



Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org September 5, 2021

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, September 5

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, September 7

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Festal Vigil

Wednesday, September 8: Nativity of the Theotokos

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, September 9

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, September 11

....4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, September 12

10:30 am Divine Liturgy (at Clever Park)

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.

Announcements

➤ Our **Parish Picnic will be held next Sunday, September 12** at Clever Park in Robinson Township. **Divine Liturgy will begin there at 10:30 am** (not 10:00 am) and the picnic begins at noon. There will be plenty of **free food!** We are seeking helpers to setup, break down, bring side dish, run children's games, etc. (See email coming today). See you there!

➤ **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 picnic, ready for the auction. Someone will be there to receive it.** 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!

➤ **Church School begins on Sunday, September 19.** Parents should use the link sent to them by Matushka Joni to register their children. Please see her with any questions.

➤ **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.



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; for John, Cheryl, Gregory, and Kayla Elizabeth. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, cousin, Carolyn Daniels; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the health of husband, George. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Valentina, Andrei, Diana and Lubya; for the health of Adrianna, Christopher, Edward, Michelle and Valeriy. 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. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for special intentions. From **Irene Kulchock** for the health of Jan Pravlochak. From **Amelia Kuck** for the departed servants, Richard, John, Mary, and Mark; for the health of Alexandria, Lindsay, Sarah, and Brenda.

Thank You

➤ to our September donor, **Lindy Hamilton**, for donating all categories (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10) in memory of her beloved brother, Russell.

On Forgiveness

If your heart has been softened either by repentance before God or by learning the boundless love of God towards you, do not be proud with those whose hearts are still hard. Remember how long your heart was hard and incorrigible. Seven brothers were ill in one hospital. One recovered from his illness and got up and rushed to serve his other brothers with brotherly love, to speed their recovery. Be like this brother. Consider all men to be your brothers, and sick brothers at that. And if you come to feel that God has given you better health than others, know that it is given through mercy, so in health you may serve your frailer brothers. (Prologue, 31 March)
St Nikolai of Serbia (Velimirovic)

Often during the day I have been a great sinner, and at night, after prayer, I have gone to rest, justified and whiter than snow by the grace of the Holy Spirit, with the deepest peace and joy in my heart! How easy it will be for the Lord to save us too in the evening of our life, at the decline of our days! O save, save, save me, most gracious Lord; receive me in Thy heavenly Kingdom! Everything is possible to Thee! (My Life in Christ, Part 1, p. 27)
St John of Kronstadt

Do we forgive our neighbours their trespasses? God also forgives us in His mercy. Do we refuse to forgive? God, too, will refuse to forgive us. As we treat our neighbours, so also does God treat us. The forgiveness or non-forgiveness, then, of your sins—and hence also your salvation or destruction—depend on you yourself, man. For without forgiveness of sins there is no salvation. You can see for yourself how terrible it is.
St Philotheos of Sinai

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, September 5

Tone 2 Troparion of the Resurrection

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,

Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.

And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,

all the powers of heaven cried out://

“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Tone 4 Troparion of 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.

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

Tone 2 Kontakion of the Resurrection

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!

The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee,// and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 Kontakion of the Theotokos

Steadfast protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator, do not despise the cry of us sinners, but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith.

Hasten to hear our intercessions and to intercede for us, O Theotokos

For you always protect those who honor you.

Tone 2 Prokeimenon of the Resurrection

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (*Ps 117/118:4*)

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 9:2-12)

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?

Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more?

Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 18:23-35)

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with

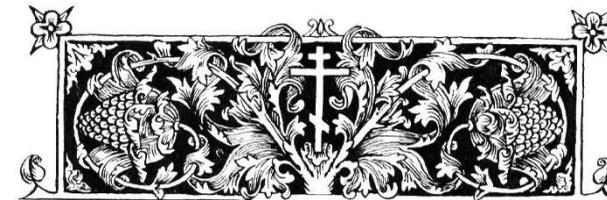
his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

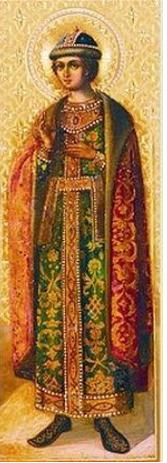
Communion Hymns

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



Passion-Bearer Gleb

The Holy Prince Gleb, in Holy Baptism David, was one of the first Russian martyrs called “Passion-Bearers.” He suffered together with his brother Prince Boris (Roman in Holy Baptism). After the murder of Saint Boris, Svyatopolk the Accursed sent to his younger brother Prince Gleb a messenger with false information about their father, Great Prince Vladimir, who had died from illness, thereby using deceit to murder another possible claimant to the Kievan throne.



The deceived Prince Gleb hastened off to Kiev with a small company. His apprehensive brother Yaroslav, having caught up with him at Smolensk, was unable to delay the saint, who did not suspect such wickedness on the part of his brother Svyatopolk.

Not far from Smolensk the assassins came upon the boat of Saint Gleb, who made no resistance, but asked meekly that they should spare him because of his young age. At the command of the murderers Gleb’s cook slit his throat. The body of the prince was buried in a desolate place not far from Smolensk, “between two tree-trunks,” i.e., in a simple wooden coffin (+1015). In the year 1019-1020 his brother Yaroslav found the grave of Saint Gleb. The body, being incorrupt, was transferred to Vyshgorod near Kiev and buried beside holy Prince Boris.

The chronicles are filled with the accounts of the various manifestations of mercy, witnessed at their tombs, and of the victories gained through their help. Many churches and monasteries were built throughout Russia in honor of the holy Passion-Bearers Boris and Gleb.