



## 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 22

10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
11:30 am Community Day Ice Cream Social

### Tuesday, August 24

9:00 am Daily Matins  
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

### Wednesday, August 25

6:30 pm Daily Vespers  
7:00 pm Bible Study (Letter to the Hebrews)

### Thursday, August 26

9:00 am Daily Matins  
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

### Saturday, August 28

....4:00 pm Community Food Pantry  
5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil  
6:00 pm Family Social Night

### Sunday, August 29: Beheading of St John

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*

### Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org August 22, 2021

## Announcements

➤ Today we are holding our **annual Community Day**, inviting our neighbors to our church so that we can get to know them. As usual, if you see someone new, introduce yourself and get to know them! Welcome them to our parish! If you're visiting us today: we're glad you're here!

➤ Please join us **this Saturday, August 28th for our first monthly Social Night Vespers**. The Vespers service will be held as usual at 5:00 pm, followed by **pizza, fellowship, and children's games** in the parish hall. Our Social Night will be held on the last Saturday of each month.

➤ **We are requesting completed baskets to be donated for auctioning at our Church Picnic on Sunday, September 12.** Any theme will work; gift cards too! Use your imagination and get creative! **Please bring your completed baskets to the church by September 7th**, early enough for labeling. They can be left on the back tables in the fellowship area downstairs. Questions can be directed to Donya Yewisiak, Lindy Hamilton or Suzy Polny. We cannot wait to see what ideas you come up with! Let's create some fun! Thank you!

➤ 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!

➤ Next Sunday we commemorate the **Beheading of St John the Baptist**. It is observed as a strict fast day. Please do your best to abstain from meat and dairy and to eat simply. Wine and oil are permitted.

## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm: Known to be hospitalized:** (none) **Home:** Robert Robes, 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 **Marsha Wasilko** Happy Birthday & Many Years to Nancy Pravlochak! From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of brother, Chuck; for Nancy Pravlochak on her birthday, Many Years! From **George & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, brother, Steve. From **Susan Porter** for the health of Richard Porter. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova 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 and Nancy Pravlochak on her birthday--Many Years! From **Albena Ivanova** for the departed servant, Father George.

## 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 (16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his falling asleep, August 4)

**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.

**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.**

## Understanding Mary

“Why is it hard to believe that Mary gave birth in a way contrary to the law of natural birth and remained a virgin, when contrary to the law of nature the sea looked at Him and fled, and the waters of the Jordan returned to their source (Ps. 113:3). Is it past belief that a virgin gave birth when we read that a rock issued water (Ex. 17:6), and the waves of the sea were made solid as a wall (Ex. 14:22)? Is it past belief that a Man came from a virgin when a rock bubbled forth a flowing stream (Ex. 20:11), iron floated on water (4 Kings 6:6), a Man walked upon the waters (Mt. 14:26)? If the waters bore a Man, could not a virgin give birth to a man? What Man? Him of Whom we read: ‘...the Lord shall be known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day; and they shall offer sacrifices, and shall vow vows to the Lord, and pay them’ (Is. 19:20). In the Old Testament a Hebrew virgin (Miriam) led an army through the sea (Ex. 15:21); in the New testament a king's daughter (the Virgin Mary) was chosen to be the heavenly entrance to salvation.” ~ (St. Ambrose of Milan)

**St Nicholas Church School**  
**BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**  
Will you help to **TEACH** and **FORM** our most precious members?  
See Matushka Joni or Deacon Luke to help!

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, August 22

## **Tone 8 Troparion** (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!

Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

## **Tone 1 Troparion** of the 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.

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

## **Tone 8 Kontakion** (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.

Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,//

and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

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

## **Tone 2 Kontakion** of the 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 8 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps 75/76:11)

## **Tone 3 Prokeimenon** (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Lk 1:46-47)

## **Epistle** of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 3:9-17)

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

## **Gospel** of the Sunday (Matthew 14:22-34)

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were

troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

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

## **Tone 1 Hymn to the Theotokos** of the 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 you, O Pure Virgin: for birthgiving remains virginal, and life is united to death; a virgin after childbearing and alive after death, you ever save your inheritance, O Theotokos.

## **Communion Hymn** of Sunday

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! I will receive the cup of salvation

and call on the name of the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (Ps 148:1, 115/116:13)

# Part Faith, Part Doubt

Showing that the cause of his sinking was not the wind but faintheartedness, Christ does not rebuke the wind, but the fainthearted Peter. This is why He raised him up and set him on the water but allowed the wind to blow. Peter did not doubt in everything, but in part. Inasmuch as he was afraid, he showed lack of faith; but by crying out, "Lord, save me," he was healed of his unbelief. This is why he hears the words "O thou of little faith" and not "O thou of no faith." Those in the boat were also delivered from fear, for "the wind ceased." And then, indeed, recognizing Jesus by these things, they confessed His divinity. For it is not an attribute of man to walk on the sea, but of God, as David says, "In the sea are Thy byways, and Thy paths in many waters" (Ps. 76:19). The spiritual meaning of the miracle is this: the boat is the earth; the waves, man's life that is troubled by evil spirits; the night is ignorance. In the fourth watch, that is, at the end of the ages, Christ appeared. The first watch was the covenant with Abraham; the second, the law of Moses; the third, the prophets; and the fourth, the coming of Christ. For He saved those who were drowning when He came and was with us so that we might know and worship Him as God. See also how Peter's later denial, return, and repentance were prefigured by what happened to him here on the sea. Just as there he says boldly, "I will not deny Thee," so here he says, "Bid me to come on the water." And just as then he was permitted to deny, so now he was permitted to sink. Here the Lord gives His hand to him and does not let Him drown, but there, by Peter's repentance, Christ drew him out of the abyss of denial. (St Theophylact)