



## 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 26

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

### Tuesday, September 28

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

### Thursday, September 30

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

### Friday, October 1: Protection of the Virgin Mary

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

### Saturday, October 2

....4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, October 3

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*

### Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org September 26, 2021

## Announcements

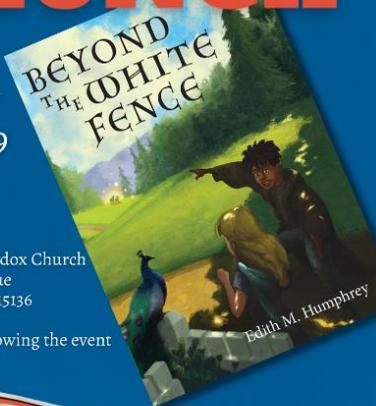
➤ **This Friday** we will celebrate the feast of the **Protection of the Mother of God** with Divine Liturgy beginning at 9:30 am.

### ➤ Mark your calendar:

- Saturday, Oct 30 Halupki dinner from 1-7pm

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

## 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, John, Cheryl, Gregory, Kayla Elizabeth. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, Andrew & Olga Kasnot; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, John Shaytar; for the health of the Wasilko family and John Pravlochak on his birthday~ Many Years! From **Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, nephew, Tony; for the health of husband, George. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha. 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 and Victoria Scott. From **Cathy Namisnak** for the departed servants, Anna Namisnak, Marsha Namisnak and Melissa Torok. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina & Vladimir, and Basil Kowalcheck on his birthday. From **Kristie Mertz** for the departed servant, Caroline Mertz-Teunissen. From **Irene Kulchock** for the health of Jan Pravlochak.

## Thank You

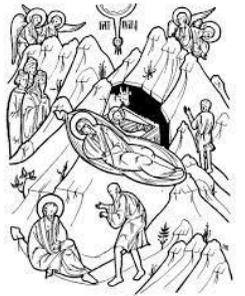
➤ to our September donor, **Lindy Hamilton**, for donating all categories (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10) in memory of her beloved brother, Russell.

## This week in Church School

**Today's lesson:** The Nativity of Our Lord

### Questions to ask/review:

- What is Advent (Nativity Fast)? How do we observe it?
- Where was Jesus born? Why there?
- What can we learn from Jesus, the greatest King of All, being born in a very humble place?
- Birthdays are always celebrated, but why is the birth of Christ the most important birthday in history?



### Suggested activities at home:

- Put up a Nativity scene with unbreakable figures in your child's room and review the identity and story behind each of the figures. No wise men yet!
- Make a gift or card to share at Christmas time with a shut-in from our parish.
- Sing the Nativity Troparion: "Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the Light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a Star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to Thee!".
- Cut out old Christmas cards and make into a booklet, gluing them onto construction paper and held together with yarn or staples.
- *Prayer:* Dear Jesus, Thank you for letting me remember your Birthday. Thank you, God for sending Your Son to us. Amen.

**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 26

## **Tone 5 Troparion** (*Resurrection*)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

## **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.

## **Tone 2 Troparion** (*St. John*)

Beloved Apostle of Christ our God, hasten to deliver a defenseless people! He Who allowed thee to recline on His breast, receives thee as thou dost bow before Him. Implore Him, O John the Theologian, to disperse the persistent threat from the heathens// entreating for us peace and great mercy!

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

## **Tone 5 Kontakion** (*Resurrection*)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man,// and we cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

*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 5 Prokeimenon** (*Resurrection*)

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever. (*Ps 11/12:7*)

## **Epistle** of the *Sunday* (2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4)

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.

But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me?

And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

## **Gospel** of the *Sunday* (Luke 5:1-10)

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

## **Communion Hymns**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

# You are Sealed

After these words, after the renunciation of the devil and the covenant with Christ, inasmuch as you have henceforth become his very own and have nothing in common with that evil one, he straightway bids you to be marked and places on

your forehead the sign of the cross. That savage beast is shameless, and when he hears those words, he grows more wild—as we might expect—and desires to assault you on sight. Hence God anoints your countenance and stamps thereon the sign of the cross. In this way God holds in check all the frenzy of the Evil One, for the devil will not dare to look on such a sight. Just as if he had beheld the rays of the sun and had leaped away, so will his eyes be blinded by the sight of your face and he will depart. For through the chrism the cross is stamped on you... . And that you may again know that it is not a man but God himself who anoints you by the hand of the priest, listen to St. Paul when he says: "It is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ, who has anointed us." – **St John Chrysostom (c. 407 AD)**

Therefore, you received of the sacraments... . Because you have been baptized in the name of the Trinity, in all that we have done the mystery of the Trinity has been preserved. Everywhere the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one operation, one sanctification... . How? God, who anointed you, and the Lord sealed you and placed the Holy Spirit in your heart. Therefore, you have received the Holy Spirit in your heart. – **St Ambrose of Milan (c 397 AD)**

To realize that Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit, and like him all the apostles, and all who after them believe in Father, Son and Holy Spirit, pay attention to the clear words of Paul himself. ... "God who also stamped us with his seal and gave us the Spirit as a pledge." – **St Cyril of Jerusalem (c 386 AD)**

