

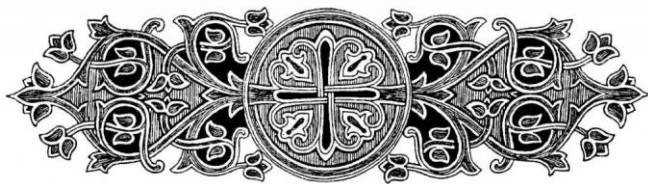


## Welcome!

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!

## This Week

- Sunday, July 18**  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday, July 20**  
No Matins or Office Hours
- Thursday, July 22**  
No Matins or Office Hours
- Saturday, July 24**  
No Great Vespers
- Sunday, July 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*

### Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org July 18, 2021

## Announcements

➤ Thank you to all the parents who supported and volunteered to help with our **annual Vacation Church School**. We had a record number of 30 students attend! Special thanks to Fr. Tom, Dn. Luke Loboda, Mat. Ashley Loboda, Kristie Mertz, Danielle & Bob Bartko, Melissa Graff, Amy Elizabeth Reed, Rachel Haunschild, Mary Hoffman, Adam Fecso and Karlie Lewis. Most of all, thanks to **Matushka Joni Soroka** for planning, organizing, and leading VCS 2021!

➤ **We are updating our parish photo directory** and need your help! Please send Kristie Mertz a recent photo of you and/or your family (KristieMertz@orthodoxpittsburgh.org), or see her or Dn John at coffee hour to have them take your photo. Everyone will receive a digital copy of the directory when it is completed. (Hard copies will also be made available upon request.)

➤ We are organizing a **children's Slavic ensemble at St. Nicholas**. Our goal is for the participating children learn ethnic songs and dances to perform at both the Slavic Food Festival and the parish picnic. This is a chance to have the children learn Eastern European culture and, more importantly, to have fun together. We will meet on **Thursday, July 22nd at 5:00 pm and then every other Thursday after**. Meetings will last approximately two hours. This is open to everyone, so bring friends too! Please contact Bob Bartko for more information.

## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm: Known to be hospitalized:** (none)  
*Home:* George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Olga Tryszyn.

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **John Mahalchak Family** for the health of friends & family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; special intention. From **Irene Kulchock** for the health of Jan Pravlochak. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova, Xenia, Elizabeth & Emma. From **Mat. Nancy K Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Charles Wasilko** for the departed servant, godmother Carol Daniels. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, Carolyn Daniels; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of our family. From **Kristie Mertz** for the health of Katarina. From **John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servant, Carolyn Daniels; for the health of Jan Pravlochak and our grandchildren. From **Deb Burgess** for the departed servant, Sue; for the health of Roger.

## Thank You

➤ to our July donors, **Albena Iossifova** (Communion Wine \$40) for Yanka; **Richard Porter** (Altar Candles \$25) for the health of wife, Susan, on her birthday; **the John Mahalchak Family** (Incense \$10) for the health of family and friends.

➤ to **Bob Bartko** for his generous work in insulating and covering the pipes in the church basement. May God bless him for his faithfulness!

## St Elizabeth the New Martyr

Saint Elizabeth was the older sister of Tsarina Alexandra, and was married to the Grand Duke Sergius, the governor of Moscow. She converted to Orthodoxy from Protestantism of her own free will, and organized women from all levels of society to help the soldiers at the front and in the hospitals.

Saint Elizabeth nursed sick and wounded soldiers in the hospitals and on the battle front. On Pascha of 1918, the Communists ordered her to leave Moscow, and join the royal family near Ekaterinburg. She left with a novice, Sister Barbara, and an escort of Latvian guards.

After arriving in Ekaterinburg, Saint Elizabeth was denied access to the Tsar's family. She was placed in a convent, where she was warmly received by the sisters.

At the end of May Saint Elizabeth was moved to nearby Alopevsk with the Grand Dukes Sergius, John, and Constantine, and the young Count Vladimir Paley. They were all housed in a schoolhouse on the edge of town. Saint Elizabeth was under guard, but was permitted to go to church and work in the garden.

On the night of July 5, they were all taken to a place twelve miles from Alopevsk, and executed. The Grand Duke Sergius was shot, but the others were thrown down a mineshaft, then grenades were tossed after them. Saint Elizabeth lived for several hours, and could be heard singing hymns. The bodies of Saint Elizabeth and Saint Barbara were taken to Jerusalem in 1920, and buried in the church of Saint Mary Magdalene.

**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, July 18

## **Tone 3 Troparion** *of the Resurrection*

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

## **Tone 8 Troparion** *(Fathers)*

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God,

Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights  
on the earth.

Through them Thou hast guided us to the True  
Faith.//

O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

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

## **Tone 3 Kontakion** *of the Resurrection*

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O

Merciful One,

leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;

with the Prophets and Patriarchs//

they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of  
Thy power.

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

## **Tone 8 Kontakion** *(Fathers)*

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers'  
doctrines have established one Faith for the  
Church.

Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from  
heavenly theology,//

It defines and glorifies the great mystery of  
piety.

## **Tone 3 Prokeimenon** *of the Resurrection*

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing  
praises to our King, sing praises! (*Ps 46/47:6*)

## **Epistle** *of the Sunday (Romans 6:18-23)*

And having been set free from sin, you became  
slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms  
because of the weakness of your flesh. For just  
as you presented your members as slaves of  
uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more  
lawlessness, so now present your members as  
slaves of righteousness for holiness.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free  
in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you  
have then in the things of which you are now  
ashamed? For the end of those things is death.  
But now having been set free from sin, and  
having become slaves of God, you have your  
fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.  
For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God  
is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Gospel** *of the Sunday (Matthew 8:5-13)*

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a  
centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,  
saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home  
paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal  
him."

The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am  
not worthy that You should come under my roof.  
But only speak a word, and my servant will be  
healed. For I also am a man under authority,  
having soldiers under me. And I say to this one,  
'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he  
comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does  
it."

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to  
those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I  
have not found such great faith, not even in

Israel! And I say to you that many will come  
from east and west, and sit down with Abraham,  
Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But  
the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into  
outer darkness. There will be weeping and  
gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the  
centurion, "Go your way; and as you have  
believed, so let it be done for you." And his  
servant was healed that same hour.

## **Communion Hymn**

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

## On Tradition

"One should not seek among others the truth  
that can be easily gotten from the Church. For in  
her, as in a rich treasury, the apostles have  
placed all that pertains to truth, so that  
everyone can drink this beverage of life. She is  
the door of life." + *St. Irenaeus of Lyons, Against  
Heresies, III.4*

"We do not change the boundaries marked out  
by our Fathers. We keep the Tradition we have  
received. If we begin to lay down the Law of the  
Church even in the smallest things, the whole  
edifice will fall to the ground in no short time."  
+ *St. John of Damascus*

"Having read Holy Scripture very carefully, you  
should also read the holy Fathers who interpret  
the Scriptures. You will receive no less delight  
from reading the Fathers than you do from the  
Scriptures. The Fathers develop the hidden  
meanings in Scripture and with their own  
writings help us to understand what we did not  
before. Because of that philosophic axiom that  
all men by nature seek knowledge, we must say  
that great delight follows naturally when we  
learn about hidden and unknown matters. This

is why there will be ineffable joy and gladness  
that will come to your soul from the  
interpretations and the words of the holy  
Fathers. You too will be shouting, as did David,  
those enthusiastic words in the Psalms." + *St.  
Nicodemos of the Holy Mountain, A Handbook of  
Spiritual Counsel*

"Wherefore, brethren, let us plant ourselves  
upon the rock of faith and the Tradition of the  
Church, removing not the landmarks set by our  
holy fathers, nor giving room to those who are  
anxious to introduce novelties and to undermine  
the structure of God's holy ecumenical and  
apostolic Church. For if everyone were allowed  
a free hand, little by little the entire Body of the  
Church would be destroyed." + *St. John of  
Damascus*

"When there is a respect for small things, there  
will be an even greater respect towards the  
bigger things. When there is no respect for small  
things, then neither will there be for the bigger  
ones. This is how the Fathers maintained  
Tradition." + *Elder Paisios*

"Listen to me, people of all nations, men,  
women, and children, all of you who bear the  
Christian name: If any one preach to you  
something contrary to what the holy catholic  
Church has received from the holy apostles and  
fathers and councils, and has kept down to the  
present day, do not heed him. Do not receive the  
serpent's counsel, as Eve did, to whom it was  
death. If an angel or an emperor teaches you  
anything contrary to what you have received,  
shut your ears." + *St. John of Damascus,  
Apologia of St. John Damascene Against Those  
Who Decry Holy Images*

