



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 28

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, August 30

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, September 1: Ecclesiastical New Yr

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, September 3

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, September 4

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*

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

August 28, 2022

Announcements

➤ Monday, August 29 commemorates the **Beheading of St John the Baptist. It is a strict fast day** (meaning, after a light breakfast, no eating for the able bodied until sunset/dinner). We will not have services on that day, but those who can are encouraged to attend **St John Church in Canonsburg** for their patronal feast day at 9:15a.

➤ **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, see Matushka Joni, Mary Hoffman, or contact Eileen Glisan at glisan@live.iup.edu.

➤ **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 Vilkova and Dana (Emma) Kowalcheck and her child to be born. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of Melanie, Jacqueline, and Natalie; special intentions. From **John Mahalchak** for health friends & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, and Cindy. From **Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servants of the Wasilko & Dyczko families; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for special thanks. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for special intention. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, Michael, Nicholas, Pete, Dorothy, and Betty; for the health of brother, Robert, family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for special intention, peace, anniversaries, and birthdays this week. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servant, mother, Amelia (68 years) Memory Eternal; for the health of my family; special intentions. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; special intention. From **John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed family members; for the health of grandson, Michael on his birthday and our family.

Thank You

➤ 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.

Points of the Parable

The gist of the parable teaches us to forgive our fellow servants who have sinned against us, especially if they fall down before us begging forgiveness. To interpret the parable in its particulars should be done only by one who has the mind of Christ. Nevertheless, we shall attempt it. The kingdom is the Word of God, but it is not a kingdom of small extent, but of the heavens. The Word is likened to a man who was a king, that is, He Who became incarnate for our sake and appeared in the likeness of men, and He settles accounts with His servants as a Good Judge. He does not punish without first judging: that would be cruel.

Behold the power of repentance and the Lord's love for mankind. For repentance caused the servant to fall down prostrate before the king and cease from wickedness, since he who stands firmly in wickedness cannot be forgiven. In His love for man God forgave the debt entirely although the servant was not asking for complete forgiveness of the debt, but for an extension of time in which to repay it. Learn, therefore, that God gives more than we ask for. His love for man is such that even what seems to be severe, the command that the servant be sold, God did not speak out of severity, but to terrify the servant in order to induce him to fix all his hope on entreaty and supplication.

The master in his love for mankind takes issue with the servant, to show that it is not the master, but the savagery and the ingratitude of the servant that has revoked the gift. To what tormentors does he deliver him? To the punitive powers for eternal punishment. For the meaning of "till he should pay all his debt" is this: "let him be punished till that he should pay all that was due." But he will never be able to pay his debt, and therefore his punishment will never end.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, August 28

Tone 2 Troparion (Resurrection)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

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 (Ven. Job of Pochaev)

Having acquired the patience of thy Forefather,
and having resembled the Baptist in abstinence,
thou didst share the divine zeal of both
and wast made worthy to receive their names.
Thou wast a fearless preacher of the True Faith;
in this way thou didst bring a multitude of
monastics to Christ.
Thou didst strengthen all people in Orthodoxy,
Job, our venerable father://
pray that our souls may be saved!

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

Tone 2 Kontakion (Resurrection)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld
this and rejoiced with Thee, //
and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

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 2 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (Ps. 117:14)

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 9:2-12)

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?

Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material

things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more?

Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 18:23-35)

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

Communion Hymn

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

John the Baptist

That which we observe in the Honorable Forerunner is that he is the last Prophet of the Old Testament and the first Prophet of the New Testament, because he lived on the border of both the Old and New Testaments. He is a wonderful link between the Prophets and Apostles.

His preaching was indistinguishable from the preaching of the Prophets and Christ, because he preached repentance. He would say: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near" (Matt. 3:2). The Kingdom of Heaven is Divine Grace, the revelation of Christ as Light, and the participation and communion of man with the Light. Repentance is a precondition for communion with God. This is the core of the preaching of the Church; not several shallow words, not philosophies and opinions, but the indication of how to unite someone with God.

Also, what is admired about Saint John the Forerunner was that he was a herald of the truth. He spoke of Christ who is the Truth, and led people to the Truth. His words were not shallow, conciliatory and false. He rebuked people who approached him as well as Herod, indicating to them the correct way, the restoration of justice, and to align their lives with the Law of God. Of course, this had consequences for him, namely imprisonment and finally beheading unto death. But the most important thing in our lives is to correctly honor the truth

➤ **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.