



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 25

10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Memorial Service for Rumen Iosifov
Church School Following Divine Liturgy
Ministry Fair presentation during Coffee Hour

Tuesday, September 27

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

Wednesday, September 28

6:30 pm Daily Vespers
7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, September 29

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

Saturday, October 1 NO SERVICES

Sunday, October 2

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*

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org September 25, 2022

Announcements

➤ After today's Divine Liturgy we'll hold a **Ministry Fair** which will present the numerous things that happen to make our parish special. During it, you'll receive a bird's eye view of all the wonderful things that happen and *can* happen in our parish. And this is your invitation! We need your God-given talents to grow our parish. Please carefully consider the needs and vision of our parish and how you can plan an important role in making it all happen!

➤ **Slavic Food Fest Basket Raffle:** Festival Basket update: THANK YOU! to everyone promising to contribute to our basket raffle! We have beautiful baskets and gift cards too. There's always room for more! We asked . . . and you answered! Your generosity will be a great success at the Festival. Come see the generous raffle choices. We'll see you on October 8th! Your committee: Lindy Hamilton and Suzy Polny

➤ Congratulations to Reader James Wargo and Danielle Bartko who have been appointed as our **new parish Choir Directors** beginning on Saturday, October 1. James and Danielle will share the all their duties including preparing the music for our Divine Services, directing the main services, conducting rehearsals, and recruiting new members. We're thankful for their talents and leadership and look forward to the fruits of their labors for years to come! May God richly bless them in their work.

Slavic Food Fest on Saturday, October 8 11a-7p!

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 Kowalcheck** for health of Galina Vilko, Olga Cozza, and Mathilde Magdalena Kowalcheck. From **Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servant, John Shaytar; for the health of brother, Chuck, and John Pravlochak on his birthday. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, Andrew & Olga Kasnot; in remembrance of 9/11. From **Donya Yewisiak** for Mary Beth Madalinsky-speedy recovery. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, Pete, Dorothy, and Betty, Anne & grandpap Lynd; for the health of Dad Leo, brother, Robert, family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for special intention, peace, anniversaries, and birthdays. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, Amelia, John, and Amelia; for the health of my family. From **Kristie Mertz** for the departed servant, grandmother, Elizabeth Suhoza Bosko; for the health of my family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of my family. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Valentina, Andrei, Diana, Gina, Luby, and Gosha; for the health of Tatyana, Veronika, Daniel, Yuriy, Christopher, Adrianna, Roman and Tatyana. From **Dawna Beckett** for special intentions. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the departed servants, Godmother, Ruth George; for the health of Melanie, Jacqueline, and Natalie; special intention. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the health of husband, George, and family.

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.

Church School This Week

Today's Lesson: Stephen and the Early Church

Questions to ask/review:

- How did the Christians of the early church live? (lived together and sold possessions)
- Why did the apostles decide to ordain 7 deacons? What jobs did they do?
- Who was Stephen? Why was he arrested?
- Stephen was the first martyr. What does this mean?
- Describe the arrest, trial, and death of Stephen.
- How was Saul (the future apostle Paul) involved in this event?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Read the story of Stephen in Acts 6 and 7.
- Encourage your child to consider situations when they could stand up for Christ as Stephen did.
- Remind your child of family members or friends who have fell asleep in the Lord.

Prayer: Lord give us the courage and faith of St. Stephen. Amen.

*(continued from the **Childhood of St Sergius**)*

After this the holy child read without difficulty and understood the contents of books. He became immersed in prayer with a special fervor, not missing a single church service. Already in childhood he imposed upon himself a strict fast. He ate nothing on Wednesdays and Fridays, and on the other days he sustained himself on bread and water.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, September 25

Tone 6 Troparion (Resurrection)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure body.
Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead,//
glory to Thee.

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 4 Troparion (St. Sergius of Radonezh)

A zealot of good deeds
and a true warrior of Christ our God,
thou didst struggle greatly against the passions
in this passing life;
in songs and vigils and fasting thou wast an
image and example to thy disciples,
thus the most Holy Spirit lived within thee,
and thou wast made beautiful by His working.
Since thou hast great boldness before the Holy
Trinity,
remember the flock which thou hast wisely
gathered,//
and do not forget to visit thy children as thou
hast promised, venerable Sergius, our father!

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

Tone 6 Kontakion (Resurrection)

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,

raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery
with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life,
and the God of all.

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 6 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

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

Epistle of the Sunday (2 Corinthians 4:6-15)

For it is the God who commanded light to shine
out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to
give the light of the knowledge of the glory of
God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the excellence of the power may be of God
and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every
side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not
in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck
down, but not destroyed— always carrying about
in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the
life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.
For we who live are always delivered to death
for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be
manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is
working in us, but life in you.

And since we have the same spirit of faith,
according to what is written, “I believed and
therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore
speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord
Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will
present us with you. For all things are for your
sakes, that grace, having spread through the
many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the
glory of God.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 5:1-11)

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to
hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake
of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by
the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them
and were washing their nets. Then He got into
one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked
him to put out a little from the land. And He sat
down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

When He had stopped speaking, He said to
Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down
your nets for a catch.”

But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master,
we have toiled all night and caught nothing;
nevertheless at Your word I will let down the
net.” And when they had done this, they caught
a great number of fish, and their net was
breaking. So they signaled to their partners in
the other boat to come and help them. And they
came and filled both the boats, so that they
began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell
down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me,
for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”

For he and all who were with him were
astonished at the catch of fish which they had
taken; and so also were James and John, the
sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.
And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From
now on you will catch men.” So when they had
brought their boats to land, they forsook all and
followed Him.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in
the highest! (Ps. 148:1) The righteous shall be in
everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil
tidings! (Ps. 111:6) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Childhood of St Sergius

Once, his father sent Bartholomew (*St Sergius' name in childhood*) out after the horses in the field. Along the way he met an angel sent by God under the appearance of a monk. The Elder stood at prayer beneath an oak in a field. Bartholomew approached him, and bowing, waited for the Elder to finish praying. The monk blessed him, gave him a kiss and asked what he wanted.

Bartholomew answered, “With all my soul I want to learn reading and writing. Holy Father, pray for me to God, that He may help me to become literate.” The monk fulfilled Bartholomew's request, offering up his prayer to God. In blessing the child he said to him: “Henceforth, my child, God gives you to understand reading and writing, and in this you will surpass your brothers and peers”

Then the Elder took a vessel and gave Bartholomew a piece of prosphora. “Take, child, and eat,” said he. “This is given to you as a sign of the grace of God, and for the understanding of Holy Scripture.” The Elder wanted to leave, but Bartholomew asked him to visit at the home of his parents. His parents received their guest with joy and offered him their hospitality.

The Elder replied that it was proper to partake of spiritual nourishment first, and he bade their son to read the Psalter. Bartholomew began to read, and his parents were amazed at the change that had occurred with their son. In parting, the Elder prophetically said of Saint Sergius, “Your son shall be great before God and the people. He shall become a chosen habitation of the Holy Spirit.” (*continued above...*)