



Welcome!

Whether you're searching for a new church home or just visiting, we're 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. Please join us downstairs following the Divine Liturgy. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

This Week

- Sunday, June 16**
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday, June 18**
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am to Noon Office Hours
- Thursday, June 20**
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am to Noon Office Hours
- Saturday, June 22**
9:30 am Memorial Divine Liturgy
5:00 pm Festal Parish Vigil
- Sunday, June 23: Holy Pentecost**
10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy



Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*
Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council 325 AD

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org June 16, 2024

Announcements

- Congratulations to **Brendan Crowley** who is being received into the Church through the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Chrismation and to **Tom Hoffman** who is being received into the Church through the sacrament of Holy Chrismation. May God grant them good health, peace, salvation, and many years!
- Everyone is invited downstairs for a festive **Father's Day Brunch** on behalf of the men of the parish sponsored by the women of the parish. May God bless them for their thoughtfulness!
- Next Saturday night and Sunday morning we will celebrate the **great feast of Pentecost**, the sending of the Holy Spirit to empower the Church.. Join us next weekend for this great feast!
- This **Saturday at 9:30 am we will serve a Memorial Divine Liturgy** for all the departed. The Saturday before Pentecost is the traditional day to make these commemorations. If you have not yet submitted a list of names of your Christian departed family members, you may do so. Please give them to Fr Thomas or directly to Marsha Wasilko. Thank you to Marsha for diligently maintaining our list of the departed members of our parishioners' families.

➤ **Vacation Church School 2024** is only a month away! We'll meet during the week of July 8 for K-8 grades. See Matushka Joni or Rachel Hauenschild for more info!

➤ We invite everyone to consider a donation to our **Dome Restoration Fund**. We must raise at least \$150,000 by November. Please consider helping us!

Prayers

- **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized (none); Home: John Mahalchak (son). William Warnak, Nancy Shaytar, Donya Yewisiak. Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home: 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 **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, Uncle Bill Falick; for the health of Mat. Nancy Mell on her birthday-Many Years; Many Years to Larry & Suzy Polny on their wedding anniversary!! From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, Uncle Bill Falick; for the health of Mat. Nancy Mell on her birthday and Larry & Suzy Polny on their anniversary. From **Marsha Wasilko** Happy Birthday & Many Years to Mat. Nancy! Many Years to Larry & Suzy Polny on their anniversary! From **M/M Richard Blaha** for the departed servants, newly departed, father, Leo, Deanna, Joan, and Joseph; for the health of family, friends, serving soldiers, and siblings for their birthdays, anniversaries, special intentions, and peace. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova; for Seraphima, Christopher, and Ruth Esther on their birthdays. From **Sandi Tirpak** for the departed servant, Uncle Michale; for the health of my family; special intentions. From **John Mahalchak family** for the departed servants, mother, Veronica, and father, John; for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Kayla Elizabeth, Margaret, Sarah, Ivy, and Scarlett..

Thank You

➤ to our **June** donors the **Mertz family** (\$25 Altar Candles) for the health of Oliver on his birthday; the **John Mahalchak family** (\$10 Incense) for the health of family and friends and in memory of departed loved ones.

Why the Fathers?

All of the Holy Fathers, whether they are classified as theological, pastoral, ascetical or mystical gave their teachings from the sources of their own living Christian experience. They defended and described and explained the theological doctrines and ways of spiritual life from their own living knowledge of these realities. They blended together the brilliance of the intellect with the purity of the soul and the righteousness of life. This is what makes them the holy fathers of the Church.

The writings of the Church Fathers are not infallible, and it has even been said that in any given one of them some things could be found which could be questioned in the light of the fullness of the Tradition of the Church. Nevertheless, taken as a whole, the writings of the Fathers which are built upon the biblical and liturgical foundations of Christian faith and life have great authority within the Orthodox Church and are primary sources for the discovery of the Church's doctrine.

The writings of some of those fathers who have received the universal approval and praise of the Church through the ages are of particular importance, such as those of Ignatius of Antioch, Irenaeus of Lyons, Athanasius of Alexandria, Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Cyril of Alexandria, Cyril of Jerusalem, Maximus the Confessor, John of Damascus, Photius of Constantinople, and Gregory Palamas; and those of the ascetical and spiritual fathers such as Anthony of Egypt, Macarius of Egypt, John of the Ladder, Isaac of Syria, Ephraim of Syria, Simeon the New Theologian, and others.

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, June 16

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 (*Ascension*)

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,
granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of
the Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing, they were assured
that Thou art the Son of God, //
the Redeemer of the world!

Tone 8 Troparion (*Fathers*)

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God,
Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights
on the earth.
Through them Thou hast guided us to the True
Faith. //
O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

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

Tone 8 Kontakion (*Fathers*)

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers'
doctrines have established one Faith for the
Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from
heavenly theology, //
It defines and glorifies the great mystery of
piety.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 Kontakion

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for
our sake,

and united earth to heaven,
Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,
not being parted from those who love Thee,
but remaining with them and crying: //
“I am with you, and there is no one against
you!”

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (*Song of the Three Holy Children*)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and
praised and glorified is Thy Name forever! (v. 3)

Epistle of the Sunday (Acts 20:16-18, 28-36)

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so
that he would not have to spend time in Asia;
for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if
possible, on the Day of Pentecost.

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for
the elders of the church. And when they had
come to him, he said to them: “You know, from
the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner
I always lived among you,

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the
flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made
you overseers, to shepherd the church of God
which He purchased with His own blood. For I
know this, that after my departure savage
wolves will come in among you, not sparing the
flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise
up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the
disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and
remember that for three years I did not cease to
warn everyone night and day with tears.

“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to
the word of His grace, which is able to build you
up and give you an inheritance among all those
who are sanctified. I have coveted no one’s
silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves
know that these hands have provided for my
necessities, and for those who were with me. I

have shown you in every way, by laboring like
this, that you must support the weak. And
remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He
said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’

And when he had said these things, he knelt
down and prayed with them all.

Gospel of the Sunday (John 17:1-13)

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to
heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come.
Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify
You, as You have given Him authority over all
flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many
as You have given Him. And this is eternal life,
that they may know You, the only true God, and
Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have
glorified You on the earth. I have finished the
work which You have given Me to do. And now,
O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself,
with the glory which I had with You before the
world was.

“I have manifested Your name to the men whom
You have given Me out of the world. They were
Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept
Your word. Now they have known that all things
which You have given Me are from You. For I
have given to them the words which You have
given Me; and they have received them, and
have known surely that I came forth from You;
and they have believed that You sent Me.

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but
for those whom You have given Me, for they are
Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are
Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no
longer in the world, but these are in the world,
and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through
Your name those whom You have given Me, that
they may be one as We are. While I was with
them in the world, I kept them in Your name.
Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none
of them is lost except the son of perdition, that
the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come
to You, and these things I speak in the world,

that they may have My joy fulfilled in
themselves.

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life,
Who hath ascended from earth to heaven!

We the faithful, with one accord, magnify thee,
the Mother of God, who, beyond reason and
understanding, ineffably gave birth in time to
the Timeless One.

Communion Hymn of the Sunday

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!

Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity
of heart, **Saint Nicholas was a zealous and
ardent warrior of the Church of Christ.**
Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds
of the pagan temples and shrines in the city of
Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols
and turning the temples to dust.

In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant
in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council
proclaimed the Nicene Symbol of Faith, and he
stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes
of Saints Sylvester the Bishop of Rome (January
2), Alexander of Alexandria (May 29), Spyridon
of Trimythontos (December 12) and other
Fathers of the Council.

Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord,
assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and
also struck him upon the face. For this reason,
he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal
rank and placed under guard. But several of the
holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the
Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning
to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers
of the Council agreed that the audacity of the
saint was pleasing to God, and restored the saint
to the office of bishop.