



## 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 30

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

### Tuesday, August 1

9:00 am Daily Matins/Blessing of Water

10:00 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

### Thursday, August 3

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

### Saturday, August 5

No Services

### Sunday, August 6: Transfiguration of Christ

10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy

Blessing of Grapes and Fruit

### ➤ 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

### Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

July 30, 2023

## Announcements

➤ Tuesday, August 1 begins the **Dormition Fast** through Monday, August 14. Please do your best to observe this fast in preparation for the celebration of the Dormition of the Mother of God.

➤ 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 **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 faithful are encouraged to bring grapes and fruits to be blessed on that day.

➤ Please remember that the first Sunday of every month (August 6 - **next Sunday**) is Potluck Sunday for coffee hour. Please bring a lenten dish to share!

➤ 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 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 **John Mahalchak** for the health of friends and family, especially John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, and Cindy. From **John Kowalcheck and Olga Cozza** for the health of Galina Vilko. From **Richard and Sonia Blaha** for the newly departed servants Connie, Ruth Ann, Dean, Kathy, and Floyd; in memory of Aunt Irene, Estelle, and grandmother Helen. For the health of friends, family, siblings, and serving soldiers. For special intention, peace, birthdays, and anniversaries. From the **Pravlovhak** family for the health of David, Owen, and Christina. From **Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant Deacon Joseph Mell and for the health of family. From **George Shaytar** for the departed servant father George. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant husband George. From **Charles Wasilko** for the health of sisters Doris and Marsha. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton and for special intentions. From **Doris Wasilko** for parents Charles and Mary and for the health of the Wasilko 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.**

## Orthodox Meal Prayers

### Breakfast

The eyes of all creatures look to thee, O Lord, and thou givest them food and drink in due season; thou openest thy merciful hand and fillest every living thing with thy goodwill.

*And then the blessing...*

### Lunch

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

*And then the blessing...*

### Dinner

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and they that seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall live forever.

*And then the blessing...*

### The Blessing

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the prayers of our holy fathers, bless the food and drink of thy servants, for thou art holy, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, July 30

## **Tone 7 Troparion** (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.  
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change  
weeping into joy,  
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ  
God,  
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//  
granting 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 3 Troparion** (Apostles)

Holy Apostles Silas and Silvanus,  
entreat the merciful God//  
to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

## **Tone 7 Kontakion** (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men  
captive,  
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying  
its powers.  
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and  
cry:  
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//  
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

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

## **Tone 4 Kontakion** (Apostles)

You were revealed to be branches of the vine of  
Christ, O wise ones,

bearing clusters of virtues that pour out on us  
the wine of salvation.  
Receiving it, we are filled with gladness,  
and we celebrate your most honored memory,  
Apostles of the Lord, Silas and Silvanus.//  
Therefore, intercede that great mercy and  
remission of sins may be granted to us.

*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 7 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. the  
Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Ps.  
28:11)

## **Epistle** of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 1:10-18)

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of  
our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the  
same thing, and that there be no divisions  
among you, but that you be perfectly joined  
together in the same mind and in the same  
judgment. For it has been declared to me  
concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s  
household, that there are contentions among  
you. Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am  
of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of  
Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” Is Christ divided?  
Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you  
baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you except  
Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I

had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also  
baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I  
do not know whether I baptized any other. For  
Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach  
the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the  
cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to  
those who are perishing, but to us who are being  
saved it is the power of God.

## **Gospel** of the Sunday (Matthew 14:14-22)

And when Jesus went out He saw a great  
multitude; and He was moved with compassion  
for them, and healed their sick. When it was  
evening, His disciples came to Him, saying,  
“This is a deserted place, and the hour is already  
late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go  
into the villages and buy themselves food.”

But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go  
away. You give them something to eat.”

And they said to Him, “We have here only five  
loaves and two fish.”

He said, “Bring them here to Me.” Then He  
commanded the multitudes to sit down on the  
grass. And He took the five loaves and the two  
fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and  
broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and  
the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all  
ate and were filled, and they took up twelve  
baskets full of the fragments that remained.  
Now those who had eaten were about five  
thousand men, besides women and children.

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into  
the boat and go before Him to the other side,  
while He sent the multitudes away.

## **Communion Hymn**

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

# Bring it!

“We have only five loaves here and two fish.”

Christians often think this way, and for some reason,  
this approach can get magnified in parish life. **We  
approach things negatively. Look, Lord, this is all  
we have. We’re just a few people. We’re just a  
small parish. Look at what we don’t have.**

But where is our faith? Aren’t we Christians?

We can dream big dreams and somehow do what  
seems impossible when it comes to the achievements  
of this world in education or business or athletics,  
etc., but when it comes to church life, where we know  
that, if we are faithful, we have God Himself on our  
side, why is it that pessimism then rules the day?  
Where is our faith? Why are we often so negative?

**Church should be the place where the impossible  
becomes possible, where by faith what is small can  
become great.** Do we not believe in the promises that  
God has made to us, that if we have faith even as  
small as a mustard seed, that mountains can be  
moved (Matt. 17:20)? Where are the Christians who  
believe when Jesus says, “Nothing shall be impossible  
unto you”?

Why is it that so many churches hear this account and  
many others like it from Scripture, yet they are not  
filled with the fire of faith, the faith that sees growth,  
not just in attendance or tithing but in repentance, in  
maturity, in service and ministry?

Why? **It is because, even though we have a little  
something, we do not offer it to God.** We keep it.  
We hold it tight. We think that by squeezing tighter  
and tighter, maybe we can keep it together. I only  
have a little. I only have five loaves and two fish. So I  
will hold tight. I’ll send people away to go fend for  
themselves. I won’t reach out.

But that’s wrong! I have to reach out. **I have to take  
what little I have and give it away!** Whatever we  
have has to be offered to the Lord, even if it seems  
like it’s just a little bit, even if it seems like there’s  
just not enough to go around. Whatever you bring,  
God will multiply it. But you have to bring it.  
(Damick)