



## 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 21

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

### Tuesday, July 23

No Matins or office hours

### Wednesday, July 24

No Vespers or Bible Study

### Thursday, July 25

No Matins or office hours

### Saturday, July 27

4:00 pm Community Food Pantry

5:00 pm Parish Vigil

### Sunday, July 28

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*

### Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

July 21, 2024

## Announcements

➤ Today immediately after the Divine Liturgy **we will bless vehicles** for anyone who wishes to have their vehicle blessed. Please stand by your car, open the doors and we will pray that God will protect you in your travels, through the prayers of the Prophet Elijah (July 20)!

➤ Downstairs you will find a table of old "tech" and various items that are being discarded. **Please take whatever might be useful to you.** Parents, please browse with your children so that you can give permission for anything they might want. The remainder will be discarded.

➤ We are seeking a host for **next Sunday's coffee hour** (July 28). You can sign up near the kitchen. Please remember that the first Sunday of the month (August 4) is Pot Luck. We ask everyone to bring something to share.

We are in need of **volunteers to help at the Community Food Pantry** during the last Saturday of every month, as well as prep work to receive shipments of foodstuffs, shop for foods, etc. Please see Matushka Ashley Loboda or Rachel Hauenschild for more information. We are also in need of donations to help defray the costs of the food. Thank you for your compassion to serve the population around us!

➤ 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 health of the Wasilko family. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family; God Bless America. From **Marsha Wasilko** for safe travel. From **M/M Richard Blaha** for the newly departed, Mat. Annice, Thomas, Joseph, Paula, Joan, and Daria; for the health of family, friends, siblings, pregnant family members, and serving soldiers for their birthdays, anniversaries, special intention, and peace. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilкова. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of my Uncle Chuck Hanich on his 101<sup>st</sup> 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 **Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servant, Valentina Barsom; for the health of Natalie Toooh. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Diana, Valentina, Andrei, Luby, Marina, Bruce, Nina, and Michail; for the health of Tatyana, Tatiana, Veronika, Sergey, Adrianna, Bill, Joe Jr., Sam, and Beth.

## Thank You

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

## Wages and Gift

*But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 6:22-23)*

Of the former, the fruit was shame, even after being set free. Of these the fruit is holiness, and where holiness is, there is all confidence. But of those things the end is death, and of these everlasting life. Do you see how he points out some things as already given, and some as existing in hope, and from what are given he draws proof of the others also, that is from the holiness of the life. For to prevent your saying (i. e. as an objection) everything lies in hope, he points out that you have already reaped fruits, first the being freed from wickedness, and such evils as the very recollection of puts one to shame; second, the being made a servant unto righteousness; a third, the enjoying of holiness; a fourth, the obtaining of life, and life too not for a season, but everlasting. Yet with all these, he says, do but serve as ye served it. For though the master is far preferable, and the service also has many advantages, and the rewards too for which ye are serving, still I make no further demand. Next, since he had mentioned arms and a king, he keeps on with the metaphor in these words:

After speaking of the wages of sin, in the case of the blessings, he has not kept to the same order (taxin, rank or relation): for he does not say, the wages of good deeds, "but the gift of God;" to show, that it was not of themselves that they were freed, nor was it a due they received, neither yet a return, nor a recompense of labors, but by grace all these things came about. [1372] And so there was a superiority for this cause also, in that He did not free them only, or change their condition for a better, but that He did it without any labor or trouble upon their part: and that He not only freed them, but also gave them much more than before, and that through His Son. And the whole of this he has interposed as having discussed the subject of grace, and being on the point of overthrowing the Law next. That these things then might not both make them rather listless, he inserted the part about strictness of life, using every opportunity of rousing the hearer to the practice of virtue. (St John Chrysostom)

**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 21

## **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 4 Troparion** (Sts. Simeon and John)

O God of our Fathers,  
always act with kindness towards us;  
take not Thy mercy from us,  
but guide our lives in peace//  
through the prayers of Venerable Simeon and John!

## **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//  
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

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

## **Tone 4 Kontakion** (Prophet Ezekiel)

Thou hast been revealed as a Prophet of God,  
wondrous Ezekiel,  
proclaiming to all the incarnation of the Lord,  
the Lamb and Creator,//  
the Son of God, Who has ever revealed Himself.

*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 3 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

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

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (Romans 6:18-23)

And having been set free from sin, you became  
slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms  
because of the weakness of your flesh. For just  
as you presented your members as slaves of  
uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more  
lawlessness, so now present your members as  
slaves of righteousness for holiness.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free  
in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you  
have then in the things of which you are now  
ashamed? For the end of those things is death.  
But now having been set free from sin, and  
having become slaves of God, you have your  
fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.  
For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God  
is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Gospel of the Sunday** (Matthew 8:5-13)

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a  
centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,  
saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home  
paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”

And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal  
him.”

The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am  
not worthy that You should come under my roof.  
But only speak a word, and my servant will be  
healed. For I also am a man under authority,  
having soldiers under me. And I say to this one,  
‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he  
comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does  
it.”

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to  
those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I  
have not found such great faith, not even in  
Israel! And I say to you that many will come  
from east and west, and sit down with Abraham,  
Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But  
the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into  
outer darkness. There will be weeping and  
gnashing of teeth.” Then Jesus said to the  
centurion, “Go your way; and as you have  
believed, so let it be done for you.” And his  
servant was healed that same hour.

## **Communion Hymn**

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

**Simeon and John** lived in the desert for  
twenty-nine years, and they attained  
complete dispassion (apathia) and a high  
degree of spirituality. Saint Simeon, through the  
inspiration of God, considered that now it was  
proper for him to serve people. To do this, he must  
leave the desert solitude and go into the world.  
Saint John, however, believing that he had not  
attained such a degree of dispassion as his  
companion, decided not to leave the wilderness.

The brethren parted with tears. Simeon journeyed  
to Jerusalem, and there he venerated the Tomb of  
the Lord and all the holy places. By his great  
humility the holy ascetic entreated the Lord to  
permit him to serve his neighbor in such a way  
that they should not acknowledge him. Saint  
Simeon chose for himself the difficult task of  
foolishness for Christ. Having come to the city of  
Emesa, he stayed there and passed himself off as a  
simpleton, behaving strangely, for which he was  
subjected to insults, abuse and beatings. In spite of  
this, he accomplished many good deeds. He cast  
out demons, healed the sick, delivered people from  
immanent death, brought the unbelieving to faith,  
and sinners to repentance.

All these things he did under the guise of  
foolishness, and he never received praise or thanks  
from people. Saint John highly esteemed his  
spiritual brother, however. When one of the  
inhabitants of the city of Emesa visited him in the  
wilderness, asking for his advice and prayers, he  
would invariably direct them to “the fool Simeon”,  
who was better able to offer them spiritual  
counsel. For three days before his death Saint  
Simeon ceased to appear on the streets, and he  
enclosed himself in his hut, where there was  
nothing except for bundles of firewood. Having  
remained in unceasing prayer for three days, Saint  
Simeon fell asleep in the Lord. Some of the city  
poor, his companions, had not seen the fool for  
some time. They went to his hut and found him  
dead.

Taking up the dead body, they carried him without  
church singing to a place where the homeless and  
strangers were buried. While they carried the body  
of Saint Simeon, several of the inhabitants heard a  
wondrous church singing, but could not  
understand from whence it came.

After Saint Simeon died, Saint John also fell asleep  
in the Lord. Shortly before his death, Saint Simeon  
saw a vision of his spiritual brother wearing a  
crown upon his head with the inscription: “For  
endurance in the desert.”

