



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 29

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

Tuesday, October 1: Protection of the Theotokos

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

9:30 am to 2:00 pm Halupki Workshop

Thursday, October 3

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

9:30 am to 2:00 pm Halupki Workshop

7:00 pm **Men's Night** (Educational Building)

Saturday, October 5

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Parish Vigil

Sunday, October 6

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

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

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org September 29, 2024

Announcements

➤ Our **Slavic Food Fest** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 12, 11:00 am to 7:00 pm**. Here are some important announcements:

- Calling all **halupki** (stuffed cabbage) **makers**, and those interested in learning! Join us this **Tuesday and/or Thursday from 9:30 am to noon** in the church hall to help us prepare for the upcoming Slavic Food Fest!
- An email was sent yesterday from church with a link to the SignupGenius form to **help work various shifts of the Festival and to help make certain smaller food items and baked goods** at home. Go to <https://shorturl.at/FAQXZ>
- An email will be sent early this week about **donating individual items for the basket raffles**. Please be generous!

➤ **Jesse Cone**, head of The Saint Constantine School of Pittsburgh, will speak on the subject, **"Growing Up: Education and the War on Childhood,"** at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Canonsburg on Tuesday, October 8 at 7:00 pm. Jesse will share his theological and cultural observations about the nature of education and what Christians are called to embrace today. Note: At 6:00 pm, an optional supper will be held. Those attending are asked to consider bringing a main or side dish. Childcare will be provided to hear the talk. Text Reader John Thompson at 724-710-7471 or email him at johntlibrarian@gmail.com if you are bringing a child.

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** (9/22) 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 sisters, Doris & Marsha. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, Andrew & Olga Kasnot. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the departed servant, Godmother, Ruth (9/15/20); for the health of my dad, John, and children; for safe travels for Fr. Tom. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Kayla Elizabeth (child to be born), Margaret, and Joseph. From **the Pravlochaks** for the departed servants, parents; for the health of husband, John Christina and daughter, Karen on their birthdays. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton & Scott families. From **M/M Richard Blaha** for the newly departed, Shirley, Michael, and Jeff; for the departed, parents, brother, and family; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers for their birthdays, anniversaries, special intention, peace, and safe journey for Fr. Tom. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed daughter, Amelia, brother, Nicholas, nephew, Nicholas, and John; for the health of Charles, Nicholas, Andrea & family; special intentions.

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.

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: Noah

Scripture reference: Genesis 6-8

Questions to ask/review:

- Why did God flood the earth? Why did He choose Noah?
- How do you think Noah felt building a huge boat in his backyard with all the neighbors laughing at him?
- Have people ever laughed at you? How did it feel? How did you respond? How did Noah respond to this "peer pressure"?
- What did God command after the flood? What do rainbows tell us?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Build a small boat out of construction paper, cardboard, and tape. See how long the boat lasts in the bathtub. Have a boat making competition with siblings
- Paint a picture of Noah, his family, the animals, and a rainbow.
- Teach and sing the song "Arky Arky" (lyrics and rhythm easily found on internet)

Prayer: Lord, strengthen us to follow you when it is hard.

'But I say to you,' says the Lord, 'love your enemies ... do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you' (Matt. 5:44). Why did He command this? To free you from hatred, irritation, anger and rancor, and to make you worthy of the supreme gift of perfect love. And you cannot attain such love if you do not imitate God and love all men equally. For God loves all men equally and wishes them 'to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth' (1 Tim. 2:4). -**St Maximos the Confessor** (400 Texts on Love #68)

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, September 29

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 1 Troparion (St. Cyriacus)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the
body,
thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing
Father Cyriacus.
Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through
fasting, vigil, and prayer,
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to
thee by faith.
Glory to Him Who gave thee strength!
Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown!//
Glory to Him Who, through thee, grants healing
to all!

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 8 Kontakion (St Nicholas)

Thou didst appear as a priest in Myra, O Saint
Nicholas
Fulfilling the gospel of Christ, O ven’rable one;
Thou didst lay down thy life for thy people
And didst rescue the innocent from death.
Therefore, thou has been blest as a great initiate
of the grace of God.

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 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 (Sunday)

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ
and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed
us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a
guarantee.

Moreover I call God as witness against my soul,
that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not
that we have dominion over your faith, but are
fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you
stand.

But I determined this within myself, that I
would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I
make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes
me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by
me?

And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I
came, I should have sorrow over those from
whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in
you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out
of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote
to you, with many tears, not that you should be
grieved, but that you might know the love which
I have so abundantly for you.

Gospel Luke 6:31-36 (Sunday)

And just as you want men to do to you, you also
do to them likewise.

“But if you love those who love you, what credit
is that to you? For even sinners love those who
love them. And if you do good to those who do
good to you, what credit is that to you? For even
sinners do the same. And if you lend to those
from whom you hope to receive back, what
credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to
sinners to receive as much back. But love your
enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing
in return; and your reward will be great, and
you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind
to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be
merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Communion Hymn

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

Now we have a natural law implanted in us,
by which we distinguish between what is
virtue, and what is vice. Hence it follows,
And as you would that men should do to you, do
you also to them. He does not say, Whatever you
would not that men should do to you, do not you.
For since there are two ways which lead to virtue,

namely abstaining from evil, and doing good, he
names one, signifying by it the other also. And if
indeed He had said, That you may be men, love the
beasts, the command would be a difficult one. But
if they are commanded to love men, which is a
natural admonition, wherein lies the difficulty,
since even the wolves and lions observe it, whom a
natural relation compels to love one another. It is
manifest then that Christ has ordained nothing
surpassing our nature, but what He had long
before implanted in our
conscience, so that your own
will is the law to you. And if you
will have good done to you, you
must do good to others; if you
will that another should show
mercy to you, you must show
mercy to your neighbor.



The Lord had said that we must
love our enemies, but that you
might not think this an exaggerated expression,
regarding it solely as spoken to alarm them, he
adds the reason, saying, For if you love them which
love you, what thank have you? There are indeed
several causes which produce love; but spiritual
love exceeds them all. For nothing earthly
engenders it, neither gain, nor kindness, nor
nature, nor time, but it descends from heaven. But
why wonder that it needs not kindness to excite it,
when it is not even overcome of malice? A father
indeed suffering wrong bursts the bands of love. A
wife after a quarrel leaves her husband. A son, if
he sees his father come to a great age, is troubled.
But Paul went to those who stoned him to do them
good. Moses is stoned by the Jews, and prays for
them. Let us then reverence spiritual love, for it is
indissoluble. Reproving therefore those who were
inclined to wax cold, he adds, For sinners even
love those which love them. As if he said, Because I
wish you to possess more than these, I do not
advise you only to love your friends, but also your
enemies. It is common to all to do good to those
who do good to them. But he shows that he seeks
something more than is the custom of sinners, who
do good to their friends. Hence it follows, And if
you do good to those who do good to you, what
thank have you? -St John Chrysostom