



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 12

10:30 am Divine Liturgy (at Clever Park)

Monday, September 13

7:00 pm Festal Vigil

Tuesday, September 14 Elevation of the Cross

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

10:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, September 16

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, September 18

....4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, September 19

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*

Sunday Before the Elevation of the Cross

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org September 12, 2021

Announcements

➤ **Thank you to everyone** who worked so hard to make our picnic a fun day for everyone. A special thanks to Clayton Harris for his outstanding work in preparing the food that we're enjoying today. Also many thanks to Suzy Polny, Donya Yewisiak, and Lindy Hamilton for organizing the basket raffle. Thank you to everyone who helped set up, serve, cook, and clean up. Enjoy the day! Thanks to everyone one of you - you make our parish a special place!

➤ This Monday evening and Tuesday morning we will celebrate the beautiful feast of the **Elevation (Exaltation) of the Precious Cross**. We have had many of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church just in the last month (this is the fourth!). Please take the time to come to church to celebrate these feasts. They are our very breath as Orthodox Christians. Without them, we cannot live the fulness Christian life.

➤ **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:** Kseniia Martin (*in Russia*), 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** for her departed parents, Charles and Mary; in remembrance of 9-11-2001. From **Doris Wasilko** for her departed parents, cousin, Charles and Mary; 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 **Deborah Burgess** for the health of daughter, Rachel. 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 the departed servant, Amelia; for the health of Andrea and Kyrie; special intentions. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova, Elena & Vladimir and their sons, Igor & Michael, Daniel Kowalcheck on his birthday. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the departed servants, Ernest John (EJ) Mike and Ruth George; in remembrance of 9/11. From **Dawna Beckett**.

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.

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.

Receive the Eucharist

"...if we really yearn for eternal life, if we long to have the provider of immortality within ourselves, let us not abstain from the Eucharist like some of the more negligent, nor let us provide the devil in the depths of his cunning with a trap and a snare for us in the form of a pernicious kind of reverence. 'Yes, indeed,' someone might say. 'But it is written:

"Anyone who eats of the bread and drinks of the cup unworthily, eats and drinks judgment upon himself" (cf. I Cor. 11:29). I have examined myself and I see that I am not worthy.' But then when will you be worthy? My response would be: 'When will you present yourself to Christ? If you are always going to be afraid of falling, you will never cease falling - "For who can discern his faults," as the holy Psalmist says (Ps. 18:12 LXX) - and you will end up totally bereft of a share in saving sanctification.' Make up your mind, then, to lead a more devout life in conformity with the law, and so partake of the Eucharist in the conviction that it dispels not only death but even the diseases that are in us (cf. I Cor. 11:30). For when Christ has come to be within us he lulls to sleep the law that rages in the members of flesh. He rekindles our reverence towards God, while simultaneously causing the passions to atrophy. He does not reckon our faults against us. Instead, He binds up that which has been wounded, he raises that which has fallen, as a good shepherd who has laid down His life for the sheep (Ez. 34:16; Jn. 10:11)."



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, September 12

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 4 Troparion of the Feast

Your nativity, O Virgin,

has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!

The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,

has shone from you, O Theotokos.

By annulling the curse,

He bestowed a blessing://

By destroying death, He has granted us eternal

life.

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

Tone 3 Kontakion of the Resurrection

On this 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 4 Kontakion of the Feast

By your nativity, O most pure Virgin,

Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness,

Adam and Eve – from the corruption of death.

And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin,

celebrate and sing to you://

“The barren woman gives birth to the

Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

Tone 6 Prokeimenon of the Sunday Before

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine

inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

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 Before (Galatians 6:11-18)

See with what large letters I have written to you

with my own hand! As many as desire to make a

good showing in the flesh, these would compel

you to be circumcised, only that they may not

suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For

not even those who are circumcised keep the

law, but they desire to have you circumcised

that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid

that I should boast except in the cross of our

Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been

crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ

Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision

avails anything, but a new creation.

And as many as walk according to this rule,

peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the

Israel of God.

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in

my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be

with your spirit. Amen.

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 15:1-11)

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel

which I preached to you, which also you

received and in which you stand, by which also

you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I

preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I

also received: that Christ died for our sins

according to the Scriptures, and that He was

buried, and that He rose again the third day

according to the Scriptures, and that He was

seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that

He was seen by over five hundred brethren at

once, of whom the greater part remain to the

present, but some have fallen asleep. After that

He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by

one born out of due time.

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not

worthy to be called an apostle, because I

persecuted the church of God. But by the grace

of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me

was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly

than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God

which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I

or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel of the Sunday Before (John 3:13-17)

No one has ascended to heaven but He who

came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man

who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the

serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son

of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in

Him should not perish but have eternal life. For

God so loved the world that He gave His only

begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him

should not perish but have everlasting life. For

God did not send His Son into the world to

condemn the world, but that the world through

Him might be saved.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 19:16-26)

Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good

Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may

have eternal life?”

So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good?

No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you

want to enter into life, keep the

commandments.”

He said to Him, “Which ones?”

Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall

not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You

shall not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father

and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your

neighbor as yourself.’ ”

The young man said to Him, “All these things I

have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?”

Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go,

sell what you have and give to the poor, and you

will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow

Me.”

But when the young man heard that saying, he

went away sorrowful, for he had great

possessions.

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I

say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter

the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it

is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a

needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom

of God.”

When His disciples heard it, they were greatly

astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”

But Jesus looked at them and said to them,

“With men this is impossible, but with God all

things are possible.”

Instead of “It is Truly Meet” Tone 8

Magnify, O my soul, the most glorious birth of

the Mother of God!

Virginity is foreign to mothers; childbearing is

strange for virgins. But in thee, O Theotokos,

both were accomplished. Therefore all we

nations of the earth unceasingly magnify thee.

Communion Hymns

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!