

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 11

10:30 am Divine Liturgy at Pavilion
12:00 pm to 6:00 pm Church Picnic

Tuesday, September 13

9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Festal Vigil

Wednesday, September 14: Elevation of the Cross

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, September 15

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, September 17

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, September 18

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*

Sunday Before the Elevation of the Cross

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org September 11, 2022

Announcements

➤ Thank you to everyone who made today's picnic possible! Thank you especially to Clayton Harris, John Kowalcheck, Jeremiah Martin, everyone who prepared and donated food and drink and to everyone else who worked to make today a fun day for everyone.

➤ On Wednesday, September 14 we commemorate the great feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross. This day is a strict fast day. Festal Cathedral Vigil will be at 7:00 pm on Tuesday and Festal Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am on Wednesday morning. Everyone is encouraged to attend the major feasts of the Church.

➤ Slavic Food Fest Basket Raffle: TIK... TOK... TIK... TOK! ONLY three weeks 'til our 2022 Slavic Food Festival on Saturday, October 8 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.

➤ Congratulations to Deacon John Skowron who completed his first two week residency beginning his Master of Divinity program through the Antiochian House of Studies. May God bless and guide him.

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 John & Olga for health of Galina Vilkova and Dana Emma Kowalcheck and newborn, Mathilde Magdalena Kowalcheck. From Doris M. Wasilko for the departed servants, parents, Charles and Mary; for the health of Chuck and Marsha. From Marsha Wasilko for the departed servants, parents, Charles and Mary. From Charles A. Wasilko for the departed servant, mother, Mary on her birthday (9-5-1911). From Donya Yewisiak for special intention. From Richard & Sonia Blaha for the departed servants, parents, Pete, Dorothy, and Betty; for the health of Dad, Leo, brother, Robert, family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for special intention, peace, anniversaries, and birthdays this week. From Alexandria Tirpak for the departed servants, brother, Nicholas (30 yrs. 9/11), nephew, Nicholas, and husband, John (12 yrs. 9/10); for the health of my family, grandson, Owen (Armed Forces) and granddaughter, Kyrie. From the Pravlochaks for newly departed, Marie; for the health of our family. From Lindy Hamilton for the departed servant, twin brother, Russell Hamilton.

Thank You

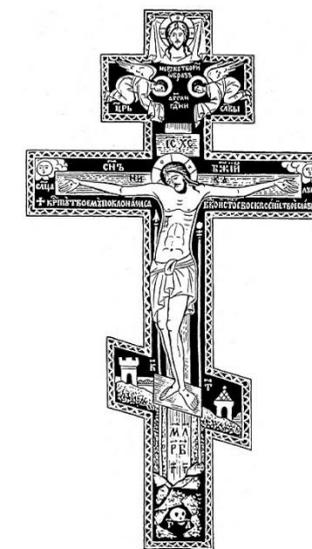
➤ Thank you to our September donors: Alexandria Tirpak, all categories (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Altar Candles \$25. Communion Wine \$40, Incense \$10) for the health and salvation of her family and for the repose of the departed of her family..

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.

The Three Bar Cross

The top bar of the Cross is the title-board which Pilate ordered to be hung in mockery over Christ's head. On this board was inscribed: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews", abbreviated to the Greek initials "INBI." Around the top bar, this inscription has been supplemented with the title: "King of Glory" (Царь славы).

The middle bar is that on which the Lord's hands were nailed. On this Crucifix, the Mother of God (MP ΘΥ - Greek, rather than Slavonic) and St John the Theologian (св. Иоанн Богослов) are shown as in icons of the Crucifixion, though they are not always present on crosses like these. Immediately on either side of Jesus Christ's head, His name is



inscribed as the abbreviation IC XC. Further down the Cross, by His feet, is the Greek word "NIKA", which means "conquer", giving the full inscription: "Jesus Christ Conquers". Note that, as is the custom, Christ and His Mother's name are inscribed in Greek, whereas St John's is written in Slavonic.

The foot-brace of the cross is slanted to remind us that the

Church likens the Cross to a "balance-beam of righteousness", whereby a man is condemned or justified by how they respond to Christ's cross. Behind the foot-brace are the walls of Jerusalem, as Christ was crucified outside the city walls. Just above the footrest is the Greek word for "conquer", completing the inscription Christ Conquers (IC XC NIKA) mentioned above.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, September 11

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 (Feast)

Your nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing.// By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

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.

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 4 Kontakion (Feast)

By your nativity, O most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness, Adam and Eve — from the corruption of death. And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you:// “The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

Tone 6 Prokeimenon (Sunday Before)

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! (*Ps. 27:9a*)

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 Before the Cross (Gal 6:11-18)

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 16:13-24)

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love.

I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints— that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.

I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you.

Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand—Paul’s.

If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Gospel of the Sunday Before the Cross (John 3:13-17)

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to

condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Gospel of the Sunday (John 3:13-17)

“Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?”

They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes?’

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!