



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, September 4

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, September 6

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, September 7

7:00 pm Festal Vigil

Thursday, September 8: Nativity of the Theotokos

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

10:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, September 10

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, September 11

10:30 am* Divine Liturgy at Pavilion

12:00 pm to 6:00 pm Church Picnic

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*

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

September 4, 2022

Announcements

➤ On Wednesday, September 8 we commemorate the **Nativity of the Mother of God**. Festal Cathedral Vigil will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday and Festal Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am on Thursday morning. Everyone is encouraged to attend the major feasts of the Church.

➤ **This year's Church Picnic** will be held next Sunday, September 11 at Clever Park, (115 Robinson Pool Dr, McKees Rocks, PA 15136). **The Divine Liturgy will be held at the picnic grounds beginning at 10:30 am (note time change)**. The picnic will begin after the Divine Liturgy. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, if possible. Looking forward to a day of relaxation and fun! The Church will be providing the meat, buns, and soft drinks.

➤ **Slavic Food Fest Basket Raffle:** TIK... TOK... TIK... TOK! ONLY 4 weeks 'til our 2022 Slavic Food Festival and the Basket Raffle! How are your baskets coming along? Let us hear from you about your progress. Remember, ANY ideas make a good basket to raffle and gift cards to restaurants, grocery stores, department stores etc. are always welcome! We need a variety of baskets to offer to our visitors. We look forward to speaking with you soon. Your basket committee, Lindy Hamilton and Suzy Polny.

➤ **Church School** will begin on Sunday, September 18! Please register online at <https://tinyurl.com/churchschool2022> no later than September 10. See Matushka Joni with any questions. Thanks!

See you next week at Clever Park in Robinson!

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized;* (none). *Home:* George Shaytar. Natalie Toooh. *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 **Edith** for the health of Katy for healing and comfort. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the health of husband, George. 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 the health of (neighbors) Leo & Luci. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for sisters, Doris & Marsha. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the health of George & Nancy Shaytar; special intention. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, Pete, Dorothy, Betty, and friend, Mary; for the health of brother, Robert, family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for special intention, peace, anniversaries, and birthdays this week. From **Svetlana Sakharova** for the departed servants, Alexey, Anna, Nickolay, Evgenia, and Marina; for the health of Yuri, Roman, Aneja, Anika, Nina, Svetlana, and Michael. From **Kristie Mertz** for Annaliese on her 18th birthday! From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; special intention. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Valentina, Andrei, Diana, Gina, and Luby; for the health of Tatyana, Veronika, Daniel, Elisabeth, Kristofer, and Adrianna

Thank You

➤ Thank you to our **September** donors: **Alexandria Tirpak**, all categories (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Altar Candles \$25. Communion Wine \$40, Incense \$10) for the health and salvation of her family and for the repose of the departed of her family..

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.

Heiromartyr Gorazd

When the German Nazis invaded and conquered Czechoslovakia in 1938, the Orthodox Church was placed under the Orthodox metropolitan of Berlin, Germany, Metropolitan Seraphim (Liade). The German ruler of Czechoslovakia, Reinhard Heydrich, was assassinated on May 27, 1942 by a group of Czech resistance fighters who then were allowed to hide in the crypt of Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Cathedral. When Bishop Gorazd learned of this he realized what great danger he and his flock were in if the Nazis uncovered this hiding place. Before leaving for Berlin to take part in the consecration of Father Philip Gardner as a bishop, he insisted that the resistance fighters leave the Cathedral and find another place of refuge. But on June 18, the hiding place was revealed after a betrayal and torture, and all members of the group were killed.

The Nazis immediately began massive reprisals. The two Cathedral priests and senior lay officials were arrested. Bishop Gorazd, trying to save his people and his church from destruction, wrote letters to the Nazi authorities taking the blame for the actions in the Cathedral, in which he stated, "I am giving myself up to the authorities and am prepared to face any punishment, including death."

Bishop Gorazd was arrested on June 27, 1942, tortured and executed by firing squad at the Kobylisz Shooting Range on September 4. He was 63 years old. The two Cathedral priests were also shot. Along with the priests and bishop, a total of 550 people were executed by the Nazis in reprisal for the assassination. In one particularly heinous act, the entire village of Lidice was exterminated. All of the men were executed, the women and children placed in labor camps, and all village dwellings destroyed. Following the martyrdom of the bishop, the Orthodox Church in Bohemia and Moravia was suppressed and all churches closed. Orthodox priests were exiled to forced labor camps in Germany.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, September 4

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 (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 2 Troparion (Prophet Moses)

Thou didst ascend to the heights of the virtues,

O Prophet Moses;

therefore, thou wast deemed worthy to see the glory of God.

Having received the grace-filled tablets of the

Law,

and bearing the grace of the writing within thyself,

Thou wast the honorable praise of prophets,// and a great mystery of piety.

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 (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 (Resurrection)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing

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

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 15:1-11)

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel

which I preached to you, which also you

received and in which you stand, by which also

you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I

preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I

also received: that Christ died for our sins

according to the Scriptures, and that He was

buried, and that He rose again the third day

according to the Scriptures, and that He was

seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that

He was seen by over five hundred brethren at

once, of whom the greater part remain to the

present, but some have fallen asleep. After that

He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by

one born out of due time.

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not

worthy to be called an apostle, because I

persecuted the church of God. But by the grace

of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 19:16-26)

Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”

So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

He said to Him, “Which ones?”

Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?”

Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”

But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Communion Hymn

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

Being Perfect

Everything, He says, which you say you have accomplished, you have done by fulfilling only the letter of the law, as do the Jews. But if thou wilt be perfect, that is, if you wish to be My disciple and a Christian, then go and sell all that you have, and give everything all at once, keeping nothing back with which to give alms continuously. He did not say, "give repeatedly to the poor," but give once and for all and be stripped of your wealth. Since there are some who give alms but lead a life full of every kind of filth, He adds, and come and follow Me, that is, possess every other virtue as well. The young man, however, was sorrowful, for though he desired eternal life and the soil of his heart was deep and fertile, the thorns of wealth were choking him. For it says, he had great possessions. He who has few possessions is not similarly restrained by them, for the bond of many possessions is more tyrannical. Because the Lord was conversing with a rich man, He said, "Do you love wealth? Know that you will have treasure in heaven." (St Theophylact of Ochrid)

