



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!

Schedule This Week

Sunday, July 10
10:00 am Divine Liturgy

(No Tues/Thurs Matins or Office Hours in July)

Saturday, July 16
5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, July 17
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*

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org July 10, 2022

Announcements

➤ **July's parish schedule will see a temporary reduction** in the number of services, classes, and office hours. The normal schedule will pick back up in August. Please consult the online schedule (orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parishcalendar) for the most accurate schedule. **There will Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil this coming Saturday.**

➤ **During the summer months**, a reminder that our diligence in attendance at the Sunday Divine Liturgy, the holy feast days, and the various activities of the church, is encouraged. Find an Orthodox Church while vacationing!

➤ **Congratulations to Heidi and Patrick Lewis** as they welcome two more sons into their family! Nathan Paul, born on Saturday, July 9 at 10:31a, 6lb 6oz, and James Donald, born at 10:33a, 6lb 4oz. Mom is going great, Dad is thrilled, and the big brothers at home, Jack, Andrew, and Peter, can't wait to see their new little brothers! God grant them all many years!



➤ **Mark your calendars**
September 11 – Church Picnic at Clever Park
October 8 – Slavic Food Fest
November 22 – Ceiling iconography work begins

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm: Known to be hospitalized:** John Mahalchak Jr; *Home:* George Shaytar. Natalie Tooch. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka
➤ **Vigil Lights** From the **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Daniel, Mary, and John.

Thank You

➤ to our July donors: **Rick and Susan Porter** (Altar Candles \$25) on the occasion of Susie's birthday.

On the Overturning of Roe v Wade

From an Archpastoral Letter by Metropolitan Tikhon



Undoubtedly, this should be a cause for rejoicing for all Orthodox Christians. As I affirmed in my recent archpastoral message for the feast of the Annunciation, "The Orthodox Church in America has always believed, upheld, preached, and defended the sanctity of human life from the time of conception in the womb." From the earliest times, the shepherds of the Church have taught that abortion and the exposure of infants, even when accepted by the wider culture, are violations of the sanctity of human life and an offense against God and man. The overturning of Roe v. Wade is the first step towards a society and culture that recognizes the value of all human life and every human being made in the image of the Creator.

However, we must avoid all triumphalism. Though we disagree with those who believe that legal abortion is necessary to protect the rights of women, we must recognize that this belief, however mistaken, is sincerely held by many people of goodwill. For those of us in the United States, these people are our fellow-citizens. They, too, bear the image of God.

Quotes On Freedom

In truth there is only one freedom - the holy freedom of Christ, whereby He freed us from sin, from evil, from the devil. It binds us to God. All other freedoms are illusory, false, that is to say, they are all, in fact, slavery. (**St. Justin Popovich, *Ascetical and Theological Chapters, II.36***)

Only faith that all does not end with this earthly existence gives us power not to chain ourselves to this earthly life by all means, and for its sake to come into all manner of baseness, degradation and humiliation. Only man of deep and sincere faith can be truly free. Dependence on the Lord God is the only dependence that does not degrade a man, nor turn him into a pitiful servant. But, on the contrary, it exalts him. (**Martyr Alexander Medem, *Letter to his son, 1922***)

Some people by the word freedom understand the ability to do whatever one wants ... People who have the more allowed themselves to come into slavery to sins, passions, and defilements more often than others appear as zealots of external freedom, wanting to broaden the laws as much as possible. But such a man uses external freedom only to more severely burden himself with inner slavery. True freedom is the active ability of a man who is not enslaved to sin, who is not pricked by a condemning conscience, to choose the better in the light of God's truth, and to bring it into actuality with the help of the gracious power of God. This is the freedom of which neither heaven nor earth are restrict. (**St. Philaret of Moscow, *Sermon on the Birthday of Emperor Nicholas I, 1851***)

The Lord wants us to love one another. Here is freedom: in love for God and neighbor. In this freedom, there is equality. In earthly orders, there may not be equality, but this is not important for the soul. Not everyone can be a king, not everyone a patriarch or a boss. But in any position it is possible to love God and to please Him, and only this is important. And whoever loves God more on earth will be in greater glory in His Kingdom. (**St. Silouan the Athonite, *Writings, VI.23***)

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, July 10

Tone 3 Troparion (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 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 4 Troparion (St. Anthony of Kiev Caves)

Having left the turmoil of the world,
thou didst renounce the world to follow Christ
in accordance with the Gospel.
Living a life equal to the Angels,
thou didst reach the quiet haven of the Holy
Mountain of Athos.
With the blessing of the Athonite fathers, thou
didst come to the hills of Kiev,
where thou didst labor with love and didst
illumine thy homeland.
There thou leddest a multitude of monastics to
Christ
showing them the path that leads to the
Kingdom of Heaven.//
Venerable Anthony, pray to Him that our souls
may be saved!

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

Tone 3 Kontakion (Resurrection)

On this day 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 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 3 Prokeimenon of the Resurrection

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing
praises to our King, sing praises! (Ps. 46:6)

Epistle of the Sunday (Romans 6:18-23)

And having been set free from sin, you became
slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms
because of the weakness of your flesh. For just
as you presented your members as slaves of
uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more
lawlessness, so now present your members as
slaves of righteousness for holiness.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free
in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you
have then in the things of which you are now
ashamed? For the end of those things is death.
But now having been set free from sin, and
having become slaves of God, you have your
fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God
is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 8:5-13)

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a
centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,
saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home
paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”

And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal
him.”

The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am
not worthy that You should come under my roof.
But only speak a word, and my servant will be
healed. For I also am a man under authority,
having soldiers under me. And I say to this one,
‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he
comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does
it.”

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to
those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I
have not found such great faith, not even in
Israel! And I say to you that many will come
from east and west, and sit down with Abraham,
Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But
the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into
outer darkness. There will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth.” Then Jesus said to the
centurion, “Go your way; and as you have
believed, so let it be done for you.” And his
servant was healed that same hour.

Communion Hymn

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

Freed from Sin

There are two gifts of God which he here points
out. The freeing from sin, and also the making
them servants to righteousness, which is better
than any freedom. For God has done the same as if

a person were to take an orphan, who had been
carried away by savages into their own country,
and were not only to free him from captivity, but
were to set a kind father over him, and bring him
to very great dignity. And this has been done in our
case. For it was not our old evils alone that He
freed us from, since He even led us to the life of
angels, and paved the way for us to the best
conversation, handing us over to the safe keeping
of righteousness, and killing our former evils, and
deadening the old man, and leading us to an
immortal life.

Let us then continue living this life; for many of
those who seem to breathe and to walk about are
in a more wretched plight than the dead. For there
are different kinds of deadness; and one there is of
the body, according to which Abraham was dead,
and still was not dead. For God, He says, is not a
God of the dead, but of the living. *Matthew 22:32*
Another is of the soul which Christ alludes to when
He says, Let the dead bury their dead. *Matthew*
8:22 Another, which is even the subject of praise,
which is brought about by religion (φιλοσοφίας), of
which Paul says, Mortify your members which are
upon the earth. *Colossians 3:5* Another, which is
the cause even of this, the one which takes place in
baptism. For our old man, he says, has been
crucified *Romans 6:6*, that is, has been deadened.
Since then we know this, let us flee from the
deadness by which, even though alive, we die. And
let us not be afraid of that with which common
death comes on. But the other two, whereof one is
blissful, having been given by God, the other
praiseworthy (*cf. Ar. Eth. i. 12*), which is
accomplished by ourselves together with God, let
us both choose and be emulous of. And of those
two, one does David pronounce blessed, when he
says, Blessed are they whose iniquities are
forgiven *Psalms 32:1*; and the other, Paul holds in
admiration, saying, and writing to the Galatians,
They that be Christ's have crucified the flesh.
Galatians 5:24 But of the other couple, one Christ
declares to be easy to hold in contempt, when He
says, Fear not them which kill the body, but are
not able to kill the soul: and the other fearful, for,
Fear (He says) Him that is able to destroy both
body and soul in hell *Mt 10:28. (Chrysostom)*