



## 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, July 2

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

### Tuesday, July 4

No Services or Office Hours

### Thursday, July 6

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to Noon Office Hours

### Saturday, July 8

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

4:30 pm Confession

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, July 9

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

Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

### Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

July 2, 2023

## Announcements

➤ Next Sunday, July 9, we will take a **special collection** to assist Alex Listvinsky tuition as he enters St Vladimir's Seminary in the Fall. **St Vladimir's is offering to match everything that we collect!** Please be generous so that we can support him in his studies this Fall!

➤ **As we enter into the summer months**, a reminder that our diligence in attendance at the Sunday Divine Liturgy, the holy feast days, and the various activities of the church, is encouraged to continue. Through the summer months let us offer worship and praise to God in thanksgiving for the continued blessings

A special **official parish meeting** will be held on Sunday, July 23, 2023, after the Divine Liturgy in the parish hall to propose extensive repairs to the issue of our leaking domes and surrounding structures, as well as other projects to upgrade our facilities. Only parishioners in good standing may participate in any votes at the meeting.

➤ **July's parish schedule will see an occasional reduction** in the number of services, classes, and office hours. The normal schedule will pick up in August. Please consult the online schedule ([orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parishcalendar](http://orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parishcalendar)) for the most accurate schedule. **Note:** There will be no Matins or Office Hours on Tuesday, July 4.

➤ All students K-8 (from inside and outside the parish) are invited to our yearly **Vacation Church School from July 10-14**, 10a-1p daily. Daily activities include crafts, lessons, games, and music. To register, contact Matushka Joni Soroka or Rachel Hauenschild.

## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm: Known to be hospitalized:, Home:** John Mahalchak (son). **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 Vilkovala, and Adam Keith Kowalcheck on his birthday. From **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Blaha** for the newly departed servants, Ruth Ann, Kathy, Dean Cirio, and in memory of Dad, Pete, Helen, mothers, Betty, and Dorothy, Robert, Tom, and a special friend; for the health family, friends, siblings, Monica, and serving soldiers for special intention, peace, anniversaries, and birthdays. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Reader Michael Soroka. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, Godmother, Carolyn Daniels; for the health of Eleanor Kovacs—Happy Birthday. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, (cousin) Carolyn Daniels. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, Carolyn Daniels; for the health of the Wasilko family and Eleanor Kovacs on her Birthday! From **John Mahalchak family** for the departed servants, John, and Veronica; for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Daniel, and Mary. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, (father) John and Michael; for the health of Richard, Lisa, Isabel, Rachel, Owen, Andrea, and David; special intentions.

### ➤ Looking ahead!

**Vacation Church School** Mon July 10-Thr July 13  
**Church Picnic** Sunday, Sept 3 at Clever Park  
**Slavic Food Fest** TBD (Saturday Oct 14?)

## On Holiness

Holiness is the fruit of man's efforts and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Holiness is reached by him who wears a cross and in the name of Christ wages warfare against the obstacles to holiness, obstacles to becoming akin to Christ. These obstacles are sins, sinful habits, firmly rooted in the soul. Struggle against them is the major work of a Christian, and in so far as he purifies his soul, so far will he receive of the Holy Spirit.

How varied are the paths of saints! At the throne of God, in front of everyone is the Most Holy Mother of God, more glorious than the seraphim and all the angels and archangels who stood firm, faithful to God through the fearful struggle that was raised against God by the most radiant of them all, Lucifer, which means Light-bearer, who is now the devil, in other words, the one cast down to the deepest darkness. In this struggle the bright angels came so close to God that it is already impossible for them to step back or separate from Him.

All the pleasers of God are like the angels in their love and devotion. They, just as the angels, waged war against the dark forces and became strengthened in love of God. All of the prophets of the Old Testament lived in such a struggle. Godlessness prevailed, the Law of God was forgotten. The world persecuted them because they interfered with its sinful life. They hid in the "depths of the earth." The world hated them. The prophet Isaiah was sawed in two by a wood saw, the prophet Jeremiah was trampled in a swamp. And in such surroundings they stood fast in faith and devotion. All of the righteous ones were sorrowful in the world because they were strangers to the sinful world. All of the apostles suffered in one way or another. Righteous men left for the desert. What made them saints? Suffering? Not suffering alone makes saints, but striving towards God, love of God, and the labor of overcoming obstacles to holiness, which is the fruit of man's labor and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

-St John Maximovitch

**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.**

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, July 2

## **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** 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 6 Troparion** (St. John Maximovitch)

Glorious apostle to an age of coldness and  
unbelief,  
invested with the grace-filled power of the  
saints of old;  
divinely-illuminated seer of heavenly mysteries,  
feeder of orphans, hope of the hopeless:  
thou didst enkindle on earth the fire of love for  
Christ  
upon the dark eve of the day of judgment.  
Pray now that this sacred flame//  
may also rise from our hearts!

## **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.

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

## **Tone 8 Kontakion** (St. John Maximovitch)

Chosen wonderworker and superb servant of  
Christ,  
thou pourest out in the latter times  
inexhaustible streams of inspiration and  
multitudes of miracles.  
We praise thee with love and call out to thee,//  
Rejoice, O holy hierarchy John, Wonderworker of  
the latter times.

*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 3 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing  
praises to our King, sing praises!

## **Epistle** of the Sunday (Romans 6:18-23)

And having been set free from sin, you became  
slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms  
because of the weakness of your flesh. For just  
as you presented your members as slaves of  
uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more  
lawlessness, so now present your members as  
slaves of righteousness for holiness.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free  
in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you  
have then in the things of which you are now  
ashamed? For the end of those things is death.  
But now having been set free from sin, and

having become slaves of God, you have your  
fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.  
For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God  
is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Gospel** of the Sunday (Matthew 8:5-13)

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a  
centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,  
saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home  
paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”

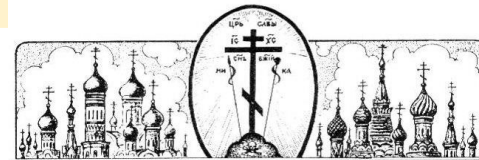
And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal  
him.”

The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am  
not worthy that You should come under my roof.  
But only speak a word, and my servant will be  
healed. For I also am a man under authority,  
having soldiers under me. And I say to this one,  
‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he  
comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does  
it.”

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to  
those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I  
have not found such great faith, not even in  
Israel! And I say to you that many will come  
from east and west, and sit down with Abraham,  
Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But  
the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into  
outer darkness. There will be weeping and  
gnashing of teeth.” Then Jesus said to the  
centurion, “Go your way; and as you have  
believed, so let it be done for you.” And his  
servant was healed that same hour.

## **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!



# St John Maximovitch

St. John was born in Russia in 1896 in southern  
Russia and was given the baptismal name of  
Michael. He grew up in a very pious family, so he  
was always very close to the Church. He went  
through his schooling and earned a law degree at  
the University of Belgrade.

John and his family were forced to flee Russia  
when the Bolshevik revolutionaries came. He  
continued his education at the same university in  
Theology, where he finished in 1925. The following  
year, he was tonsured a monk and ordained as  
Hierodeacon by Metropolitan Anthony of Kharkov.  
After this he began his teaching career in a Serbian  
high school.

Hiermonk John was consecrated a bishop in 1934  
and assigned to the Diocese of Shanghai. Later in  
1946, he was named the Archbishop of China.  
During his time here, he helped to inspire and  
build many churches and orphanages in the  
Orthodox communities of Shanghai. He would  
often visit the sick with Holy Gifts and do so  
barefoot, no matter how cold it was.

During the end of World War II, when communist  
power was beginning to affect China, he helped  
around 5,000 refugees escape to an island in the  
Philippines, then traveled to Washington D.C. to  
help amend the law to allow refugees into the  
United States. This is where he established his first  
American parish, St. John the Forerunner.

Archbishop John then moved to Paris and was  
assigned to the Archdiocese of Western Europe in  
1951. Eleven years later he was moved to San  
Francisco, where he began as the Archbishop,  
where he followed after his longtime friend,  
Archbishop Tikhon. While he resided in California,  
he established the new cathedral, dedicated to the  
Joy of All Who Sorrow Icon of the Mother of God.

It was during a trip to Seattle, Washington in 1966  
that Archbishop John reposed, and his incorrupt  
relics now rest in the new Joy of All Who Sorrow  
cathedral in San Francisco.