



## 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 24

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

### Tuesday, September 26

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

### Wednesday, September 27

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

7:00 pm Bible Study

### Thursday, September 28

9:00 am Daily Matins

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

### Friday, September 29

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

### Saturday, September 30

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

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

4:00 pm Community Food Pantry

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, October 1

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

### Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org September 24, 2023

## Announcements

➤ We are in great need of **donations for our monthly food pantry** which feeds our neighbors who are in need. Would you please consider giving a special donation to help? If you give a special gift, please earmark it for "Food Pantry."

### ➤ 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.

We will be having prep workshops **every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday morning from 9:30 am to Noon from now until the Festival** 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!

➤ Join us for the reboot of our **annual St Nicholas Symposium to be held on Saturday, October 21 from 2:00-4:00 pm**. The topic of the Symposium will be **Christian Iconography and the Second Commandment**. This Symposium will be a series of short talks discussing Iconography from a variety of perspectives. This will be perfect for Orthodox Christians, those who are interested in icons, and those who may disagree with icons but are interested in Orthodoxy. More info next week!

## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized (none); Home:* John Mahalchak (son), Rick Porter, Donya Yewisiak. *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, parents, brother, grandpap Lynd, Anne, special friend and newly departed, Alma; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for special intention, peace, anniversaries, and birthdays. From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family and John Pravlochak on his Birthday-Many Years! From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, parents, Andy & Olga Kasnot; safe travel. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of John Pravlochak on his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday; safe travels. From **Nancy Shaytar and George M. Shaytar** for the departed servant, George Shaytar. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton & Scott families; special intentions. From **John & Olga** for the health and salvation of our family and Galina Vilcova. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family; John, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Daniel, Mary, Frank and Debbie; Happy 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary John & Cheryl.

## Thank You

➤ to our **September donors:** from **Sandi Tirpak** (Bulletin \$60) in memory of brother, Nicholas; nephew, Nicholas, and husband, John. From the **Mertz family** for the health of mother, Janice; daughter, Annaliese, and grandmother, Elizabeth, on their birthdays.

**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.**

## This Week in Church School

**Today's lesson:** St. Paul's Letter to the Romans

**Verse (younger classes):** "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God." (Romans 13:1)

### Questions to ask/review:

Why should we obey the laws?  
Where does Paul say that government power comes from?  
How are many laws similar to God's laws? Give examples from the Ten Commandments.

**Verse (older classes):** "And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches." (Romans 11:17-18)

### Questions to ask/review:

Who is the olive tree? The vine?  
What is the process of grafting?  
What is the root of the olive tree? Who are the branches? What happens to an unbelieving branch?

### Suggested Activities at home:

Visit a police station or discuss the role of police in your community.  
Review and memorize the Ten Commandments.

**Prayer:** Lord, we pray for all civil authorities and government officials, that they may rule our country wisely according to Your will.

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, September 24

## **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** (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 4 Troparion** (New Martyrs)

Today Alaska rejoices and America celebrates,  
for the New World has been sanctified by  
martyrdom.  
Kodiak echoes with songs of thanksgiving,  
Iliamna and Kenai observe the festival of faith.  
The apostle and martyr Juvenaly is glorified,  
and Peter the Aleut is exalted by his voluntary  
sacrifice.  
In their devotion and love for the Lord  
they willingly endured persecution and death  
for the truth.//  
Now in the kingdom of heaven they intercede  
for our souls.

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

## **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!”

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

## **Tone 4 Kontakion** (New Martyrs)

Today Valaam joins Alaska in celebrating this  
joyous feast,  
as her spiritual son Juvenaly embraces the New-  
Martyr Peter with love.  
Together they suffered for the Lord in America  
and united the Old World with the New by their  
voluntary sacrifice.//  
Now forever they stand before the King of glory  
and intercede for our souls.

## **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** (2 Corinthians 6:1-10)

We then, as workers together with Him also  
plead with you not to receive the grace of God in  
vain. For He says:

“In an acceptable time I have heard you,  
And in the day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is  
the day of salvation.

We give no offense in anything, that our  
ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we  
commend ourselves as ministers of God: in  
much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in  
distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in  
tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings;

by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by  
kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by  
the word of truth, by the power of God, by the  
armor of righteousness on the right hand and on  
the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report  
and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as  
unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and  
behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed;  
as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet  
making many rich; as having nothing, and yet  
possessing all things.

## **Gospel of the Sunday** (Luke 5:1-11)

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to  
hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake  
of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by  
the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them  
and were washing their nets. Then He got into  
one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked  
him to put out a little from the land. And He sat  
down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

When He had stopped speaking, He said to  
Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down  
your nets for a catch.”

But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master,  
we have toiled all night and caught nothing;  
nevertheless at Your word I will let down the  
net.” And when they had done this, they caught  
a great number of fish, and their net was  
breaking. So they signaled to their partners in  
the other boat to come and help them. And they  
came and filled both the boats, so that they  
began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell  
down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me,  
for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”

For he and all who were with him were  
astonished at the catch of fish which they had  
taken; and so also were James and John, the  
sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.  
And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From  
now on you will catch men.” So when they had  
brought their boats to land, they forsook all and  
followed Him.

## **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!

## **Martyrdom of St Peter the Aleut**

Saint Peter the Aleut is mentioned in the Life of  
Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13). Simeon  
Yanovsky (who ended his life as the  
schemamonk Sergius in the Saint Tikhon of  
Kaluga Monastery), has left the following  
account:

“On another occasion I was relating to him how  
the Spanish in California had imprisoned  
fourteen Aleuts, and how the Jesuits (actually  
Franciscans) were forcing all of them to accept  
the Catholic Faith. But the Aleuts would not  
agree under any circumstances, saying, ‘We are  
Christians.’ The Jesuits argued, ‘That’s not true,  
you are heretics and schismatics. If you do not  
agree to accept our faith then we will torture all  
of you to death.’ Then the Aleuts were placed in  
prisons two to a cell. That evening, the Jesuits  
came to the prison with lanterns and lighted  
candles. Again they tried to persuade two Aleuts  
in the cell to accept the Catholic Faith. ‘We are  
Christians,’ the Aleuts replied, ‘and we will not  
change our Faith.’ Then the Jesuits began to  
torture them, at first the one while his  
companion was a witness. They cut off one of  
the joints of his feet, and then the other joint.  
Then they cut the first joint on the fingers of his  
hands, and then the other joint. Then they cut  
off his feet, and his hands. The blood flowed, but  
the martyr endured all and firmly repeated one  
thing: ‘I am a Christian.’ He died in such  
suffering, due to a loss of blood. The Jesuit also  
promised to torture his comrade to death the  
next day. Later it was revealed that the martyr’s  
name was Peter (surname unknown).