



## 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 17**

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

**Tuesday, October 19**

No Matins or Office Hours

**Thursday, October 21**

No Matins or Office Hours

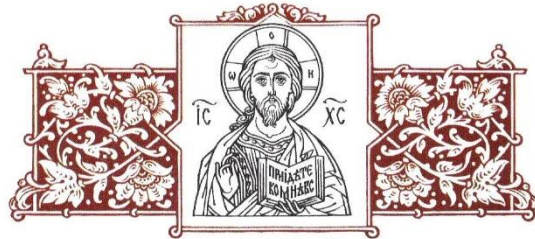
**Saturday, October 23**

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

**Sunday, October 24**

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*

### Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

October 17, 2021

## Announcements

➤ **St. Nicholas Food Pantry Coat Drive:** Clean out those closets and bring your gently used coats, hats, gloves, and winter gear to donate to our food pantry! On October 30th, we will be passing out coats, hats, gloves, and winter gear to our clients in addition to food. Please set all donations next to the food pantry closets in the basement. Thank you for helping to keep our neighbors warm this winter! Questions: contact Mat. Ashley (ashley.loboda@gmail.com, #412-715-2163)

➤ **We need your help with the Halupki Dinner!** If you can work, please see the sign up sheet in the church hall.

HALUPKI DINNER! \$12

DELICIOUS!



Saturday, October 30 1 to 7 pm

ST NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH  
320 MUNSON AVENUE  
MCKEES ROCKS PA 15136

Includes:  
Halupki (one large stuffed cabbage roll)  
Chicken Leg Quarter  
Green Beans  
Dessert and drinks available

## 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 From **John Mahalchak Family** for the health of friends & family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants of the Wasilko & Dyczko families; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the health of husband, George and cousin, Dave Kunca. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, Uncle John Wasilko and Uncle Steve Panik. From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family and Doris Wasilko on her birthday. From **Jenifer Rune** for special intention. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; special intention. From **John & Olga** 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, Diana, Marina, Daniel, and Ivan; for the health of Andriana, Daniel, Michel Veronika, Kristofer, Raisa, and Tatyana. From **Alexandra Tirpak** for the health of my family, Elaine, and Lindsay; special intentions. From **Alina** for the departed servant, Frederick.

## Thank You

➤ to our October 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 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Incense \$10 for the health of Teresa on her birthday.

## This week in Church School

**Today's lesson:** The Flight to Egypt

**Questions to ask/review:**

- Who wanted to kill Jesus? Why?
- Who warned Joseph?
- What role does our Guardian Angel have in our life?
- Where were Joseph and Mary and Jesus living and where did they go?
- How did Herod react when the Wise Men did not return to him?
- What prophecies are fulfilled by this story?

**Suggested activities at home:**

- Show your child pictures of Egypt or explore the country on Google Earth—the pyramids, the Sphinx, were already there when Jesus went to Egypt.
- Let your child help “plan a trip” together – grocery shopping, running an errand, going to the zoo.

*Prayer:* Pray to your guardian angel: O Angel of Christ, holy guardian and protector of my soul and body, forgive me everything wherein I have offended thee every day of my life, and protect me from all influence and temptation of the evil one. 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, October 17

## **Tone 8 Troparion** (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!

Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, 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 8 Kontakion** (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.

Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,// and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

*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 8 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1)

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.

As God has said:

“I will dwell in them  
And walk among them.

I will be their God,  
And they shall be My people.”

Therefore

“Come out from among them  
And be separate, says the Lord.

Do not touch what is unclean,  
And I will receive you.”

“I will be a Father to you,  
And you shall be My sons and daughters,  
Says the Lord Almighty.”

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

## **Gospel of the Sunday** (Luke 8:5-15)

Now it happened, the day after, that He went “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?”

And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that

‘Seeing they may not see,  
And hearing they may not understand.’

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

## **Communion Hymn of Sunday**

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

# Perfect Holiness

**Let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit.** Let us neither touch unclean things, for this is cleansing of the flesh; nor things which defile the soul, for this is cleansing of the spirit. Yet he is not content with this only, but adds also, Perfecting holiness in the fear of God. For not to touch the unclean thing does not make clean, but there needs something else besides to our becoming holy; earnestness, heedfulness, piety. And he well said, In the fear of God. For it is possible to perfect chasteness, not in the fear of God but for vainglory. And

along with this he implies yet another thing, by saying, In the fear of God; the manner, namely, whereafter holiness may be perfected. For if lust be even an imperious thing, still if you occupy its territory with the fear of God, you have stayed its frenzy.

**Now by holiness here he means not chastity alone, but the freedom from every kind of sin, for he is holy that is pure.** Now one will become pure, not if he be free from fornication only, but if from covetousness also, and envy, and pride, and vainglory, yea especially from vainglory which in every thing indeed it behooves to avoid, but much more in almsgiving; since neither will it be almsgiving, if it have this distemper, but display and cruelty. For when thou dost it not out of mercy, but from parade, such deed is not only no alms but even an insult; for you have put your brother to open shame.

**Not then the giving money, but the giving it out of mercy, is almsgiving.** For people too at the theatres give, both to prostitute boys and to others who are on the stage; but such a deed is not almsgiving. And they too give that abuse the persons of prostitute women; but this is not lovingkindness, but insolent treatment. Like this is the vainglorious also. For just as he that abuses the person of the harlot, pays her a price for that abuse; so too do you demand a price of him that receives of you, your insult of him and your investing him as well as yourself with an evil notoriety. And besides this, the loss is unspeakable. For inhumanity and cruelty such a course is; yea, rather more grievous even than this. For the cruel indeed would not give to him that asked; but thou dost more than this; you hinder those that wish to give. For when you parade your giving, you have both lowered the reputation of the receiver, and hast pulled back him that was about to give, if he be of a careless mind. the ground of his having already received, and so not being in want; yea he will often accuse him even, if after having received he should draw near to beg, and will think him impudent.