



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 13**
10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School
- Tuesday, October 15**
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours
- Wednesday, October 16**
6:30 pm Daily Vespers
7:00 pm Bible Study
- Thursday, October 17**
9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours
- Saturday, October 19**
4:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Great Vespers
- Sunday, October 20**
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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org October 13, 2024

Announcements

➤ Our annual **Slavic Food Fest** was held yesterday after much planning and work from dozens of faithful parishioners. A sincere **thank you to all those who participated and helped** to create this annual event. We especially want to thank **Kristie Mertz, Deb Burgess, and Clayton Harris** for their leadership, preparation and coordination of various aspects of the event for the past few months. Many thanks to all!

Please consider **purchasing some of the remaining nut rolls, baked goods, and frozen pierogi** that remain unsold. You may use cash or credit card for your purchase. Thank you!

➤ **Bible Study** originally scheduled for Wednesday, October 9 will be held this Wednesday, October 16. All are welcome!



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 newly departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of brother, Chuck. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the newly departed servant, Mary Kuffner; for the health of Chuck; Happy Birthday and Many Years to Doris and (niece) Christina! From **M/M Richard Blaha** for the newly departed and servants from our family, parents, Michael, Shirley, Jeff, Joyce, and Brian; for the departed, especially grandfather, Stephan, Uncle Peter, and brother, Robert; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers for their birthdays, anniversaries, and special intentions. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Daniel, Mary, Gregory, Cindy, Margaret, Jospeh, and Kayla Elizabeth and baby girl Patel. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the health of John Naiser. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova; Many Years to Kassiani Kowalcheck on her birthday. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of the Hamilton & Scott families. From **Kristie Mertz** for Connor Young & Kenzie Dabelt. From **Edith Humphrey** for the departed servant, Theresa. From **Tatyana** for the departed servants, Polina, Slava, Galina, Luba, Bruce, Valentina, Nina, Daina, and Marina; for the health of Tatyana, Veronika, Sergei, Tatiana, Tom, Beth, Daniel, and Aria. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, husband, George. From **Irene Kulchock** for the departed servant, Richard Kulchock, Jan Pravlochak, Bridget Kulchock, and Frank Kulchock; for the health of Robyn Allen.

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: Abraham
Scripture reference: Genesis 12-18

Questions to ask/review:

- Who was Abram? What did God ask Abram to do?
- How did Abram become Abraham? Why did God change his name? How is this name change similar to when someone's name is changed at baptism?
- How do we know Abraham was a great man of faith? How did respond to God?
- What other people do you believe are example of great faith? Why?
- Who was Melchizedek? What did Abraham give him?
- What was admirable about Abraham and Sarah's marriage? Not admirable?
- Who visited Abraham and promised Sarah would give birth?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Invite guests for lunch or tea, practice hospitality like Abraham.
- Sing the song "Father Abraham Had Many Sons" (easy to find on the internet).

Prayer: Lord, give us the faith of Abraham to follow You.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, October 13

Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change
weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ
God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 8 Troparion (Fathers)

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God,
Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights
on the earth.
Through them Thou hast guided us to the True
Faith.//
O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Tone 7 Kontakion (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men
captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying
its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and
cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

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

Tone 6 Kontakion (Fathers)

The Son Who shone forth from the Father
was ineffably born, two-fold in nature, of a
woman.
Having beheld Him, we do not deny the image of
His form,
but depict it piously and revere it faithfully.
Thus, keeping the True Faith,//
the Church venerates the icon of Christ
Incarnate.

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 7 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The
Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Ps.
28:11)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Fathers)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, /
and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!
(v. 3 Song of the Three Youths)

Epistle 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 (Sunday)

We then, as workers together with Him also
plead with you not to receive the grace of God in
vain. For He says:

“In an acceptable time I have heard you,
And in the day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is
the day of salvation.

We give no offense in anything, that our
ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we
commend ourselves as ministers of God: in
much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in
distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in
tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings;
by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by
kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by
the word of truth, by the power of God, by the
armor of righteousness on the right hand and on
the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report

and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as
unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and
behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed;
as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet
making many rich; as having nothing, and yet
possessing all things.

Gospel Luke 8:5-15 (Sunday)

“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he
sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was
trampled down, and the birds of the air
devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it
sprang up, it withered away because it lacked
moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the
thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But
others fell on good ground, sprang up, and
yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had
said these things He cried, “He who has ears to
hear, let him hear!”

Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What
does this parable mean?”

And He said, “To you it has been given to know
the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the
rest it is given in parables, that

‘Seeing they may not see,
And hearing they may not understand.’

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of
God. Those by the wayside are the ones who
hear; then the devil comes and takes away the
word out of their hearts, lest they should believe
and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those
who, when they hear, receive the word with joy;
and these have no root, who believe for a while
and in time of temptation fall away. Now the
ones that fell among thorns are those who, when
they have heard, go out and are choked with
cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no
fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the
good ground are those who, having heard the
word with a noble and good heart, keep it and
bear fruit with patience.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in
the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Rejoice in the Lord, O
you righteous; praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Now what the aim is of the discourse,
and what the profounder teaching of the
parable, we shall learn from Him Who
framed it. Before us even the blessed disciples
found these things hard to understand, and
drew near unto the Revealer of mysteries,
supplicating Him and saying, "What is the
parable? And what was Christ's reply? "The seed
is the word of God: those on the way are they
who have heard, and afterwards the devil
cometh, and taketh away the word from their
heart, that they may not believe and be saved."
And 4 as to the cause of the seed on the
pathways being snatched away, we see in a
moment that it is the hardness of the ground. A
pathway always is hard and untilled, because it
is exposed to every one's feet, nor is any seed
admitted into it, but lies rather upon the
surface, ready for any birds that will to snatch it
away. All those therefore, whose mind is hard
and unyielding, and so to speak, pressed
together, do not "receive the divine seed: for the
divine and sacred admonition finds no entrance
into them, nor do they accept the words that
would produce in them the fear of God, and by
means of which they could bring forth as fruits
the glories of virtue. They have made
themselves a beaten and trampled pathway for
unclean demons, yea, and for Satan himself,
such as never can bear holy fruit. Let those
therefore awake, whose heart is sterile and
unfruitful: open your mind, receive the sacred
seed, be like productive and well-tilled soil,
bring forth unto God the fruits that will raise
you to an incorruptible life: guard your mind,
shut the entrance against the thief, drive away
from your hearts the flocks of birds, in order
that the seed may abide with you; that ye may
be ground luxuriant in corn, and very fertile,
and rich abundantly in bringing forth fruit.