



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, July 14

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, July 16

No Services or office hours

Thursday, July 18

No services or office hours

Saturday, July 20

5:00 pm Parish Vigil

Sunday, July 21

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

Third Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org July 14, 2024

Announcements

➤ Last week we held our annual **Vacation Church School** on the theme "The Whole Armor of God: Heroes of the Faith." The students were grouped into elementary and middle grade ages and were given age appropriate lessons, activities, crafts, and music. Thank you first, to Matushka Joni Soroka, who organized the activities and schedule for the week. Thank you also to the parents who sent their children to this years Vacation Church School. Thank you to all who helped organize, lead, cook, and serve in every so many important ways! Thank you es Dn. Luke Loboda, Alex Listvinsky, Rachel Hauenschild, Justine Bossard, Danielle Bartko, Melissa Graff, Kristie Mertz, Kelly Cone, Anna Bartko, and Lillian Graff.

➤ **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!



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 servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and Mat. Annice Oleynik-Memory Eternal; for the health of family. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, Mat. Annice; for the health of Irene Kulchock and Cynthia Bottomley. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, Mat. Annice; for the health of cousin, Cynthia. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of cousin, Cynthia, and Irene Kulchock. From **M/M Richard Blaha** for the newly departed, Mat. Annice Oleynik and Daria Babiak; for the departed, godmother, Wilma, Bill, Joseph, Paula, and Joann; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers for their birthdays, special intentions, peace. From **John & Olga** for the departed servants, John & Ann Kowalcheck; for the health of Galina Vilкова. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servant, Uncle Michael-Memory Eternal; for the health of Elaine, John, John, Dolores, and my Uncle Chuck on his 101st birthday; special intentions. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Kayla Elizabeth, Margaret, Sarah, Ivy, and Scarlett. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton & Scott families.

Thank You

➤ to our **July** donors, the **Robes family** (all categories) in loving memory of Thomas V Robes, Sr.

St Vladimir

The Holy Equal of the Apostles and Great Prince Vladimir (July 15), the youngest son of Prince Svyatoslav of Kiev, was born in 963. He was only six years old when his grandmother, the Holy Princess Olga (July 11), who had raised him, reposed, and his father sent him to reign in Novgorod

In the year 860 the Russians attacked Constantinople from the sea, but the Greeks immersed the robe of the Most Holy Theotokos in the ocean. The sea became agitated, and the Russian ships were swept away and retreated. After that, they sent an embassy to Constantinople to request Baptism. This was the first Baptism of Rus'.

Also in 860 Saint Cyril, the enlightener of the Slavs, baptized 200 families in the southern Russian steppes. He made his own translation of the Gospel and the Psalter. Metropolitan Michael was sent to care for the converts, and the Prince gathered the people and called them to be baptized. The elders agreed, but they demanded a miracle. They wanted a Gospel book to be thrown into the fire without being burnt. The Gospel was thrown in, the miracle occurred, and the people were baptized. This was the second Baptism of Rus'.

The third took place under Princess Olga. By that time, there were already many Christians in Kiev and there was a church dedicated to the Prophet Elijah. After Saint Olga's repose, the spread of Christianity was halted temporarily, but not for long. The time of Prince Vladimir had come.

Prince Vladimir was twenty-five years old at the Baptism of Rus'. With all the fervor of youth, he began to fulfill the precepts of Christ, especially those about helping the poor, sick and disadvantaged. Throughout Russia, the poor were sought and were given everything they needed, and the sick also received treatment. During Saint Vladimir's reign, the state served the people, which was very unusual in those days.

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, July 14

Tone 2 Troparion (Resurrection)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

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!

Tone 2 Kontakion (Resurrection)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld
this and rejoiced with Thee,//
and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

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 (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 2 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (Ps. 117:14)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Song of the Three Children)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

Epistle of the Sunday (Romans 5:1-10)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 6:22-33)

“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?”

“So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

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!

The Church venerates the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils because Christ has established them as “lights upon the earth,” guiding us to the true Faith. “Clad in the garment of truth,” the doctrine of the Fathers, based upon the preaching of the Apostles, has established one faith for the Church. The Ecumenical Councils, are the highest authority in the Church. Such Councils, guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and accepted by the Church, are infallible.

The Orthodox Church’s conciliar definitions of dogma have the highest authority, and such definitions always begin with the Apostolic formula: “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...” (Acts 15: 28).

The Ecumenical Councils were always convened for a specific reason: to combat false opinions and heresies, and to clarify the Orthodox Church’s teaching. But the Holy Spirit has thus seen fit, that the dogmas, the truths of faith, immutable in their content and scope, constantly and consequently are revealed by the conciliar mind of the Church, and are given precision by the holy Fathers within theological concepts and terms in exactly such measure as is needed by the Church itself for its economy of salvation. The Church, in expounding its dogmas, is dealing with the concerns of a given historical moment, “not revealing everything in haste and thoughtlessly, nor indeed, ultimately hiding something” (Saint Gregory the Theologian).

A brief summary of the dogmatic theology of the First Six Ecumenical Councils is formulated and contained in the First Canon of the Council of Trullo (also known as Quinisext), held in the year 692. The 318 Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council are spoken of in this Canon I of Trullo as having: “with unanimity of faith revealed and declared to us the consubstantiality of the three Persons of the Divine nature and, ... instructing the faithful to adore the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with one worship, they cast down and dispelled the false teaching about different degrees of Divinity.” The Council in Trullo produced a complete compilation of the basic codex from the relevant sources for the Orthodox Church’s canons.