



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 19**
10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
- Tuesday, September 21**
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
- Wednesday, September 22**
6:30 pm Daily Vespers
7:00 pm Bible Study
- Thursday, September 23**
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
- Saturday, September 25**
....4:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil
- Sunday, September 26**
10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

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 After the Elevation of the Cross

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org September 19, 2021

Announcements

➤ **Thank you to everyone** who worked so hard to make last week's 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. Thanks to everyone one of you - you make our parish a special place!

➤ To everyone who participated in **the basket raffle for our Parish Picnic**, whether donating a beautiful basket, a generous gift card or by supporting the sale of tickets, we truly thank you!
➤ **Church School begins today!** May God bless our students and teachers as they learn about the life of Christ, this year's theme. Thank you to our teachers:

➤ **LAST CALL! 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.

- Mark your calendar:
- Friday, Oct 1 Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am
 - Saturday, October 9 Book Launch (see ad)
 - Saturday, Oct 30 Halupki dinner from 1-7pm

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

➤ **No Vigil Lights** last week due to the picnic.

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.

You are cordially invited

BOOK LAUNCH



Saturday
October 9
3:00 pm

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
320 Munson Avenue
McKees Rocks PA 15136

Refreshments following the event



Meet the author
Edith M. Humphrey
Hear about St. Edith of Wilton!
Special discount available for attendees!
Come dressed as your favorite animal or saint!

What will **you** see Beyond the White Fence?
orthodoxpittsburgh.org

This week in Church School

Today's lesson: The Life of the Theotokos and the Annunciation.

Questions to ask/review:

- Who is the Mother of God? What does "Theotokos" mean?
- What word does "annunciation" come from ("announce")? What is announced?
- Is Mary free to make a choice to accept or not accept what God wishes from her? Would you have accepted and why or why not?
- What does the burning bush have to do with the Annunciation (the bush was filled with God and not consumed, so was Mary)?



Suggested activities at home:

- Learn the prayer of the Theotokos, and recite each evening this week with the family in front of the icon corner: "Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls."
- Point out the angels in church icons. Discuss how God uses them as messengers.
- Make angel-shaped cookies at home.
- Place an icon of the Annunciation in a special place in your home this week.

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 19

Tone 4 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen,// granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 1 Troparion (*Cross*)

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross,// preserve Thy habitation!

Tone 4 Troparion (*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 4 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master,// He has risen on the third day!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 Kontakion (*Cross*)

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power, granting them victories over their adversaries// by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (*Sunday After*)

Extol the Lord our God: / worship at His footstool for He is holy!

Epistle of the Sunday After (Galatians 2:16-20)

knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

“But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 16:13-24)

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love.

I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the

ministry of the saints—that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.

I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand—Paul’s. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Gospel of the Sunday Before (Mark 8:34-9:1)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 21:33-42)

“Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and

went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?”

They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’

Tone 8 Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of the Lord!

You are a mystical Paradise, O Theotokos, who, though untilled, hast brought forth Christ; through Him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth. Now at its Exaltation, as we bow in worship before it, we magnify you.

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! The light of Thy countenance has shown on us, O Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

