



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, October 3
10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
- Tuesday, October 5
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
- Thursday, October 7
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
- Saturday, October 9
3:00 pm *Beyond the White Fence* Book Launch
....4:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil
- Sunday, October 10
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*

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org October 3, 2021

Announcements

Vision for Life, a nonprofit, Christian organization that since 2011 has advertised the work of Pregnancy Medical Centers to abortion-vulnerable women, will hold its fundraising banquet Thursday, October 14th at the Power Center of Duquesne University. Featured speaker will be nationally known "Dadvoate" Kurt Kondrich. Also that evening,. Tickets for the banquet are \$60. Program advertising and banquet sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information, visit visionforlifepgh.org.

- Mark your calendar:
- 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

➤ From John Mahalchak Family for the health of friends & family. From Marsha Wasilko for safe travel; special thanks. From Doris Wasilko for the departed servants of the Wasilko & Dichko families; for the health of the Wasilko family. From Nancy Shaytar for the health of husband, George. From Charles A. Wasilko for safe journey. 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 Edith Humphrey for the departed servant, Timothy Becker-3rd anniversary of his departure. From John & Olga for the departed servant, Anatoly Vilkov; for the health of Galina Vilkova, and Elizabeth Kowalcheck and her child to be born. From Tatyana Sechler for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Valentina, Andrei, Diana, Bruce; for the health of Christopher, Thomas, Edward and Adrinanna. From Alexandra Tirpak for the health of Elaine, Andrea, and Amelia; special intentions. From Alina for the health of Belinda.

Thank You

➤ to our September donors, Robert and Teresa Robes, for donating all categories. Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Altar Candles \$25 in memory of Thomas Robes Sr. Communion Wine \$40 in thanksgiving for Robbie and Teresa's 15th anniversary. Incense \$10 for the health of Teresa on her birthday.

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.

This week in Church School

Today's lesson: The Meeting of Our Lord

Questions to ask/review:

- How old was Jesus when brought to the Temple?
- Why was he brought (follow the law from Exodus)?
- Why would Jesus, the author of the Law, have to obey the Law?
- Who met them? Why were they there?
- How is your churching after baptism similar and different?
- When do we sing St. Simeon's prayer (at the end of Vespers)?
- What were the prophecies of Simeon and Anna about the Messiah? How were they fulfilled?

Suggested activities at home:

- Talk about the churching of each member of the family, where it occurred with what priest.
- This week, read the Gospel account together before bed (Luke 2:22-40). Then say the following prayer: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Jesus, I am happy that I am your helper. Help me to become a good helper. Amen."
- Attend Vespers and sing St. Simeon's prayer (Luke 2:29-32): "Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a Light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Your people Israel.
- *Prayer:* St Symeon's Prayer

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, October 3

Tone 6 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure body.
Thou didst capture hell
not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, //
glory to Thee.

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 6 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

When Christ God the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery
with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race. //
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life,
and the God of all.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 Kontakion (*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 6 Prokeimenon (*Resurrection*)

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine
inheritance!

Epistle of the Sunday (2 Corinthians 4:6-15)

For it is the God who commanded light to shine
out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to
give the light of the knowledge of the glory of
God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the excellence of the power may be of God
and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every
side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not
in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck
down, but not destroyed— always carrying about
in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the
life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.
For we who live are always delivered to death
for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be
manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is
working in us, but life in you.

And since we have the same spirit of faith,
according to what is written, "I believed and
therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore
speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord
Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will
present us with you. For all things are for your
sakes, that grace, having spread through the
many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the
glory of God.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 6:31-36)

And just as you want men to do to you, you also
do to them likewise.

"But if you love those who love you, what credit
is that to you? For even sinners love those who
love them. And if you do good to those who do
good to you, what credit is that to you? For even
sinners do the same. And if you lend to those
from whom you hope to receive back, what
credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to
sinners to receive as much back. But love your
enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing
in return; and your reward will be great, and
you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind
to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be
merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Communion Hymn of Sunday

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

Do not despair!

We are pressed on every side, yet not
straitened; perplexed, yet not unto despair;
pursued, yet not forsaken. He still dwells upon
proving that the whole work is to be ascribed to
the power of God, repressing the high
mindedness of those that glory in themselves.
'For not this only,' says he, 'is marvelous, that
we keep this treasure in earthen vessels, but
that even when enduring ten thousand
hardships, and battered on every side, we [still]
preserve and lose it not. Yet though there were a
vessel of adamant, it would neither have been
strong enough to carry so vast a treasure, nor
have sufficed against so many machinations;
yet, as it is, it both bears it and suffers no harm,
through God's grace.' For, we are pressed on
every side, says he, but not straitened. What is,
on every side? 'In respect of our foes, in respect
of our friends, in respect of necessities, in
respect of other needs, by them which be
hostile, by them of our own household.' Yet not
straitened. And see how he speaks contrarities,
that thence also he may show the strength of
God. For, we are pressed on every side, yet not

straitened, says he; perplexed, yet not unto
despair; that is, 'we do not quite fall off. For we
are often, indeed, wrong in our calculations, and
miss our aim, yet not so as to fall away from
what is set before us: for these things are
permitted by God for our discipline, not for our
defeat.' 2 Corinthians 4:9. Pursued, yet not
forsaken; smitten down, yet not destroyed. For
these trials do indeed befall, but not the
consequences of the trials. And this indeed
through the power and Grace of God. In other
places indeed he says that these things were
permitted in order both to their own humble-
mindedness, and to the safety of others: for that

I should not
be exalted
overmuch,
there was
given to me a
thorn, 2
Corinthians
12:7 he says:
and again,
Lest any man
should
account of me
above that
which he sees
me to be, or
hears from
me; and in

another place again, that we should not trust in
ourselves: 2 Corinthians 1:9 here, however, that
the power of God might be manifested. Do you
see how great the gain of his trials? For it both
showed the power of God, and more disclosed
His grace. For, says He, My grace is sufficient
for you. 2 Corinthians 12:9 It also anointed them
unto lowliness of mind, and prepared them for
keeping down the rest, and made them to be
more hardy. For patience, says he, works
probation, and probation hope. Romans 5:4 For
they who had fallen into ten thousand dangers
and through the hope they had in God had been
recovered, were taught to hold by it more and
more in all things. (*St John Chrysostom*)

