



## 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, August 4

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

### Monday, August 5

7:00 pm Festal Vigil

### Tuesday, August 6: Transfiguration of Christ

No Services

### Thursday, August 8

No Matins or Office Hours

### Saturday, August 10

No Vespers/Parish Vigil

### Sunday, August 11

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*

### Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

August 4, 2024

## Announcements

➤ 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.

➤ Fr Thomas will be speaking at the Diocese of NY/NJ Evangelization School this week on the topic of parish revitalization. **He will leave on Tuesday to travel to Wappingers Falls NY and will be there for the remainder of the week**. If you need to contact him for urgent matters, please send a text to 412-206-5012.

➤ 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 **Tatyana Sechler** for the health of Tatyana, Veronika, Tatiana, Tomas, Irina, Kristofer, Daniel, and Dasha; for the departed servants Polina, Slava, Valentino, Irina, Roman, Sergei, Luba, Daina, and Marina. From **Dawna Beckett** for the health of my family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton and Scott families and for Elaine Hamilton on her birthday. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of my family – Nicholas, Andrea, and their families; for a special intention; and for the departed servants Amelia and Julia. From **John and Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova and for Rachel (Kowalcheck) Heuer on her birthday. From the **John Mahalchak Family** for the health of friends and family, John, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Margaret, Daniel, Mary, and Kayla Elizabeth. From **Richard and Sonia Blaha** for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for the special intentions of birthdays, anniversaries, and peace; for the departed servants parents Pete and Dorothy, Leo and Betty, brother Robert, newly departed Daria, Mat. Annice, Leo, Tom, Thomas, and Kera; departed Irene, Bed, and Estelle.

## Thank You

➤ to our **August donors Mertz Family** (\$25 Altar Candles) for the health of Christoph on his birthday. **Fr Thomas and Mat Joni Soroka** (\$10 Incense) for the health of daughter, Natalie, on her birthday.

**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.**

## Marvelous Body

When we think about the human body, whether in connection with eternity or temporal life, whether in connection with earth or heaven, we may ask ourselves: do we not receive all our knowledge, about God or about the created world, through the body? Since infancy, since our birth, we learn tenderness and love through our bodies, long before we can comprehend anything with our minds. Then we grow in knowledge, wisdom, and experience; everything that our mind possesses, everything that makes our hearts so abundant, reaches us through our senses...

This is why Jesus healed the body with so much love; it is by these healings that God reveals with all power the immortality of incarnate existence. Therefore, when someone dies, we encircle his or her body with such tenderness and reverence. This body is God's creation and He put all His love into it. Furthermore, He became human himself; the Living God put on flesh and showed us not only that man is built so well, that he is so great and so profound that he can be united with God and become a partaker of the divine essence, but also that our very bodies are able to be Spirit-bearing and truly God-bearing. What a marvel!

Let's think about it; because often – oh, how often! – we are not aware of the eternal beauty and greatness of our body. We often think about death as the moment when the immortal soul enters the Divine life, while the body disintegrates into dust. Yes, it turns to dust; but it has an eternal calling: it will truly be risen like Christ. We all will one day appear incarnate before God, with transformed bodies, like the body of Christ, with souls renewed by eternity, and we will communicate with God in love, faith and prayer, not only in the soul, but along with all of creation we will be partakers of the Divine nature, both in our souls and bodies: the soul and body, when, according to the promise of God through the Apostle Paul, God will be all in all, and nothing will remain outside the Divine fellowship and Divine Glory. *(Met Anthony of Sourozh)*

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, August 4

## **Tone 5 Troparion** (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

## **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** (Holy Youths)

Thy seven holy martyrs, O Lord, through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God. For having Thy strength, they laid low their adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons// Through their intercession, save our souls!

## **Tone 5 Kontakion** (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man,// and we cry to Thee: “O Lord, save us!”

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

## **Tone 4 Kontakion** (Holy Youths)

The Seven Holy Youths renounced the perishing comforts of this world, preferring the eternal things of Heaven. They were incorrupt after death and rose from the dead and buried the snares of the devils!// O faithful, let us then honor them, singing a hymn of praise to Christ!

*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 5 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever. (Ps. 11:7)

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (Romans 12:6-14)

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in

tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

## **Gospel of the Sunday** (Matthew 9:1-8)

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!”

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” And he arose and departed to his house.

Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

## **Communion Hymn**

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

## **Ver. 9. "Let love be without hypocrisy."**

If thou has this, thou wilt not perceive the loss of thy money, the labor of thy person, the toil of thy words, thy trouble, and thy ministering, but thou wilt bear all courageously, whether it be with person, or money, or word, or any other thing whatsoever, that thou art to assist thy neighbor. As then he doth not ask for giving only, but that with simplicity, nor aiding, but that with diligence, nor alms, but that with cheerfulness; so even love too he requires not

alone, but that without dissimulation. Since this is what love is. And if a man have this, everything else follows. For he that shows mercy does so with cheerfulness (for he is giving to himself): and he that aids, aids with diligence; for it is for himself he is aiding: and he that imparts does this with largeness; for he is bestowing it on himself. Then since there is a love even for ill things, such as is that of the intemperate, that of those who are of one mind for money, and for plunder's sake, and for revels and drinking clubs, he clears it of all these, by saying, "Abhor (*apostughountes*) that which is evil." And he does not speak of refraining from it, but of hating it, and not merely hating it, but hating it exceedingly. For this word [1537] apo is often of intensive force with him, as where he speaks of "earnest expectation, [1538] looking out for," [1539] (complete) "redemption." [1540] For since many who do not evil things still have a desire after them, therefore he says, "Abhor." For what he wants is to purify the thought, and that we should have a mighty enmity, hatred and war against vice. For do not fancy, he means, because I said, "Love one another," that I mean you to go so far as to cooperate even in bad actions with one another; for the law that I am laying down is just the reverse. Since it would have you an alien not from the action only, but even from the inclination towards vice; and not merely an alien from this same inclination, but to have an excessive aversion and hatred of it too. And he is not content with only this, but he also brings in the practice of virtue. "Cleave to that which is good."

He does not speak of doing only, but of being disposed too. For this the command to "cleave to" it indicates. So God, when He knit the man to the woman, said, "For he shall cleave to his wife." (Genesis 2:24.) Then he mentions reasons why we ought to love one another:

**Ver. 10. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love."**