, let us partake of the new fruit of the vine. Let us share in the divine rejoicing of the kingdom of Christ, praising Him as God forevermore.

(*Tropar*) Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (3x)

Ode 9

R/ My soul magnifies Him who rose from the tomb on the third day: Christ the giver of life.

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now, and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

R/ Christ, the new Pascha, the living sacrifice, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. How divine! How beloved! How sweet is Thy voice, O Christ! For Thou has faithfully promised to be with us to the end of the world. Having this as our anchor of hope, we the faithful rejoice.

R/ Mary Magdalene hastened to the tomb, and seeing Christ, she questioned Him as though He were the gardener.

O Christ, great and most holy Pascha. O Wisdom, Word, and Power of God, grant that we may more perfectly partake of Thee in the never-ending day of Thy kingdom.

R/ The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace: “Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: ‘Rejoice, your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! With Himself He has raised all the dead.’” Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now, and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

(*Tropar*) Christ is risen from the dead... (3x)

The Song of Light

In the flesh Thou didst fall asleep as a mortal man, O King and Lord. Thou didst rise on the third day, raising Adam from corruption and destroying death: O Pascha of incorruption, the salvation of the world!

The Paschal Verses

V/ Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered.

Today, a sacred Pascha is revealed to us, A new and holy Pascha, A mystical Pascha, A Pascha worthy of veneration, A Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer, A blameless Pascha, A great Pascha, a Pascha of the faithful, A Pascha which has opened for us the gates of Paradise, A Pascha which sanctifies all the faithful.

V/ As smoke vanishes so let them vanish.

Come from that scene, O women, bearers of glad tidings, And say to Zion: Receive from us the glad tidings of joy, of Christ’s resurrection. Exult and be glad, And rejoice, O Jerusalem, Seeing Christ the King, Who comes forth from the tomb like a bridegroom in procession.

V/ So the sinners will perish before the face of God. But let the righteous be glad.

The myrrh-bearing women, at the break of dawn, drew near to the tomb of the Life-giver. There they found an angel sitting upon the stone. He greeted them with these words: Why do you seek the living among the dead? Why do you mourn the incorrupt amid corruption? Go, proclaim the glad tidings to His disciples.

V/ This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Pascha of beauty, The Pascha of the Lord, A Pascha worthy of all honor has dawned for us. Pascha! Let us embrace each other joyously. O Pascha, ransom from affliction! For today as from a bridal chamber Christ has shown forth from the tomb and filled the women with joy saying: Proclaim the glad tidings to the apostles.

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

This is the day of resurrection. Let us be illumined by the feast. Let us embrace each other. Let us call “Brothers” even those that hate us, and forgive all by the resurrection, and so let us cry: Christ is risen from the dead, Trampling down death by death, And upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (3x)



Divine Liturgy

Paschal Troparion

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

v. Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face!

Refrain: Christ is risen...

v. As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire!

v. So the sinners will perish before the face of God. But let the righteous be glad!

v. This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

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

v. now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

First Antiphon of the Feast (Psalm 66)

v. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name, give glory to His praise!

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

v. Say to God: “How awesome are Thy deeds! So great is Thy power that Thine enemies cringe before Thee!”

v. Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee! Let it praise Thy name, O most High!

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

Second Antiphon of the Feast (Psalm 66)

v. God be bountiful and bless us! Show the light of Thy countenance upon us and have mercy on us!

Refrain: O Son of God Who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: “Alleluia!”

v. That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations.

v. Let the people give thanks to Thee, O God! Let all the people give thanks to Thee!

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

Third Antiphon of the Feast (Psalm 66)

v. Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face!

Refrain: Christ is risen...

v. As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire!

v. So the sinners will perish before the face of God. But let the righteous be glad!

Hypakoe of the Feast Tone 8

Before the dawn Mary and the women came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

They heard the angelic voice: “Why do you seek among the dead as a Man

the One Who is everlasting Light?

Behold the clothes in the grave; go and proclaim to the world:

“The Lord is risen; He has slain death, as He is the Son of God, saving the race of man.”

Kontakion of the Feast Tone 8

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, Thou didst destroy the power of death.

In victory Thou didst arise, O Christ God, proclaiming: “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women, granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

Instead of the Trisagion

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Prokeimenon of the Feast (Psalm 19)

This is the day which the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Epistle of the Feast (Acts 1:1-8)

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty (*continued next pg*)



