



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, October 22**
10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
- Tuesday, October 24**
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours
- Wednesday, October 25**
6:30 pm Daily Vespers
7:00 pm Bible Study
- Thursday, October 26**
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours
- Saturday, October 28**
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Pan Orthodox Choir
4:00 pm Community Food Pantry
5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil
6:00 pm Social Night
- Sunday, October 29**
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

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org October 22, 2023

Announcements

➤ **Thank you** all our 2023 Slavic Food Fest managers, workers, cooks, and donors! God bless you!

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Tim Arnold | Patrick Lewis |
| Dawna Beckett | Dn Luke Loboda |
| Helen Billak | Mat Ashley Loboda |
| Richard Blaha | Jonah Loboda |
| Sonia Blaha | Alina Maksymova |
| Bob Brewster | John Mahalchak |
| Yevgenia Brussenskaya | Jeremiah Martin |
| Deb Burgess | Kseniia Martin |
| Julie Burns | Gregory Mell |
| Nick Cervo | Mat Nancy Mell |
| Olga Cozza | Kristie Mertz |
| Natalie Deriso | Oliver Mertz |
| Lois Fuller | Mat Martha Nakajima |
| Paul Fuller | Alex Noskov |
| Nathan Graff | Olga Noskov |
| Melissa Graff | Yelena Paclawski |
| Lilian Graff | Larry Polny |
| Ian Graff | Suzy Polny |
| Max Graff | Rick Porter |
| Mark Hamilton | Suzy Porter |
| Lindy Hamilton | Teresa Robes |
| Clayton Harris | Sandra Root |
| Josh Hauenschild | Tatyana Sechler |
| Rachel Hauenschild | Nancy Shaytar |
| Katie Henry | Dn Jonathan Skowron |
| Mary Hoffman | Mat Joni Soroka |
| Tom Hoffman | Fr Thomas Soroka |
| Chris Humphrey | Sandi Tirpak |
| Jeff Kopycinski | Cindi Tokich |
| LuAnn Kopycinski | James Wargo |
| John Kowalcheck | Jessica Wargo |
| Lyuba Kroz | Chuck Wasilko |
| Jessica Krchmar | Doris Wasilko |
| Irene Kulchock | Marsha Wasilko |
| Bill Lewis | Chad Whitacre |
| Karlie Lewis | Jan Widel |
| Nathanael Lewis | Leslie Wokutch |
| Liam Lewis | Donya Yewisiak |
| Bennett Lewis | Anna Zemke |

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, Metropolitan Theodosius, Soldier Christopher, parents, and newly departed, Gregory; for the health of Donya, family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for birthdays, anniversaries, special intention, and peace. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, Uncle Steve Panik and Uncle John Wasilko. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, Uncle Steve Panik and Uncle John Wasilko. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, Uncle Steve Panik and Uncle John Wasilko. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine & Elizabeth Marie Hamilton; special intention. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilкова; for Kassiani & Igor on their birthdays. From **Daniel Michael Glozzer** for the departed servants, Edward Turk and Jack Turk; for the health of Daniel Glozzer; to be reunite-IC XC NIKA.

Thank You

➤ to our **October donors the Robes Family** all categories (Bulletin \$60), in memory of Thomas V Robes Sr, (Holy Bread \$50) for the health of Teresa Robes on her birthday, (Altar Candles \$25) for the health of the Robes children, (Communion Wine \$40) for the health of Roberts and Teresa on their anniversary, (Incense \$10) in memory of Georgiann and Thomas Robes Jr.
➤ **to everyone who helped to support** and to those who attended the St Nicholas Symposium yesterday. May God richly bless you!

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 Galatians

Verse (younger classes): Galatians 5:22-23- "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

- Questions to ask/review:**
- How can our behavior leave a "good or bad taste" with someone?
 - Explain each of the behaviors from the verse.
 - Why do we know these come from God? How do they affect us and others?

Verse (older classes): Galatians 6:7- "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

- Questions to ask/review:**
- What problem was Paul addressing in his letter to the Galatians?
 - How can our lives be compared to sowing seeds? What is good seed?
 - What is the reward for sowing good seed? Bad seed?
 - Have you ever seen someone doing something wrong and seeming to get away with it?
 - What consequences exist that we do not see at first? What will they reap?
 - Is there right and wrong? What does God teach us?
 - Some people believe in relative morality. What does this mean? Why is this false?

Suggested Activities at home:
Make a fruit dish. Discuss the tastes and which fruits of the Spirit you are reminded of. When your child makes a poor decision, discuss how their actions reap suffering for themselves.

Prayer: Lord grant me fruits of the Spirit. OR Lord, strengthen me to sow good seeds in my heart.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, October 22

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to 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 5 Troparion (St. Abercius)

Thou didst emulate the zeal of the Apostles

and shone forth like a morning star,

and thy works showed thy God-given power:

thou didst guide the erring to God,//

O hierarch Abercius.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Resurrection)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O

Merciful One,

leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;

with the Prophets and Patriarchs//

thy unceasingly praise the divine majesty of

Thy power.

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

Tone 4 Kontakion (Holy Youths)

The Seven Holy Youths renounced the perishing

comforts of this world,

preferring the eternal things of Heaven.

They were incorrupt after death and rose from the dead

and buried the snares of the devils!//

O faithful, let us then honor them, singing a

hymn of praise to Christ!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 Kontakion of the 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 3 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing

praises to our King, sing praises! (Ps. 46:6)

Epistle of the Sunday (Galatians 1:11-19)

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not

immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 16:19-31)

“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

“Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’

“Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets,

neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ”

Communion Hymn

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

The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus

In the middle of the 3rd century AD, the Roman Emperor Decius tortured and killed, without any discrimination, young and old Christians. At that time, seven youths (Maximilian, Iamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus and Antoninus) did not want to deny their faith in the Trinity, so after previously giving away their possessions to the poor, they left the city and hid in a cave, until the persecution ceased.

But as the danger was approaching, they prayed to the Holy Spirit, that if God would allow it, He would take their souls so that they would not fall alive into the hands of Emperor Decius. God heard their prayers and recognized their pure intentions. So, after going to bed at night, they did not wake up in the morning.

194 years later, under Emperor Theodosius the Younger, a heterodox sect proclaimed in Ephesus that there would be no resurrection of the dead. At the same time, the youngest of the Seven Youths of Ephesus awoke, left the cave, and bought bread with a coin that he had with him from the time of Emperor Decius. They immediately arrested him. But after interrogating him and telling them who he was, they went back to the cave and found the other six youths alive.

Then, everyone understood that it was a miracle and a true intervention of God, and, therefore, even people who were doubting at first finally believed that the resurrection of the dead and awaiting the second coming of Christ is a true Christian belief.