



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, October 6

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

Tuesday, October 8

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

9:30 am to 2:00 pm Nutroll Workshop

Thursday, October 10

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

9:30 am to 2:00 pm Nutroll Workshop

Saturday, October 12

11:00 am to 7:00 pm Slavic Food Fest

5:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, October 13

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

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

October 6, 2024

Announcements

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

- Calling all **nutroll bakers**, and those interested in learning! Join us this **Tuesday and/or Thursday from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm** in the church hall to help us prepare for the upcoming Slavic Food Fest!
- An email was sent last week 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>

➤ **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.

➤ **Bible Study** scheduled for Wednesday, October 9 has been moved to Wednesday, October 16.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized (none); Home:* John Mahalchak (son). William Warnak, Nancy Shaytar, Natalie Tooch. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka.

➤ **Vigil Lights** from **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the newly departed servant, Regina Mell and for Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family; Happy Birthday Doris-many healthy years! From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of brother, Chuck. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha; special intention. From **Marsha Wasilko** for special intention; special thanks. From **M/M Richard Blaha** for the newly departed, Michael, Shirley, Jeff, Joyce, and Brian; for the departed, Anne, Uncle John, Dr. Caesar, grandparents, Leo & Marie, Uncle Peter, and grandfather, Stephan; for the health of husband, Richard on his birthday-Many years; 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, Margaret, Josph, and Kayla Elizabeth's child to be born; for safe trip for wife, Cheryl. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of father, John Naiser; special intentions.

Thank You

➤ to our **October** donors: Altar Candles (\$25) from **Donya Yewisiak** in memory of Matushka Olga Soroka (mother) on the occasion of her birthday. Incense (\$10) from **Fr Thomas and Matushka Joni Soroka** for the health of daughter Melanie on the occasion of 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.

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: The Tower of Babel
Scripture reference: Genesis 11:1-8

Questions to ask/review:

- Why did the people want to build a tower?
- How high would the tower go? What does this tell us about their motivation?
- Why did God confuse their language? What was the result?
- How does this story relate to the feast of Pentecost? Compare the stories.
- At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes down upon the Apostles. How is this the opposite of the Tower of Babel?
- What are some languages you know of? Can you speak any other languages?
- What is it like to not understand someone's language? How does it make you feel? How does it make the other person feel?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Play Jenga or another building game.
- Read family prayers in a different language this week. Find and create brief translations of well-known daily prayers.

Prayer: Lord, may all the people and languages be unified again through the Gospel. Amen.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, October 6

Tone 6 Troparion (Resurrection)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure body.
Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead,//
glory to Thee.

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 granting to
you!
O holy Bishop Nicholas,
pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

Tone 4 Troparion (St. Innocent of Alaska)

O Holy Father Innocent,
in obedience to the will of God,
thou didst accept dangers and tribulations,
bringing many peoples to the knowledge of
truth.
Thou didst show us the way;
now by thy prayers help lead us//
into the Kingdom of Heaven!

Tone 2 Troparion (Apostle Thomas)

Thou wast a disciple of Christ,
a member of the divine assembly of the apostles,
for thou didst prove the resurrection of Christ
by thy disbelief,
and didst verify His all-pure Passion by thy
touch.
O all-praised Thomas://
Ask that peace and great merçy may now be
given to us.

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

Tone 6 Kontakion (Resurrection)

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery
with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life,
and the God of all.

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 6 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

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

Epistle 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (Sunday)

For it is the God who commanded light to shine
out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to
give the light of the knowledge of the glory of
God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the excellence of the power may be of God
and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every
side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not
in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck
down, but not destroyed— always carrying about
in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the
life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.
For we who live are always delivered to death
for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be

manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is
working in us, but life in you.

And since we have the same spirit of faith,
according to what is written, “I believed and
therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore
speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord
Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will
present us with you. For all things are for your
sakes, that grace, having spread through the
many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the
glory of God.

Gospel Luke 7:11-16 (Sunday)

Now it happened, the day after, that He went
into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples
went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He
came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead
man was being carried out, the only son of his
mother; and she was a widow. And a large
crowd from the city was with her. When the
Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and
said to her, “Do not weep.” Then He came and
touched the open coffin, and those who carried
him stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say
to you, arise.” So he who was dead sat up and
began to speak. And He presented him to his
mother.

Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God,
saying, “A great prophet has risen up among
us”; and, “God has visited His people.”

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in
the highest! (Ps. 148:1) The righteous shall be in
everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil
tidings! (Ps. 111:6) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Lord's great act of compassion for this
woman is a sign of our salvation. For we
weep and mourn not only for loved ones
whom we see no more, but also for the broken,
disintegrated state of life that the sins of
humanity—and our own sins—have brought to us
and to our world. Death, destruction, hatred, fear,

and decay in all their forms are the consequences
of our refusal to live faithfully as those created in
the image of God. We have worshipped ourselves,
our possessions and our pride, and found despair
and emptiness as a result, as well as slavery to our
own self-centered desires. So we weep with the
widow of Nain for losing loved ones and for losing
ourselves.

The good news of the Gospel, however, is the
compassion of God. Rather than simply observing
human suffering and letting us bear the
consequences of our actions, the Father sent the
Son to enter into our suffering, into our distorted
and disintegrated world, in order to set us right, to
stop us from weeping, and even to raise us from
the dead into the glory of the heavenly kingdom.
The Son touched the coffin of the dead man and he
arose. Christ's compassion for us is so profound
that He also entered a coffin, a tomb, and even
descended to Hades, the shadowy place of the dead
because—out of love for humankind—He could not
simply stand by and allow us to bear the full
consequences of our actions.

You see, our faith is not fundamentally about
justice or punishment or wrath for sinners. It is
instead about the infinite and holy love of Christ
Who will stop at nothing to bring the one lost
sheep back into the fold, Who is not embarrassed
to welcome home the prodigal son, and Who will
even submit to death on a cross in order to destroy
death by His glorious resurrection.

Extending Christ's compassion to others is not the
same thing as being a wimp or making sure that
everyone likes us. It took discipline, strength, and
courage for the Lord to show compassion
throughout His entirely earthly ministry,
especially His journey to the cross. And every time
that He healed the sick or raised the dead, He
surely knew that the Pharisees and perhaps the
Romans were watching, noticing Him as a threat to
their power. And they certainly did not like Him
or His ministry. (Fr Philip LeMasters)

