



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 10

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, September 12

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, September 13

6:00 pm Festal Vigil

7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, September 14: Exaltation of the Cross

9:30 am Festal Liturgy

10:30 am to 1:00 pm Festival Cooking Prep

Friday, September 15

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Festival Cooking Prep

Saturday, September 16

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Festival Cooking Prep

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Choir Reh.

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, September 17

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

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

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org September 10, 2023

Announcements

➤ Slavic Food Fest Prep Schedule

We invite everyone who is interested to join us in preparing the food for our annual Slavic Food Fest (to be held on Saturday, October 14). This is a great opportunity to join together in helping to bring people into our community and offer them a bit of our historical culture, but also share the best of the hospitality of our Orthodox Faith.

To make it simple to remember, we will be having prep workshops **every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday morning from 9:30 am to Noon from now until the Festival** (times will shift only when there is a morning Liturgy). On those days there will be no Office Hours.

We need your help and support! Join us and learn how to make these great foods! Everyone is welcomed and no one will be turned away. There's much for everyone to do!

Coming up this week: Pierogi

Thursday, September 14 10:30 am to 1:00 pm (Liturgy at 9:30 am)

Friday, September 15 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Saturday, September 16 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Check our online calendar for the latest schedule. Remember, prep times are every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday morning from 9:30 am to Noon from now until the Festival.

➤ **Church School** will begin next Sunday near the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:*; *Home:* John Mahalchak (son), Rick Porter. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka.

➤ No **Vigil Lights** last week due to the picnic.

Thank You

➤ to our **September donor:** from Sandi Tirpak (Bulletin \$60) in memory of brother, Nicholas; nephew, Nicholas, and husband, John.

Three Sister Martyrs

The Holy Virgins Menodora, Nymphodora, and Metrodora (305-311), were sisters from Bithynia (Asia Minor). Distinguished for their special piety, they wanted to preserve their virginity and avoid worldly associations. They chose a solitary place for themselves in the wilderness and spent their lives in deeds of fasting and prayer.

Reports of the holy life of the virgins soon spread, since healings of the sick began to occur through their prayers. The Bithynia region was governed at that time by a man named Frontonus, who ordered that the sisters be arrested and brought before him.

At first he tried to persuade them to renounce Christ, promising great honors and rewards. But the holy sisters steadfastly confessed their faith before him, rejecting all his suggestions. They told him that they did not value the temporal things of this world, and that they were prepared to die for their Heavenly Bridegroom, for death would be their gateway to eternal life.

Flying into a rage, the governor took out his wrath on Saint Menodora, the eldest sister. She was stripped of her clothes and beaten by four men, while a herald urged her to offer sacrifice to the gods. The saint bravely endured the torments and cried out, "Sacrifice? Can't you see that I am offering myself as a sacrifice to my God?" Then they renewed their torments with even greater severity. Then the martyr cried out, " Lord Jesus Christ, joy of my heart, my hope, receive my soul in peace." With these words she gave up her soul to God, and went to her Heavenly Bridegroom.

Four days later, they brought the two younger sisters Metrodora and Nymphodora to the court. They showed them the battered body of their older sister to frighten them. The virgins wept over her, but remained steadfast.

Then Saint Metrodora was tortured. She died, crying out to her beloved Lord Jesus Christ with her last breath. Then they turned to the third sister, Nymphodora. Before her lay the bruised bodies of her sisters. Frontonus hoped that this sight would intimidate the young virgin.

Pretending that he was charmed by her youth and beauty, he urged her to worship the pagan gods, promising great rewards and honors. Saint Nymphodora scoffed at his words, and shared the fate of her older sisters. She was tortured and beaten to death with iron rods.

The bodies of the holy martyrs were to be burned in a fire, but a heavy rain extinguished the blazing fire, and lightning struck down Frontonus and his servant. Christians took up the bodies of the holy sisters and reverently buried them at the so-called Warm Springs at Pythias (Bithynia).

Part of the relics of the holy martyrs are preserved on Mt. Athos in the Protection cathedral of the Saint Panteleimon Russian monastery, and the hand of Saint Metrodora is on the Holy Mountain in the monastery of the Pantocrator.

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, September 10

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 (Feast)

Your nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing// By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Tone 1 Troparion (Martyrs)

Let all who rejoice at their triumph honor those three virgin martyrs, who are united to God as sisters and who pour forth fair streams of grace: Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora, who were in all things courageous// they ever pray to the Trinity for us.

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!”

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

Tone 4 Kontakion (Martyrs)

Invincible in your struggles for the Holy Trinity, and through your love for each other as sisters, you defeated the foe of the spiritual life, and with the five virgins, entered victoriously into the heavenly mansions //

where you ever rejoice with the angels in the presence of the King of all!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Tone 4 Kontakion (Feast)

By your nativity, O most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness, Adam and Eve – from the corruption of death. And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you:// “The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

Tone 6 Prokeimenon (Sunday Before)

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

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Epistle of the Sunday Before (Galatians 6:11-18)

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen..

Epistle of the Sunday (2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4)

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.

But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me?

And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

Gospel of the Sunday Before (John 3:13-17)

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 22:1-14)

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, ‘See, I have

prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.’” But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Tone 8 Festal Hymn to the Theotokos

Magnify, O my soul, the most glorious birth of the Mother of God!

Virginity is foreign to mothers; childbearing is strange for virgins.

But in you, O Theotokos, both were accomplished.//

Therefore all we nations of the earth unceasingly magnify you.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*) I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. (*Ps. 115:4*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

