



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 28**
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday, July 30**
No Matins or office hours
- Thursday, August 1**
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours
- Saturday, August 3**
5:00 pm Parish Vigil
- Sunday, August 4**
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*

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org July 28, 2024

Announcements

➤ The **Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, Fr Alexander Rentel**, will visit our parish on **Saturday, August 3 for our Parish Vigil beginning at 5:00 pm.** It would be a good testimony for our parish to have a healthy attendance at this service. Please make every effort to be with us.

➤ We will serve the **Festal Vigil for the great feast of the Transfiguration of Christ on Monday, August 5 at 7:00 pm.** However, we will **not serve** the festal Divine Liturgy so that parishioners will have the opportunity to attend the pilgrimage the Monastery of the Transfiguration in Elwood City PA. The procession there begins at 9:00 am and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (with Bishop Irinej of the Eastern America Serbian Diocese) begins at 9:30 am.

➤ 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, Natalie Toooh. *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 **Dawna Beckett** for the health of my family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton and Scott families. From **John Kowalcheck** for the health of Galina Vilкова. From **Edith Humphrey** for the health of Glenda-operation and recovery.

Thank You

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



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.

The Ease of Faith

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart..."

And what means the phrase, "The Word is near you?" That is, it is easy. For in thy mind and in thy tongue is thy salvation. There is no long journey to go, no seas to sail over, no mountains to pass, to get saved. But if you be not minded to cross so much as the threshold, you may even while you sit at home be saved. For "in thy mouth and in thy heart" is the source of salvation. And then on another score also he makes the word of faith easy, and says, that "God raised Him from the dead." For just reflect upon the worthiness of the Worker, and you will no longer see any difficulty in the thing. That He is Lord then, is plain from the resurrection. And this he said at the beginning even of the Epistle. "Which was declared to be the Son of God with power ... by the resurrection from the dead." (Rom 1:4.) But that the resurrection is easy too, has been shown even to those who are very unbelieving, from the might of the Worker of it. Since then the righteousness is greater, and light and easy to receive, is it not a sign of the utmost contentiousness to leave what is light and easy, and set about impossibilities? For they could not say that it was a thing they declined as burdensome. See then how he deprives them of all excuse. For what do they deserve to have said in their defense, who choose what is burdensome and impracticable, and pass by what is light, and able to save them, and to give them those things which the Law could not give? All this can come only from a contentious spirit, which is in a state of rebellion against God. For the Law is galling (*epachthes*), but grace is easy. The Law, though they dispute never so much, does not save; Grace yields the righteousness resulting from itself, and that from the Law likewise.

St John Chrysostom

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, July 28

Tone 4 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen,// granting 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 3 Troparion (Apostles)

Holy Apostles Próchorus, Nícanor, Tímon, and Parménas, entreat the merciful God,// to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

Tone 4 Kontakion (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master,// He has risen on the third day!

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

Tone 1 Kontakion (Apostles)

The glorious Nícanor, Próchorus, Parménas, and Tímon, the honored deacons and eyewitnesses of the Word,

have been revealed as chosen vessels of the Faith. Therefore, we celebrate your holy memory today,// blessing you with gladness of heart.

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 4 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all. (Ps. 103:26)

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

Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, “The man who does those things shall live by them.” But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 8:28-9:3)

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”

Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, “If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.”

And He said to them, “Go.” So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region.

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”

And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!”

Communion Hymn

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

Yes, the two men of the Gadarenes were possessed with devils. They were not common maniacs, nor persons with a disordered function in the cerebral region ; for they knew, while the inhabitants of that country did not know, that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. The devils knew that a time was coming when their freedom, which they abused and made such evil use of, would be checked. The devils would not give up the darlings which so readily gratified their passions. It was torment for them when the merciful Lord liberated poor mankind. The two unfortunate ones, that were possessed by demons were exceeding fierce so that no man could pass by that way. If the evil spirits torment those whom they possess in such a horrible manner, then what must be the suffering of sinners in hell, where they are bound in company of the devils for all eternity?

St. Sebastian Dabovich

The Lord makes a special point of expelling demons from those possessed, so that we might be aware that He is the one who can drive them out of our souls and grant us eternal freedom.

As most people are unable to comprehend the devil’s maniacal fury against us from his attacks on our souls and the assistance he lends us when we sin, God permitted that there should be some people physically under the control of demons, that we might all learn from them how terrible is the affliction of a soul which intends to make itself the devil’s dwelling through evil deeds.

St. Gregory Palamas