



## 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 23

**10:00 am** Divine Liturgy  
Special Parish Meeting following

*No Matins or Office Hours this week*

### Saturday, July 29

**4:00 pm** Community Food Pantry  
**4:30 pm** Confession  
**5:00 pm** Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil  
**6:00 pm** Social Night

### Sunday, July 30

**10:00 am** Divine Liturgy

➤ **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*

### Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org July 23, 2023

## Announcements

➤ A special **official parish meeting** will be held today 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.

➤ There will be **no Matins or office hours** this week.

➤ During the Weekend of August 5/6, the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ is celebrated. However, there will be **no Saturday evening Vigil at our parish** on Saturday, August 5. We do encourage those who can to **attend the Vigil at Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City** for their patronal feast. However, we will have the Festal Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 6 here in our parish at 10:00 am along with the blessing of grapes and fruits.

➤ The **Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry** will sponsor a retreat at St George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland on Saturday, August 26 beginning at 10:00 am with two talks and a light lunch. Register at [tinyurl.com/ocpmevent2023](http://tinyurl.com/ocpmevent2023).

➤ **Traffic Notice:** The Helen Street Exits off and on to the McKees Rocks Bridge **on the westbound lane** (from Pittsburgh to McKees Rocks) will be closed beginning tomorrow through October. See the email this week for alternatives.

## 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 **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, Robert, Pete, Dorothy, Betty, and Kathy; for the health of Leo. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family; private intention. 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 John, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Daniel, and Mary. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, husband, George. From **George M. Shaytar** for the departed servants, dad, George.

## Saint Olympias the Deaconess

Saint Olympias the Deaconess was the daughter of the senator Anicius Secundus, and by her mother she was the granddaughter of the noted eparch Eulalios (he is mentioned in the life of Saint Nicholas). Before her marriage to Anicius Secundus, Olympias's mother had been married to the Armenian emperor Arsak and became widowed. When Saint Olympias was still very young, her parents betrothed her to a nobleman. The marriage was supposed to take place when Saint Olympias reached the age of maturity. The bridegroom soon died, however, and Saint Olympias did not wish to enter into another marriage, preferring a life of virginity.

After the death of her parents she became the heir to great wealth, which she began to distribute to all the needy: the poor, the orphaned and the widowed. She also gave generously to the churches, monasteries, hospices and shelters for the downtrodden and the homeless.

Holy Patriarch Nectarius (381-397) appointed Saint Olympias as a deaconess. The saint fulfilled her service honorably and without reproach.

Saint Olympias provided great assistance to hierarchs coming to Constantinople: Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium, Onesimus of Pontum, Gregory the Theologian, Saint Basil the Great's brother Peter of Sebaste, Epiphanius of Cyprus, and she attended to them all with great love. She did not regard her wealth as her own but rather God's, and she distributed not only to good people, but also to their enemies.

Saint John Chrysostom (November 13) had high regard for Saint Olympias, and he showed her good will and spiritual love. When this holy hierarch was unjustly banished, Saint Olympias and the other deaconesses were deeply upset. Leaving the church for the last time, Saint John Chrysostom called out to Saint Olympias and the other deaconesses Pentadia, Proklia and Salbina. He said that the matters incited against him would come to an end, but scarcely more would they see him. He asked them not to abandon the Church, but to continue serving it under his successor. The holy women, shedding tears, fell down before the saint.

**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 23

## **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** 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 granting to  
you!  
O holy Bishop Nicholas,  
pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

## **Tone 4 Troparion** (Martyrs)

Thy holy martyr Trophimus and his companions,  
O Lord,  
through their sufferings have received  
incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God.  
For having Thy strength, they laid low their  
adversaries,  
and shattered the powerless boldness of  
demons.//  
Through their intercession, save our souls!

## **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.

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

## **Tone 2 Kontakion** (Kontakion for Martyrs)

You have appeared as bright lamps, O holy  
martyrs!  
Illumine the whole creation with the brightness  
of your miracles.  
Deliver it from infirmity and drive away the  
deep darkness,//  
always interceding before Christ God for us all.

*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 6 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine  
inheritance!

## **Epistle** of the Sunday (Romans 15:1-7)

We then who are strong ought to bear with the  
scruples of the weak, and not to please  
ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for  
his good, leading to edification. For even Christ  
did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The  
reproaches of those who reproached You fell on  
Me.” For whatever things were written before  
were written for our learning, that we through  
the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might  
have hope. Now may the God of patience and  
comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one  
another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may  
with one mind and one mouth glorify the God  
and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore receive one another, just as Christ  
also received us, to the glory of God.

## **Gospel** of the Sunday (Matthew 9:27-35)

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men  
followed Him, crying out and saying, “Son of  
David, have mercy on us!”

And when He had come into the house, the blind  
men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, “Do  
you believe that I am able to do this?”

They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.”

Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According  
to your faith let it be to you.” And their eyes  
were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them,  
saying, “See that no one knows it.” But when  
they had departed, they spread the news about  
Him in all that country.

As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a  
man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the  
demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the  
multitudes marveled, saying, “It was never seen  
like this in Israel!”

But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by  
the ruler of the demons.”

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages,  
teaching in their synagogues, preaching the  
gospel of the kingdom, and healing every  
sickness and every disease among the people.

## **Communion Hymn**

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

## **St Olympias** *continued*

Patriarch Theophilus of Alexandria (385-412),  
had repeatedly benefited from the generosity of  
Saint Olympias, but turned against her for her

devotion to Saint John Chrysostom. She had also  
taken in and fed monks, arriving in  
Constantinople, whom Patriarch Theophilus had  
banished from the Egyptian desert. He levelled  
unrighteous accusations against her and  
attempted to cast doubt on her holy life.

After the banishment of Saint John Chrysostom,  
someone set fire to a large church, and after this  
a large part of the city burned down.

All the supporters of Saint John Chrysostom  
came under suspicion of arson, and they were  
summoned for interrogation. They summoned  
Saint Olympias to trial, rigorously interrogating  
her. They fined her a large sum of money for the  
crime of arson, despite her innocence and a lack  
of evidence against her. After this the saint left  
Constantinople and set out to Kyzikos (on the  
Sea of Marmara). But her enemies did not cease  
their persecution. In the year 405 they  
sentenced her to prison at Nicomedia, where the  
saint underwent much grief and deprivation.  
Saint John Chrysostom wrote to her from his  
exile, consoling her in her sorrow. In the year  
409 Saint Olympias entered into eternal rest.

Saint Olympias appeared in a dream to the  
Bishop of Nicomedia and commanded that her  
body be placed in a wooden coffin and cast into  
the sea. “Wherever the waves carry the coffin,  
there let my body be buried,” said the saint. The  
coffin was brought by the waves to a place  
named Brokthoi near Constantinople. The  
inhabitants, informed of this by God, took the  
holy relics of Saint Olympias and placed them in  
the church of the holy Apostle Thomas.

Afterwards, during an invasion of enemies, the  
church was burned, but the relics were  
preserved. Under the Patriarch Sergius (610-  
638), they were transferred to Constantinople  
and put in the women’s monastery founded by  
Saint Olympias. Miracles and healings occurred  
from her relics.