



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 23**
10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday, June 25**
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am to Noon Office Hours
- Wednesday, June 26**
6:30 pm Daily Vespers
7:00 pm Bible Study
- Thursday, June 27**
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am to Noon Office Hours
- Saturday, June 29**
4:00 pm Community Food Pantry
5:00 pm Parish Vigil
6:00 pm Social Night
- Sunday, June 30**
10:00 am Divine Liturgy

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

Holy Pentecost: Descent of the Holy Spirit

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org June 23, 2024

Announcements

➤ **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!

➤ **The Archdiocese will sponsor** a retreat featuring noted Orthodox speaker and author Frederica Mathewes-Green. This will take place at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral (Allison Park) on Saturday, September 7. More info to come soon.

➤ 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!

➤ **The Saint Constantine School News:** Save the date: August 15 6:30-8:30 pm for a Grand Opening and Blessing of the school followed by dessert and cocktails with social hour and games for children. This will be a truly special evening you won't want to miss - an opportunity to give thanks, meet everyone involved, and celebrate the opening of The Saint Constantine School - Pittsburgh. While initial plans were to open the lower and middle schools in 2024, the interest in our school has exceeded our expectations. We are overjoyed to announce that we are opening Pre-K all the way through 12th grade in 2024. Although the enrollment period has ended, we are still working to accommodate many families. If you or someone you know are interested in joining us this year, please get your applications in now.

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 servants, father, Charles, and grandfathers, Andrew & Theodore; for the health of Cynthia Bottomley. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, father, Charles, godfather, Joe Dichko, and grandfathers, Andrew & Theodore; for the health of cousin, Cynthia Bottomley. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, father, Charles, grandfathers, Andrew & Theodore, godfather, Michael Dyczko; for the health of cousin, Cynthia Bottomley. From **M/M Richard Blaha** for the newly departed, father, Leo, Deanne, Joan, and Dana; for the departed servants, Ruthann, Dottie, John and fathers, grandfathers, uncles and godfathers Memory Eternal on Father's Day; for the health of fathers, family, friends, serving soldiers, and siblings for their birthdays, anniversaries, special intentions, peace, and Many Years on Father's Day. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova; for Nicholas Kowalcheck on his birthday. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Natalie Tooeh. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Kayla Elizabeth, Margaret, Sarah, Ivy, and Scarlett. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Rob, Andrei, Valentina, Diana, Tony, Nina, Roman, Luby, and Marina; for the health of Veronika, Tatyana, Sergey, Daniel, Beth, Donna, Sam, Tatiana, Anna, Thomas, and Christopher. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton & Scott families.

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.

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.

Kneeling Prayers

[After the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy], we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Pascha. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. **In the first prayer**, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God.

In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, **in the third prayer**, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Pascha has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter "the ordinary time" of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called "after Pentecost" - and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches - for the Church "never grows old, but is always young." It is an evergreen, ever living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit - "the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life - comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity," and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope. (A Schmemmann)

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, June 23

First Antiphon (Psalm 19)

v. The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

v. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

v. Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe.

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

Second Antiphon (Psalm 20)

v. The Lord answer you in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

Refrain: O Gracious Comforter, save us who sing to Thee: “Alleluia!”

v. May He send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!

v. May He remember all your offerings, and fulfill all your plans!

Glory... now and ever...Only-begotten Son...

Third Antiphon (Psalm 21)

v. In Thy strength the king rejoices, O Lord, and exults greatly in Thy salvation.

Refrain: Troparion

v. Thou has given him his heart’s desire, and has not withheld the request of his lips.

v. For Thou dost meet him with goodly blessings; Thou dost set a crown of fine gold upon his head.

Tone 8 Troparion of Pentecost

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net
O Lover of Man, Glory to Thee!

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

Tone 8 Kontakion of Pentecost

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues

He divided the nations;

But when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity.

Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the All Holy Spirit!

Instead of Holy God

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Psalm 19)

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

Epistle of the Feast (Acts 2:1-11)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were

born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”

Gospel of the Feast (John 7:37-52; 8:12)

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.” Others said, “This is the Christ.”

But some said, “Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?” So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why have you not brought Him?” The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this Man!”

Then the Pharisees answered them, “Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.” Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, “Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?”

They answered and said to him, “Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee.”

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

Hymn to the Theotokos of Pentecost

Rejoice, O Queen! Glory of mothers and virgins!
No mouth, however sweet or fluent
is eloquent enough to praise you worthily!
Every mind is overawed by your childbearing.
Therefore with one voice we glorify you!

Communion Hymn of Pentecost

Let Thy good Spirit lead me on a level path.
Alleluia.

What, then, is our doctrine? The Lord, in delivering the saving Faith to those who become disciples of the word, joins with the Father and the Son the Holy Spirit also; and we affirm that the union of that which has once been joined is continual; for it is not joined in one thing, and separated in others. But the power of the Spirit, being included with the Father and the Son in the life-giving power, by which our nature is transferred from the corruptible life to immortality, and in many other cases also, as in the conception of Good, and Holy, and Eternal, Wise, Righteous, Chief, Mighty, and in fact everywhere, has an inseparable association with them in all the attributes ascribed in a sense of special excellence. And so we consider that it is right to think that that which is joined to the Father and the Son in such sublime and exalted conceptions is not separated from them in any. For we do not know of any differences by way of superiority and inferiority in attributes which express our conceptions of the Divine nature, so that we should suppose it an act of piety (while allowing to the Spirit community in the inferior attributes) to judge Him unworthy of those more exalted. For all the Divine attributes, whether named or conceived, are of like rank one with another, in that they are not distinguishable in respect of the signification of their subject. For the appellation of the Good does not lead our minds to one subject, and that of the Wise, or the Mighty, or the Righteous to another, but the thing to which all the attributes point is one... (Gregory of Nyssa)