



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 17

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Memorial: Valentina Barsom and Sue Shoemaker
(No Tues/Thurs Matins or Office Hours in July)
(No Saturday Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil)

Sunday, July 24

10:00 am Divine Liturgy



Mark your calendars

September 11 - Church Picnic at Clever Park

October 8 - Slavic Food Fest

November 22 - Ceiling iconography work begins

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

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

July 17, 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 NO Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil this coming Saturday.** The next Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil will be Saturday, August 16.

➤ **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!

➤ Fr Thomas will be attending the Orthodox Church in America's **All-American Council** this week in Baltimore MD. Our parish will be represented by him and delegate Dr Kristie Mertz (who is our parish financial secretary). Fr Thomas will also be making a presentation before the Council on the work of the Departments of the OCA which he manages, as well as work on a Church-wide Catechism which is in production. Pray for the success of the Council.

➤ **Saturday, August 6, 2022 Holy Transfiguration Monastery**, Elwood City PA **Annual Pilgrimage**

35th anniv. of Mthr. Christophora's Abbatial Service

9:30 am Akathist and procession

10:00 am Hierarchical Liturgy

12:30 pm Catered Picnic Lunch

2:30 pm Sacrament of Holy Unction

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, and Mary. From **Richard and Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants Godmother Wilma; parents Pete, Dorothy, and Betty; for the health of brother Robert, siblings, friends and family; for special intentions, peace, and all birthdays this week. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of my family and for special intentions. From **Irene Kulchok** for the departed servants Jan Pravlochak and Mary Pravlochak; for the health of Vivian Moore. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of siblings Doris and Chuck. From **Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Deacon Joseph Mell and for the health of family. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants Polina, Galina, Slava, Valentina, Andrei, Diana, Bruce, Luby; for the health of Adnanna, Sergei, Tatyana, Thomas, Christopher, and Daniel.

Thank You

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

Quotes On Prayer

Remember that while you pray, God expects from you a positive answer to His question: "Do you believe that I can fulfill your prayer?" You must be able to answer from the bottom of your heart: "Yes, I believe, O God," and then you will be answered according to your faith. (St. John of Kronstadt)

How many times have I prayed for what seemed a good thing for me and not leaving it to God to do as He knows best. But having obtained what I begged for, I found myself in distress because I had not asked for it to be, rather, according to God's will. (St. Nilus of Sinai)

Pray Simply. Do not expect to find in your heart any remarkable gift of prayer. Consider yourself unworthy of it-then you will find peace. Use the empty, cold dryness of your prayer as food for your humility. Repeat constantly: "I am not worthy, Lord, I am not worthy!" But say it calmly, without agitation. This humble prayer will be acceptable to God. (Elder Macarius of Optina)

You should not make long prayer, for it is better to pray little but often. Superfluous words are idle talk. (St. Theophylact)

Do not rush one prayer after another but say them with orderly deliberation, as one addressing a great person for a favor. Do not just pay attention to the words, but rather let the mind be in the heart, standing before the Lord in full awareness of His presence, in full consciousness of His greatness and grace and justice. (St Theophan the Recluse)

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, July 17

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 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 8 Troparion (Fathers)

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God, Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. Through them Thou hast guided us to the True Faith.// O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

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 8 Kontakion (Fathers)

The Apostles’ preaching and the Fathers’ doctrines have established one Faith for the Church.

Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology,// It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all. (*Ps. 103:26*)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Fathers)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever

Epistle of the Sunday (Romans 10:1-10)

Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, “The man who does those things shall live by them.” But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto

righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 8:28-9:1)

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”

Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, “If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.”

And He said to them, “Go.” So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region.

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*) Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (*Ps. 32:1*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



Demons

You must never be afraid, if you are troubled by a flood of thoughts, that the enemy is too strong against you, that his attacks are never ending, that the war will last for your lifetime, and that you cannot avoid incessant downfalls of all kinds. Know that our enemies, with all their wiles, are in the hands of our divine Commander, our Lord Jesus Christ, for Whose honor and glory you are waging war. Since He himself leads you into battle, He will certainly not suffer your enemies to use violence against you and overcome you, if you do not yourself cross over to their side with your will. He will Himself fight for you and will deliver your enemies into your hands, when He wills and as He wills, as it is written: “The Lord thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee” (Deut. xxii, 14)., *St. Theophan the Recluse*

The land of the Gadarenes was a place favored by the legion of darkness. The people disobeyed the law of Moses, if not by using as food the flesh of swine, then by keeping swine for commerce. These people were ungrateful, malicious, and mercenary. When the Lord Jesus Christ delivered the two possessed with devils, and the people lost their herd of many swine, they did not think of the sin of breaking the law, nor did they even wonder at the pity shown by the great Miracle-Worker, but they came out, in a matter of fact way, and besought Jesus that he would depart from their borders. My dear brethren and sisters, let us look to ourselves, that for the appetites of the flesh, the pleasures of frivolous society and false philosophy, and that for gain and business, we lose not Jesus, our Saviour, and fall a prey to the adversary of our eternal salvation. Amen.” + *St. Sebastian Dabovich*