



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 30**
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday, July 2**
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am to Noon Office Hours
- Thursday, July 4**
No services or office hours
- Saturday, July 6**
5:00 pm Parish Vigil
- Sunday, July 7**
10:00 am Divine Liturgy

**Please note that in the month of July, some daily services, regular classes and activities, and office hours will be curtailed. Check the online calendar on the website for the latest schedule.*

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

Sunday of All Saints
McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org June 30, 2024

Announcements

➤ **Vacation Church School 2024** is only a week 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, parents, Charles & Mary; for the health of Cynthia Bottomley. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha, and cousin, Cynthia. From **M/M Richard Blaha** for the newly departed, father, Leo, Joseph, Deanne, Joan, and Paula; for the departed servants, father, Pete and Helen; for the health of family, friends, serving soldiers, and siblings for their birthdays, anniversaries, special intentions, peace. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova; safe travels for Dan Kowalcheck & family and Happy Birthday to Adam Kowalcheck. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servant, Amelia; for the health of my family and Mildred; special intentions. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Kayla Elizabeth, Margaret, Sarah, Ivy, Julie, and Scarlett. From **Pravlochaks** for the health of family, Irene Kulchock, great grandson, Owen on his 1st birthday. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton & Scott families; special intention.

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.

Apostolic Tradition

I have often then inquired earnestly and attentively of very many men eminent for sanctity and learning, how and by what sure and so to speak universal rule I may be able to distinguish the truth of **Catholic (*universal, complete)* faith from the falsehood of heretical pravity; and I have always, and in almost every instance, received an answer to this effect: That whether I or any one else should wish to detect the frauds and avoid the snares of heretics as they rise, and to continue sound and complete in the Catholic faith, we must, the Lord helping, fortify our own belief in two ways; first, by the authority of the Divine Law, and then, by the Tradition of the *Catholic* Church.

But here some one perhaps will ask, Since the canon of Scripture is complete, and sufficient of itself for everything, and more than sufficient, what need is there to join with it the authority of the Church's interpretation? For this reason — because, owing to the depth of Holy Scripture, all do not accept it in one and the same sense, but one understands its words in one way, another in another; so that it seems to be capable of as many interpretations as there are interpreters. For Novatian expounds it one way, Sabellius another, Donatus another, Arius, Eunomius, Macedonius, another, Photinus, Apollinaris, Priscillian, another, Iovinian, Pelagius, Celestius, another, lastly, Nestorius another. Therefore, it is very necessary, on account of so great intricacies of such various error, that the rule for the right understanding of the prophets and apostles should be framed in accordance with the standard of Ecclesiastical and Catholic interpretation.

Moreover, in the *Catholic* Church itself, all possible care must be taken, that we hold that faith which has been believed everywhere, always, by all. For that is truly and in the strictest sense *Catholic*, which, as the name itself and the reason of the thing declare, comprehends all universally. This rule we shall observe if we follow universality, antiquity, consent. We shall follow universality if we confess that one faith to be true, which the whole Church throughout the world confesses; antiquity, if we in no wise depart from those interpretations which it is manifest were notoriously held by our holy ancestors and fathers; consent, in like manner, if in antiquity itself we adhere to the consentient definitions and determinations of all, or at the least of almost all priests and doctors. (*St Vincent*)

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, June 30

Tone 8 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!

Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 4 Troparion (*from the Pentecostarion*)

As with fine porphyry and royal purple,
Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyrs'
blood shed through-
out all the world.
She cries to Thee, O Christ God:
“Send down Thy bounties on Thy people,//
grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy
to our souls!”

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 (*from the Pentecostarion*)

The universe offers Thee the God-bearing
Martyrs
as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and
Creator.
By their prayers keep Thy Church, Thy
habitation, in abiding peace//
through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (*Resurrection*)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our
God! (*Ps 75/76:11*)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (*Saints*)

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of
Israel. (*Ps 67/68:35*)

Epistle of the Saturday (*Hebrews 11:33-12:2*)

...who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked
righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the
mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire,
escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness

were made strong, became valiant in battle,
turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women
received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance,
that they might obtain a better resurrection.
Still others had trial of mockings and
scourgings, yes, and of chains and
imprisonment. They were stoned, they were
sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the
sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and
goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—
of whom the world was not worthy. They
wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and
caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony
through faith, did not receive the promise, God
having provided something better for us, that
they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by
so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside
every weight, and the sin which so easily
ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the
race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the
author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy
that was set before Him endured the cross,
despising the shame, and has sat down at the
right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel of the Sunday (*Mt 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30*)

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men,
him I will also confess before My Father who is
in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men,
him I will also deny before My Father who is in
heaven.

He who loves father or mother more than Me is
not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or
daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And

he who does not take his cross and follow after
Me is not worthy of Me.

Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we
have left all and followed You. Therefore what
shall we have?”

So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you,
that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man
sits on the throne of His glory, you who have
followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones,
judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone
who has left houses or brothers or sisters or
father or mother or wife or children or lands,
for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold,
and inherit eternal life. But many who are first
will be last, and the last first.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in
the highest! (Ps 148:1) Rejoice in the Lord, O ye
righteous; praise befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Our most godlike Fathers decreed that we
should celebrate the present feast after the
descent of the All-holy Spirit, as showing in a
certain way that the coming of the All-holy Spirit
acted through the Apostles like this: sanctifying and
making wise human beings taken from our mortal
clay and, for the completion of that fallen angelic
order, restoring them and through Christ sending
them to God, some by the witness of martyrdom and
blood, others by their virtuous conduct and way of
life; and things beyond nature are achieved. For the
Spirit descends in the form of fire, whose natural
momentum is upwards; while dust, whose natural
momentum is downwards, ascends on high, that dust
which forms our mortal clay, the flesh added to and
made divine by God the Word, which a short time
before, had been exalted and taken its seat at the
right hand of the Father’s glory. But he now also
draws all those who wish, according to the promise,
just as God the Word had manifested the works of
reconciliation and what was the end, most suitable to
its purpose, of his coming to us through flesh and of
his dispensation, namely that he brings those who
were rejected before to union and friendship with

God—human nature offering to God the ungrateful
people from the nations like first fruits—those who
were outstandingly well-pleasing to him. This is one
reason that we celebrate the feast of All Saints.
A second reason is because, though many people have
been well-pleasing to God, they were through
outstanding virtue unknown to humanity by name, or
for some human reason or other, but nevertheless
have great glory in God’s sight. Or again, because
there are many who have lived following Christ in
India, Egypt, Arabia. Mesopotamia and Phrygia and in
the lands beyond the Black Sea, even as far as the
British Isles themselves; in short, in both East and
West, but it was not easy to honor them all properly
because of their vast numbers, in the way that
ecclesiastical custom has been received. And
therefore, so that we may attract the help of them all,
wherever on earth they were well-pleasing to God,
and generally for those who would later become
Saints, the most godly Fathers ordained that we
should celebrate the feast of All Saints, honoring the
earlier and later ones, the unknown and the known —
all those in whom the Holy Spirit has dwelt he has
made holy.

A third reason is this. It was necessary for the Saints
who are celebrated individually day by day to be
gathered together on one day, in order to
demonstrate that, as they struggled for the one Christ
and all ran the race in the same stadium of virtue, so
they were all fittingly crowned as servants of one God
and sustained the Church, having filled the world on
high. They stir us also to accomplish the same
struggle in its different and many forms, to the
degree of power that each of us has to press onwards
with all eagerness.

Note that we are celebrating everything that the Holy
Spirit, in giving good things, has made holy. I mean
the highest and sanctifying Minds, that is to say the
Nine Orders; the Ancestors and Patriarchs; the
Prophets and sacred Apostles; the Martyrs and
Hierarchs; the Priest Martyrs and Ascetic Martyrs;
the Ascetics and the Just and all the choirs of holy
women and all the other anonymous Saints, with
them let there be all who will come afterwards. But
before all, in all and with all, the Saint of Saints, the
most holy and quite incomparably mightier than the
angelic Orders, our Lady and Sovereign, Mary, Ever-
Virgin.