



## 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, August 14

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

7:00 pm Vigil for the Dormition

Monday, August 15: Dormition of the Theotokos

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, August 16

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, August 18

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, August 20

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, August 21

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*

### Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

August 14, 2022

## Announcements

➤ The Great Feast of the Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Mother of God will be celebrated beginning tonight, August 14 at 7:00 pm with a Festal Vigil and tomorrow Monday, August 15 at 9:30 am with the Festal Divine Liturgy. All the faithful are encouraged to bring flowers and herbs to be blessed and taken back to their homes.

➤ At this year's Church Picnic on Sunday, September 11, the parish will once again provide the main course foods (hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken) and beverages. We are asking, however, that those who can, would bring side dishes or desserts to the picnic grounds to share with fellow parishioners. This will lessen the burden on just a few people. More details and a sign up will be sent via email tomorrow.

➤ The Women's Choice Network will hold their Fall Fundraising Banquet on Thursday, September 15 at the David Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh beginning at 6:30 pm. There is no charge to attend and the banquet includes a dinner and cash bar. To register, contact Eileen Glisan at glisan@live.iup.edu.

➤ Church School will begin on Sunday, September 18. If anyone has interest in teaching in our outstanding Church School program, please contact Matushka Joni or Deacon Luke.



## Prayers

➤ Ill and infirm: *Known to be hospitalized;* (none). *Home:* Bekah Cummins (post-delivery), Heidi Lewis (post-delivery), George Shaytar. Natalie Toooh. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka  
➤ Vigil Lights (August 7) From Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell for the departed servant, for Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From Charles A. Wasilko for safe voyage. From Doris M. Wasilko for the health of the Wasilko family and safe travels. From Marsha Wasilko for safe travel. From Irene Kulchock for the departed servants Jan Pravlochak and Mary Pravlochak. From Richard & Sonia Blaha for the departed servants, parents, Pete, Dorothy, and Leo; for the health of brother, Robert, family, friends and serving soldiers; for peace and special intentions. (August 14) From Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell for the departed servant, for Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From Nancy Shaytar for the health of husband, George. From John & Olga for the health of Galina Vilcova on her birthday and Dana Emma Kowalcheck and her child to be born. From Lindy Hamilton for the health of Elaine Hamilton and Larry Guess; special intentions.

## Thank You

➤ to our August donors: From Alexandria Tirpak (Bulletin \$60) in memory of mother, Amelia for the the health of family. From Donya Yewisiak (Holy Bread \$50 and Altar Candles \$25) in memory of Archpriest Vladimir Soroka (+ August 4, 2005). From Fr Thomas and Matushka Joni Soroka (Incense \$10) for the health of daughter, Natalie, on her 21<sup>st</sup> 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.*

## Christ and Us

It is only necessary to seek one thing: to be with Jesus. The man who remains with Jesus is rich, even if he is poor with regard to material things. Who ever desires the earthly more than the heavenly loses both the earthly and the heavenly. But whoever seeks the heavenly is Lord of the whole world. (*St. Ignatius Brianchaninov, Patericon*)

The flood of temporal things draws us after itself, but in this flood there is, as it were, a full-grown tree: our Lord Jesus Christ. He took flesh, died, and ascended to heaven. It is as if He agreed to be in the flood of the temporal. Is this stream dragging you headlong? Hold on to Christ. He became temporal for you, so that you might become eternal, for He became temporal in such a way that He remained eternal. What difference is there between two men in a prison when one of the is a convict and the other a visitor! Sometimes a man comes to visit his friend, and it seems that both are in prison, but there is a great difference between them. One of them is held there because of guilt, while the other has come out of love for mankind. Thus it is with our mortality: guilt holds us here, but Christ had come out of mercy. He came freely into bondage, and not as a convict. (*St. Augustin, Sermons on I John, II.10*).

A man in this world must solve a problem: to be with Christ, or to be against Him. And every man decides this, whether he wants to or not. He will either be a lover of Christ or a fighter of Christ. There is no third option. (*St. Justing Popovich, Explanation of I John, 4.3*)

Cleanse your mind from anger, remembrance of evil, and shameful thoughts, and then you will find out how Christ dwells in you. (*St. Maximus the Confessor, Chapters on Love, 4.76*)

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, August 14

## 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 (Forefeast)

Dance with joy, O peoples!  
Clap your hands with gladness!  
Gather today with fervor and jubilation;  
sing with exultation!  
The Mother of God is about to rise in glory,  
ascending from earth to heaven.//  
We ceaselessly praise her in song as truly  
Theotokos.

## 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.

*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 4 Kontakion (Forefeast)

Today the universe dances with joy at thy  
glorious memorial,

and cries out to thee, O Mother of God://  
“Rejoice, O Virgin, pride of Christians!”

## Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

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

## Epistle of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 3:9-17)

For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s  
field, you are God’s building. According to the  
grace of God which was given to me, as a wise  
master builder I have laid the foundation, and  
another builds on it. But let each one take heed  
how he builds on it. For no other foundation can  
anyone lay than that which is laid, which is  
Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this  
foundation with gold, silver, precious stones,  
wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become  
clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will  
be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each  
one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work  
which he has built on it endures, he will receive  
a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will  
suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so  
as through fire.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God  
and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If  
anyone defiles the temple of God, God will  
destroy him. For the temple of God is holy,  
which temple you are.

## Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 14:22-34)

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into  
the boat and go before Him to the other side,  
while He sent the multitudes away. And when  
He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on  
the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when  
evening came, He was alone there. But the boat  
was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the  
waves, for the wind was contrary.

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went  
to them, walking on the sea. And when the  
disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were  
troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried  
out for fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying,  
“Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”

And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is  
You, command me to come to You on the water.”

So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come  
down out of the boat, he walked on the water to  
go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was  
boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink  
he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand  
and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little  
faith, why did you doubt?” And when they got  
into the boat, the wind ceased.

Then those who were in the boat came and  
worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son  
of God.”

When they had crossed over, they came to the  
land of Gennesaret.

## Communion Hymn

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

# Walking on Water

Having disembarked, Peter went to Him, not so  
much pleased at walking on the water, as at the  
fact of coming to Him. When he had prevailed  
over the greater danger, he was on the point of  
succumbing to the lesser, to the violence of the  
wind, I mean, rather than the sea. This is human  
nature; it’s not unusual for us to achieve

something great and then stumble over  
something less, like Elijah with Jezebel, Moses  
with the Egyptian, and David with Bathsheba. So  
it was with Peter: while the others’ fear was at  
its height, he had the courage to walk on the  
water. But against the assault of the wind, he  
was no longer able to stand, despite being near  
Christ. It’s therefore of absolutely no benefit to  
be simply near Christ, unless you are with Him  
in faith.

This also demonstrated the difference between  
the Master and the disciple, and placated the  
feelings of the others. Because, if they were  
indignant in the case of the two brothers, how  
much more so would they have been here, since  
the Spirit had not yet been transmitted to them.

But afterwards they weren’t like that. On every  
occasion, for example, they give pride of place  
to Peter, and put him forward in their addresses  
to the people, although he was more of a rough  
diamond than any of them.

And why didn’t He command the winds to cease,  
but Himself stretched forth His hand and took  
hold of him? Because Peter needed faith. When  
we lack something on our part, then God’s part  
is to provide.

He said, ‘Why did you doubt, you of little faith?’,  
by which He meant that it wasn’t the assault of  
the wind but his lack of faith that had brought  
Peter’s downfall. Had his faith not been weak,  
he’d have stood against the wind as well. This is  
why, even after Christ catches hold of Peter, He  
still allows the wind to blow, showing that you  
come to no harm if your faith is steadfast.

Just as when a chick gets out of the nest  
prematurely, is in danger of falling, is borne up  
by its mother’s wings, and brought back to the  
nest, this is what Christ did. (*Chrysostom*)