



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 use the QR Code as your offering today. Please join us downstairs following the service. We want to get to know you! God bless you!



This Week

Sunday, August 18

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, August 20

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, August 22

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

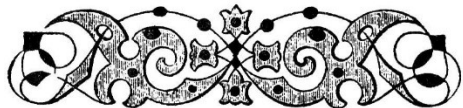
Saturday, August 24

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Parish Vigil

Sunday, August 25

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

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

August 18, 2024

Announcements

➤ Today we prayerfully sendoff **Alex Listvinsky back to St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary** for the second year of his three-year Master of Divinity program. May God bless and protect him as he undertakes more rigorous studies. Last year, the parishioners extended a hand of financial support to Alex. We ask that you once again **consider making an offering to help defray the costs of his education** and make an investment in the future of Orthodox clergy in America. Please earmark your gift as "Seminary." Thank you and may God bless you!

➤ **Church School will begin on Sunday, September 8.** Our excellent Church School offers meaningful education to students from PreK to Grade 12. Please submit the names and grades of your students to Matushka Joni Soroka (jonisoroka@yahoo.com) this week. Thank you!

➤ The next **Bible Study** will be held on Wednesday, August 28. All are welcomed!

➤ The **Community Food Pantry** will be held on Saturday, August 31.

➤ Please remember that every **first Sunday of the month** is potluck coffee hour. The next one is on September 1. Please bring a dish to share!

➤ Our annual **Church Picnic** will be held on **Sunday, September 22** at Clever Park.

➤ Our **Slavic Food Fest** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 11.** More information to come next week on how you can help!

Prayers

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

➤ **Vigil Lights** from **Charles A Wasilko** for the health of sisters Doris and Marsha and cousin Cynthia. From **Marsha Wasilko**, Happy Birthday and Many Years to Nancy Pravlochak! From **Doris Wasilko**, for the health of the Wasilko Family; Many Years to Nancy Pravlochak on her birthday. From **Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant of God Dn Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **John and Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servant of God Jack Kruze; for the health of family and Marilyn Maiello. From **John and Olga Kowalcheck** for the health of Galina Vilkova; for protection of Peter, Dana, and Mathilda in their travels. From Richard and Sonia Blaha for the newly departed servants of God Tom, Matushka Annice, Kera, and Leo and for the departed John and Betty; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers. For birthdays, anniversaries, a special intention, and peace. From the **John Mahalchak family** for the departed servants John Mahalchak (8/13) and Veronica; for the health of friends and family, especially John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Kayla, Elizabeth, Margaret, and Richard.

Thank You

➤ to our **August donors:** **Mertz Family** (\$25 Altar Candles) for the health of Christoph on his birthday. **Fr Thomas and Mat Joni Soroka** (\$10 Incense) for the health of daughter, Natalie, on her birthday. **Donya Yewisiak** (\$50 Holy Bread) in memory of (father) Fr Vladimir Soroka.

Convert by Deeds

Let this, I say, be our way of overpowering them, and of conducting our warfare against them; and let us astound them by our way of life rather than by words. For this is the main battle, this is the unanswerable argument, the argument from conduct. For though we give ten thousand precepts of philosophy in words, if we do not exhibit a life better than theirs, the gain is nothing. For it is not what is said that draws their attention, but their enquiry is, what we do; and they say, First obey your own words, and then admonish others. But if while you say, infinite are the blessings in the world to come, thou seem yourself nailed down to this world, just as if no such things existed, your works to me are more credible than your words. For when I see you seizing other men's goods, weeping immoderately over the departed, doing ill in many other things, how shall I believe you that there is a resurrection? And what if men utter not this in words? They think it and turn it often in their minds. And this is what stays the unbelievers from becoming Christians.

Let us win them therefore by our life. Many, even among the untaught, have in that way astounded the minds of philosophers, as having exhibited in themselves also that philosophy which lies in deeds, and uttered a voice clearer than a trumpet by their mode of life and self-denial. For this is stronger than the tongue. But when I say, one ought not to bear malice, and then do all manner of evils to the Greek, how shall I be able by words to win him, while by my deeds I am frightening him away? Let us catch them then by our mode of life; and by these souls let us build up the Church, and of these let us amass our wealth. There is nothing to weigh against a soul, not even the whole world. So that although thou give countless treasure unto the poor, you will do no such work as he who converts one soul.

St John Chrysostom

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, August 18

Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change
weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ
God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 1 Troparion (Feast)

In giving birth you preserved your virginity.
In falling asleep you did not forsake the world,
O Theotokos.
You were translated to life, O Mother of Life,//
and by your prayers you deliver our souls from
death.

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 (Martyrs)

Let us praise as is meet, O faithful,
the most comely, radiant and divinely wise
martyrs:
Most blessed Florus and all-venerable Laurus,
who proclaimed to all the uncreated Trinity.
Suffering unto bloodshed,
they were adorned with brilliant crowns.//
Entreat Christ our God to save our souls!

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

Tone 7 Kontakion (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men
captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying
its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and
cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 2 Kontakion (Feast)

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the
Theotokos,
who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in
her intercessions.
For being the Mother of Life,//
she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt
in her virginal womb.

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The
Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Ps.
28:11)

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit
hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 1:10-18)

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of
our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the
same thing, and that there be no divisions
among you, but that you be perfectly joined
together in the same mind and in the same
judgment. For it has been declared to me
concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s
household, that there are contentions among
you. Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am
of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of
Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” Is Christ divided?

Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you
baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you except
Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I
had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also
baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I
do not know whether I baptized any other. For
Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach
the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the
cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to
those who are perishing, but to us who are being
saved it is the power of God.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 14:14-22)

And when Jesus went out He saw a great
multitude; and He was moved with compassion
for them, and healed their sick. When it was
evening, His disciples came to Him, saying,
“This is a deserted place, and the hour is already
late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go
into the villages and buy themselves food.”

But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go
away. You give them something to eat.”

And they said to Him, “We have here only five
loaves and two fish.”

He said, “Bring them here to Me.” Then He
commanded the multitudes to sit down on the
grass. And He took the five loaves and the two
fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and
broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and
the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all
ate and were filled, and they took up twelve
baskets full of the fragments that remained.
Now those who had eaten were about five
thousand men, besides women and children.

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into
the boat and go before Him to the other side,
while He sent the multitudes away.

Hymn to the Theotokos (Feast)

The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition
of the Virgin, were struck with wonder, seeing
how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven.

The limits of nature are overcome in thee, O
Pure Virgin: for birthgiving remains virginal,
and life is united to death; a virgin after
childbearing and alive after death, thou dost
ever save thine inheritance, O Theotokos.

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!

All that the Most High does, He does as is
fitting. There is nothing in what He does that
is aimless, unnecessary or superfluous. Why do
some people wander about so aimlessly and do so
many aimless things? Because they are unaware of
the purpose of their lives and the goal of their
journeying. Why do some people load themselves
down with unnecessary cares, being scarcely able to
move under the great heap of superfluous things?
Because they do not know the one thing that is
needful.

In order to bring together man’s fragmented mind, to
heal man’s divided heart and to unite man’s
disordered strength — in order to do all this, the Lord
Jesus, from first to last, revealed one goal, and one
only: the Kingdom of God. A cross-eyed man looking
two ways at once sees neither way. Oh, how aimless
is the life of a man striving after many ends! How
insensitive is a divided heart! How weak is the will if
its strength is frittered away!

Only one thing is needful: the Kingdom of God. Christ
the Wonder-worker strove to direct the eyes of all
men to this one point. He who so looks has one
thought — God; one feeling — love; one yearning —
to draw near to God. Blessed is he who has come to this
integrity; such a man has become like a glass lens
that concentrates the sun’s rays in order to produce
fire.

St Nikolai Velimirovic