



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 use the QR Code as your offering today. Please join us downstairs following the service. We want to get to know you! God bless you!



This Week

Sunday, September 8

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

No Services this week (see announcement) →

Sunday, September 15

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

Save the Date!

Our annual **Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 22** at Clever Park in Robinson Township. Liturgy begins at 10:30 am at the park.

Our **Slavic Food Fest** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 12**, 11:00 am to 7:00 pm.

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

Great Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org September 8, 2024

Announcements

➤ Welcome to the newest **Orthodox Volunteer Corps cohort** who are joining us for the Liturgy today! We pray that your time in Pittsburgh will be fruitful and a time of growth for you. Please know you always have a home in our parish.

➤ **Church School will begins today.** May God bless our students and teachers! Additionally, we are seeking additional teachers for our growing number of students. Contact Matushka Joni Soroka (jonisoroka@yahoo.com) for info.

➤ Calling all **pierogi makers** (and those interested in learning)! Contact **Sonia Blaha** for the latest workshop schedule here at church! Thank you!

➤ **Fr Thomas will be out of town beginning this Tuesday until Sunday, September 22.** From Tuesday through Friday of this week he will be at the studios of **Ancient Faith Ministries** near Chicago, assisting in their work. He will then travel to Greece for a pilgrimage to **Mount Athos** (referred to as the Holy Mountain) to visit several of the monasteries. The highlight of his visit will be to meet with a former parishioner, the Hieromonk Niphon (né James Mancini), who converted to the Orthodox Faith in our parish in 2003 and now resides at the famed Iveron Monastery. The monastery is the home of the most ancient wonderworking icon on the Holy Mountain, he Virgin Portaitissa. Please pray for his safe travels.

➤ From **Saturday, September 17 to Saturday, September 21**, please contact Matushka Joni Soroka (412-716-6393) with any true pastoral emergencies. She will contact an available local priest.

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 **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants from the Wasilko and Dyczko families; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha, and cousin, Cynthia. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, parents, Charles & Mary. From **M/M Richard Blaha** for the newly departed, Shirley and Jeff; for the departed, parents, Mary, and a special friend; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers for their birthdays, anniversaries, special intention, and peace. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Kayla Elizabeth's child to be born, and Margaret.

Thank You

➤ to our **September donors: Mertz family** (Altar Candles \$25) for the health and salvation of Annaliese on the occasion of her birthday. **John Mahalchak Family** (Incense \$10) for the health of family and friends and in memory of departed family and friends.

“**Today the Virgin is born**, tended and formed and prepared for her role as Mother of God, who is the universal King of the ages. Therefore, let all creation sing and dance and unite to make worthy contribution to the celebration of this day. Let everything, earthly things and those above, join in festive celebration. Today this created world is raised to the dignity of a holy place for Him who made all things. The creature is newly prepared to be a divine dwelling place for the Creator.”
- St Andrew of Crete

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.

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Creation
Scripture reference: Genesis 1 and 2
Questions to ask/review:

- Who created everything? How?
 - What is meant when we call God “the Creator”?
 - Where did God come from? (trick question!)
 - What was the “order” of creation? What did God create last?
 - How is man created differently than other creatures?
 - Who has God entrusted with His creation?
- Suggested Activities at home:**
- All through the week point out the wonders of nature...on which day was each created?
 - Look for small ways to care for God's creation: recycle or clean up litter in your neighborhood.

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for all You have created.

➤ **Calling new altar servers!** Typically, boys should be at least **7 years old**, but every child is different. They should have the maturity to be attentive and reverent for long periods of time. (We are also looking for any young men that may wish to serve in the altar.) We will have altar server training sometime in the fall, to help those interested be prepared. If your child is interested in serving in the altar, please speak with **Deacon Luke Loboda or Deacon John Skowron.**

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, September 8

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 4 Troparion (Feast)

Thy nativity, O Virgin,
has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!
The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,
has shone from thee, O Theotokos.
By annulling the curse,
He bestowed a blessing://
By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

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

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.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 Kontakion (Feast)

By thy nativity, O most pure Virgin,
Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness,
Adam and Eve — from the corruption of death.
And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin,
celebrate and sing to thee://
“The barren woman gives birth to the
Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

Tone 6 Prokeimenon (Sunday Before)

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! (*Ps. 27:9a*)

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. (*Lk. 1:46-47*)

Epistle Galatians 6:11-18 (Sunday Before)

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Epistle Philippians 2:5-11 (Feast)

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and

given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel John 3:13-17 (Sunday Before)

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Gospel Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Feast)

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.”

And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!”

But He said, “More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

Tone 8 Hymn to the Theotokos (Feast)

Magnify, O my soul, the most glorious birth of the Mother of God!
Virginitly is foreign to mothers; childbearing is strange for virgins. But in thee, O Theotokos, both were accomplished. For this all the earthly nations unceasingly magnify thee.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*) I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. (*Ps. 115:4*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Now if the Jews, by looking to the brazen image of a serpent, escaped death, much rather will they who believe in the Crucified, with good reason enjoy a far greater benefit. For this takes place, not through the weakness of the Crucified, or because the Jews are stronger than He, but because "God loved the world," therefore is His living Temple fastened to the Cross.

Do you see the cause of the Crucifixion, and the salvation which is by it? Do you see the relationship of the type to the reality? There the Jews escaped death, but the temporal, here believers the eternal; there the hanging serpent healed the bites of serpents, here the Crucified Jesus cured the wounds inflicted by the spiritual dragon; ... there that which hung was brass fashioned into the likeness of a serpent, here it was the Lord's Body, built by the Spirit; there a serpent bit and a serpent healed, here death destroyed and a Death saved. But the snake which destroyed had venom, that which saved was free from venom; and so again was it here, for the death which slew us had sin with it, as the serpent had venom; but the Lord's Death was free from all sin, as the brazen serpent from venom. For, says Peter, "He did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth" (1 Pt 2:22). And this is what Paul also declares, "And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it" (Col 2:16). For as some noble champion by lifting on high and dashing down his antagonist, renders his victory more glorious, so Christ, in the sight of all the world, cast down the adverse powers, and having healed those who were smitten in the wilderness, delivered them from all venomous beasts that vexed them, by being hung upon the Cross. (*St John Chrysostom*)