



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, August 8

10:00 am Divine Liturgy (blessing of honey)

Tuesday, August 10

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, August 11

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

....7:00 pm Bible Study (new series!)

Thursday, August 12

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-10:30 am Office Hours

11:00 am Fr Thomas at Neighborhood Resilience

Saturday, August 14

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, August 15 Dormition of the Mother of God

10:00 am Festal 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

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

August 8, 2021

Announcements

➤ Next weekend we will celebrate the **Great Feast of the Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Mother of God** beginning Saturday evening with Vigil at 5:00 pm and the Divine Liturgy on Sunday at 10:00 am. The faithful may bring flowers and herbs on that day to be blessed.

➤ We are currently in the **Dormition Fast** through August 14. Please try to keep the fast to the best of your ability so that we may celebrate the feast together with joy!

➤ Everyone is welcomed to join our **new bible study series on the Letter to the Hebrews** beginning this Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Bible Study is held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.

➤ **Newly blessed Holy Water** is available for those who wish to take it home to drink and for a blessing.

➤ **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.)

➤ Our **Parish Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 12** at Clever Park in Robinson Township. Divine Liturgy will begin there at 10:30 am and the picnic at noon. See you there!

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, John, Cheryl, Gregory, and Kayla Elizabeth. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the health of husband, George. From **George & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, brother, Steve. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova and Rachel Heuer on their birthdays and for Xenia & Elizabeth and their children to be born. From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; special intention.

Thank You

➤ to our August donors, the Yewisiak and Soroka families for all categories (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10) in memory of Fr Vladimir Soroka (16th anniversary of his falling asleep, August 4)



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.

Spiritual Reading

Developing a Christian intellect takes place when all the truths of Faith are impressed so deeply into the mind that the intellect's whole existence is made up of these truths alone. When the mind begins to reason over something, it reasons according to what it knows of the Christian faith and would never make the slightest move without first consulting it. The Apostle Paul calls this keeping the image of a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7).

Our father among the Saints, John Chrysostom says: "When you immerse your mind and heart in spiritual books, you will always be filled, for spiritual reading gives you a foundation in God"

Read the words of the Holy Fathers daily.

Prayer of St. John Chrysostom before Spiritual Reading

O Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of my heart, that I may hear Your word and understand and do Your will, for I am a sojourner upon the earth. Hide not Your commandments from me, but open my eyes, that I may perceive the wonders of Your law. Speak to me the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom. On You do I set my hope, O my God, that You will enlighten my mind and understanding with the light of Your knowledge, not only to cherish those things which are written, but to do them, that in reading the lives, works and sayings of the Saints I may not sin, but that such may serve for my restoration, enlightenment and sanctification, for the salvation of my soul, and the inheritance of life everlasting; For You are the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness, and from You comes every good deed and every gift. Amen.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, August 8

Tone 6 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure body.

Thou didst capture hell
not being tempted by it.

Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to
Thee.

Tone 7 Troparion (*Feast*)

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, O Christ
God,

revealing Thy glory to Thy Disciples as far as
they could bear it.

Let Thine everlasting Light also shine upon us
sinners,
through the prayers of the Theotokos! O Giver of
Light, glory to Thee!

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

Tone 6 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery
with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life,
and the God of all.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 7 Kontakion (*Feast*)

On the mountain Thou wast transfigured, O
Christ God,
and Thy Disciples beheld Thy glory as far as
they could see it;
so that when they would behold Thee crucified,
they would understand that Thy suffering was
voluntary,

and would proclaim to the world//
that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

Tone 6 Prokeimenon (*Resurrection*)

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine
inheritance! (*Ps. 27:9a*)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (*Feast*)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in
wisdom hast Thou made them all

Epistle of the Sunday (*Romans 15:1-7*)

We then who are strong ought to bear with the
scruples of the weak, and not to please
ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for
his good, leading to edification. For even Christ
did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The
reproaches of those who reproached You fell on
Me.” For whatever things were written before
were written for our learning, that we through
the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might
have hope. Now may the God of patience and
comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one
another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may
with one mind and one mouth glorify the God
and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore receive one another, just as Christ
also received us, to the glory of God.

Gospel of the Sunday (*Matthew 9:27-35*)

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men
followed Him, crying out and saying, “Son of
David, have mercy on us!”

And when He had come into the house, the blind
men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, “Do
you believe that I am able to do this?”

They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.”

Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According
to your faith let it be to you.” And their eyes
were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them,
saying, “See that no one knows it.” But when
they had departed, they spread the news about
Him in all that country.

As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a
man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the
demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the
multitudes marveled, saying, “It was never seen
like this in Israel!”

But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by
the ruler of the demons.”

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages,
teaching in their synagogues, preaching the
gospel of the kingdom, and healing every
sickness and every disease among the people.

Tone 4 Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

Magnify, O my soul, the Lord Who was
transfigured on Mount Tabor!
Thy childbearing was without corruption;
God came forth from thy body clothed in flesh,
and appeared on earth and dwelt among men.//
Therefore we all magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in
the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*) O Lord, we will walk in
the light of Thy countenance, and will exult in
Thy Name forever. (*Ps. 88:15*) Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia!

On Patience

Joseph the Hesychast

God always helps. He always comes in time, but
patience is necessary. He hears us immediately
when we cry out to Him, but not in accordance
with our own way of thinking.

You think that your voice did not immediately
reach the saints, our Panagia, and Christ. On the
contrary, even before you cried out, the saints
rushed to your aid, knowing that you would call
upon them and seek their God-given protection.
However, since you do not see beyond what is
apparent and do not know how God governs the
world, you want your request to be fulfilled like
lightning. But this is not how things are. The
Lord wants patience. He wants you to show your
faith. You cannot just pray like a parrot. It is
necessary also to work towards whatever one
prays for, and then to learn to wait. You see that
what you longed for in the past has finally
happened. However, you were harmed because
you didn't have the patience to wait, in which
case you would have gained both the one and
the other: both the temporal and the eternal.

Now you become angry and fainthearted and
grieved, thinking that the heavenly Father is
slow in answering. But I tell you that this will
also happen as you desire—it will definitely
happen—but first it takes prayer with all your
soul, and then you must wait. And when you
have forgotten your request and have ceased
asking for it, it will come to you as a reward for
your patience and endurance. When you reach
the verge of despair while praying and seeking,
then the fulfillment of your request is near.
Christ wants to heal some hidden passion within
you, and this is why He delays in granting your
request. If you obtain it sooner, when you
demand it, your passion remains uncured within
you. If you wait, you obtain your request and the
cure of the passion. And then you rejoice
exceedingly and give warm thanks to God Who
arranges all things in wisdom and does
everything for our benefit.

So then, there is no point in losing heart, getting
upset, complaining. You must close your mouth.
Let no one perceive that you are disturbed.
Don't fume with anger, as if to work it out of
your system, but rather be calm. Burn the devil
through patience and forbearance.