



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 21

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, August 23

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, August 24

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

7:00 pm Bible Study (Hebrews)

Thursday, August 25

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, August 27

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

6:00 pm Social Night (All are invited!)

Sunday, August 28

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*

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

August 21, 2022

Announcements

➤ **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.** Check the email sent to everyone or see Kristie Mertz to sign up.

➤ 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.

➤ **Women's Choice Network** has these current paid openings: RNs, RDMS and Director of the Monroeville Center. for more info and to apply write to amys@womenschoicenetwork.com

➤ **Slavic Food Fest Basket Raffle:** It's time to once again gather your creative ideas place them in a basket add a bow and VOILA! we will raffle it off at our 2022 Slavic Food Festival. Please bring your completed basket to the church by Sunday, Sept. 25th, 2022. We need baskets filled with kitchen tools, kid's books, lottery tickets, the possibilities are endless! Gift certificates of all types are welcomed also. See Lindy Hamilton or Suzy Polny to add your name and idea to the list and of course for any questions you may have. Let's get busy!!

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized;* (none). *Home:* Bekah Cummins (post-delivery), George Shaytar. Natalie Tooch. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, for Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova and Dana (Emma) Kowalcheck and her child to be born. From **Kristie Mertz** for the health of Caleb, Annaliese, and Theo. From **Nancy Shaytar** for health of husband, George. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants Polina, Galina, Slava, Bruce, Daina, Luba, and Alex; for the health of Tatyana, Kristofer, Veronika, Daniel, and Tatyana. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, Pete, Dorothy, and Betty, Uncle Ed, and special friends; for the health of brother, Robert, family, friends and serving soldiers; for special intentions, peace, anniversaries, and birthdays this week. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of my family; special intentions. From **Dawna Beckett** for the health of Michael Beckett on his 25th birthday. From **Svetlana** for the departed servants, Milentse, Anna, Nikolay, Eugenia, Marina, and Aleksey; for the health of Yuri, Roman, Aneja, Michael, Nina, and Svetlana.

Thank You

➤ to our August donors: From **Alexandria Tirpak** (Bulletin \$60) in memory of mother, Amelia for 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 21st 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.

Asking in Faith

Jerome: This is what the Lord says in another place, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name believing, ye shall receive." [Matthew 21:22, John 16:23] Therefore when we receive not, it is not the weakness of Him that gives, but the fault of them that ask.

Chrys.: But it is to be known, that, as oftentimes the faith of him that draweth near to receive supplies the miraculous virtue, so oftentimes the power of those that work the miracle is sufficient even without the faith of those who sought to receive. Cornelius and his household, by their faith, attracted to them the grace of the Holy Spirit [Acts 10:4]; but the dead man who was cast into the sepulchre was revived solely by virtue of the holy body. [2 Kings 13:21]

It happened that the disciples were then weak in faith; for indeed they were but in an imperfect condition before the cross; wherefore He here tells them, that faith is the mean of miracles, "Verily I say unto you, if ye shall have faith as a grain of mustard-seed, ye shall say to this mountain, Remove hence, and it shall remove."

Jerome: Some think that the faith that is compared to a grain of mustard-seed is a little faith, whereas the Apostle says, "If I shall have such faith that I could remove mountains." [1 Corinthians 13:2] The faith therefore which is compared to a grain of mustard-seed is a great faith.

Gregory: The mustard-seed, unless it be bruised, does not give out its qualities, so if persecution fall upon a holy man, straightway what had seemed weak and contemptible in him is roused into the heat and fervor of virtue.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, August 21

Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:

“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Thy Kingdom!//

Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

Tone 1 Troparion (Feast)

In giving birth you preserved your virginity. In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.

You were translated to life O Mother of Life, // and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

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 1 Kontakion (Resurrection)

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself.

Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished.

Adam exults, O Master!

Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee://

“Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 2 Kontakion (Feast)

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,

who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions.

For being the Mother of Life, //

she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee! (Ps. 32:22)

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Lk. 1:46-47)

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 4:9-16)

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ

Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 17:14-23)

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.”

Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.” And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”

So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.” And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Hymn to the Theotokos (Feast)

The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin, were struck with wonder, seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven. The limits of nature are overcome in you, O Pure Virgin: for birthgiving remains virginal, and life is united to death; a virgin after childbearing and alive after death, you ever save your inheritance, O Theotokos.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. (Ps. 115:4) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Meeting God in Death

“Our preparation for meeting the heavenly King, and for the inheritance of eternal life in heaven, should consist of these things. The heavenly King desires souls adorned with immutable virtue, souls prepared so that the Very Lord Himself could abide in them. Do not marvel that the Very Lord wants to live in us. In fact the human soul is more spacious than the heavens and the earth, for it exists in the image of God. And if one removes sins from the soul, the Lord of all will settle in it and will fill it with Himself. “We will come to him and make our dwelling with him” (John 14:23), says the Lord about the souls who love Him.

And so, you participants in the Christian feasts, and especially the present feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, you who are brightly adorned with every virtue and translated to the heavenly kingdom, to Her Son and God, proclaim to each and every one about preparing their souls to be the dwelling place of the Lord, about continual repentance, and about the incorruptible adornment of Christian virtue. Let your death also be unashamed and peaceful, serving as the pledge of a good answer at the dread judgment seat of Christ. Amen.” (St. John of Kronstadt, Sermon on the Dormition)



➤ **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.