



## 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 16

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

### Tuesday, July 18

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to Noon Office Hours

### Thursday, July 20

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to Noon Office Hours

### Saturday, July 22

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

4:30 pm Confession

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, July 23

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Special Parish Meeting following

### ➤ Looking ahead!

**Church Picnic** Sunday, Sept 3 at Clever Park

**Slavic Food Fest** TBD (Saturday Oct 14?)

**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

### Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

July 16, 2023

## Announcements

➤ **Thank you** to Matushka Joni Soroka, Rachel Hauenschild, and all the helpers who made our 2023 Vacation Church School an enormous success! 30 students learned about God's "Wildlife Wonders" and the role of animals in His plan and purpose for the world.

➤ 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.

➤ Congratulations Karlie and Bill Lewis on the birth of their daughter, **Eliza Mae!** Born on Tuesday, July 11 at 7:18 am today, she was 20.5 inches and weighed 8 lbs 5 oz at birth. Mom and baby are doing great and her big brothers can't wait to bring their first little sister home! Congratulations to the Lewis family! May God grant them many blessed years!

➤ Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the **seminary tuition** and expenses for **Alex Listvinsky**. If you did not have the opportunity to give, please consider doing so, marking it towards "Alex Seminary." Thank you!

➤ Fr Thomas and the Parish Council is grateful to everyone who gave **feedback** on the recent form regarding the arrangement of the church. A report will be released soon with the results as well as action items and plans for the future to address concerns.

## 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, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Blaha** for the newly departed servants, parents, brother, Bill, and newly departed; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers for special intention, peace, anniversaries, and birthdays; safe journey for the Yarosh family. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilko; for the health and salvation of our families. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha. From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Daniel, and Mary. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, husband, George.

## First Six Councils

A brief summary of the dogmatic theology of the First Six Ecumenical Councils is formulated and contained in the First Canon of the Council of Trullo (also known as Quinisext), held in the year 692.

The **318 Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council** are spoken of in this Canon I of Trullo as having: "with unanimity of faith revealed and declared to us the consubstantiality of the three Persons of the Divine nature and, ... instructing the faithful to adore the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

with one worship, they cast down and dispelled the false teaching about different degrees of Divinity."

The **150 Holy Fathers of the Second Ecumenical Council** left their mark on the theology of the Church concerning the Holy Spirit, "repudiating the teaching of Macedonius, as one who wished to divide the inseparable Unity, so that there might be no perfect mystery of our hope."

The **200 God-bearing Fathers of the Third Ecumenical Council** expounded the teaching that "Christ, the Incarnate Son of God is One." They also confessed that "she who bore Him without seed was the spotless Ever-Virgin, glorifying her as truly the Mother of God.

The **630 Holy Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council** decreed that "the One Christ, the Son of God... must be glorified in two natures."

The **165 God-bearing Holy Fathers of the Fifth Ecumenical Council** "in synod anathematized and repudiated Theodore of Mopsuestia (the teacher of Nestorius), and Origen, and Didymus, and Evagrius, renovators of the Hellenic teaching about the transmigration of souls and the transmutation of bodies and the impieties they raised against the resurrection of the dead."

The **170 Holy Fathers of the Sixth Ecumenical Council** "taught that we ought to confess two natural volitions, or two wills [trans. note: one divine, and the other human], and two natural operations (energies) in Him Who was incarnate for our salvation, Jesus Christ, our true God."

In decisive moments of Church history, the holy Ecumenical Councils promulgated their dogmatic definitions, as trustworthy delimitations in the spiritual battle for the purity of Orthodoxy, which will last until such time, as "all shall come into the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God" (Eph. 4: 13).

**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 16

## **Tone 5 Troparion** (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,  
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born for our salvation from the Virgin;  
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the  
flesh,  
to endure death,  
and to raise the dead//  
by His glorious Resurrection.

## **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 8 Troparion** (Fathers)

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God,  
Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights  
on the earth.  
Through them Thou hast guided us to the True  
Faith.//  
O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

## **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!

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

## **Tone 5 Kontakion** (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior,

shattering its gates as Almighty,  
resurrecting the dead as Creator,  
and destroying the sting of death.  
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O  
Lover of man,//  
and we cry to Thee: “O Lord, save us!”

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

## **Tone 8 Kontakion** (Fathers)

The Apostles’ preaching and the Fathers’  
doctrines have established one Faith for the  
Church.  
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from  
heavenly theology,//  
It defines and glorifies the great mystery of  
piety.

## **Tone 5 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us  
from this generation forever. (Ps. 11:7)

## **Tone 4 Prokeimenon** (Song of Holy Children)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, /  
and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

## **Epistle** of the Sunday (Romans 12:6-14)

Having then gifts differing according to the  
grace that is given to us, let us use them: if  
prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our  
faith; or ministry, let us use it in our  
ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he  
who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with  
liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who  
shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is  
evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly  
affectionate to one another with brotherly love,  
in honor giving preference to one another; not  
lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving  
the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in

tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;  
distributing to the needs of the saints, given to  
hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not  
curse.

## **Gospel** of the Sunday (Matthew 9:1-8)

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to  
His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him  
a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their  
faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good  
cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”

And at once some of the scribes said within  
themselves, “This Man blasphemes!”

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why  
do you think evil in your hearts? For which is  
easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to  
say, ‘Arise and walk’? But that you may know  
that the Son of Man has power on earth to  
forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic,  
“Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”  
And he arose and departed to his house.

Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled  
and glorified God, who had given such power to  
men.

## **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in  
the highest! (Ps 148:1 Rejoice in the Lord, O you  
righteous; praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## On Prayer

“I languish, I die spiritually when I do not serve  
in church for several days, and my soul and  
heart revive, are aflame when I serve,  
immersing myself in a prayer that is not formal,  
but genuine, spiritual, sincere, fiery. I love to  
pray in God’s church, in the holy altar, before  
the altar table, because by the grace of God I  
become wondrously transformed in church; in a

prayer of penitence and humility my soul  
becomes free of the fetters of passion and I feel  
uplifted; I feel as though I am dead to the world  
and all its goods; I come alive in God and for  
God, for the one God, I become suffused by Him  
and am one in spirit with Him; I become like a  
child comforted in his mother’s lap; my heart  
becomes full of divine sweet peace; my soul  
becomes enlightened with a divine light,  
everything is seen in this light, everyone is  
approached in the right way, one feels kindness  
and love towards everyone, even towards one’s  
enemies, and they are easily excused and  
forgiven!

O, how exalted is the soul when it is with God!  
The Church is truly a paradise on earth! How  
fervently one appeals to the Lord and the  
Mother of God! What meekness, humility,  
kindness one feels! What indifference to earthly  
things! What ardent desire for heavenly bliss!  
The tongue cannot even describe the rapture one  
experiences in having God within one’s heart!  
With Him all earthly things are like dust and  
decay.”

“One must constrain oneself and do prostrations  
even against one’s will; this is necessary to  
combat the pride which nestles deep within our  
heart. Pride cannot bear to prostrate itself.”  
“A prayer requires that the object of the prayer  
be expressed concretely or, at the least, that the  
heart have a clear realization and desire of it;  
secondly, that this desire be expressed with  
feeling and a sincere belief in the mercy of the  
Lord and the Mother of God; thirdly, one must  
have a firm intention not to sin, but to fulfill the  
will of God in everything.”

“If you are united to God by lively faith and  
virtue, especially meekness, humility and mercy,  
ask Him whatever you wish, whatever the Holy  
Spirit instructs you to ask, - and you shall  
receive: either immediately, in an instant, in a  
single hour, or after a while, in accordance with  
God’s wisdom.” (St John of Kronstadt)