



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. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

This Week

Saturday, July 28

5:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, July 29

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*
Mat. Janet Mihalick, *Choir Director*

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

July 22, 2018

Announcements

➤ **If anyone would like his or her car blessed** this morning (in commemoration of the Feast of St Elijah/July 20), Fr Thomas will come outside immediately after the veneration of the cross. Please stand by your car if you would like your car blessed.

➤ **During the summer months**, let's continue to offer worship and praise to God in thanksgiving for the continued blessings He richly pours out on us. In this way, God is glorified, we sustain our faith, and we become an example to others. **Traveling this summer?** Seek out a church to visit at orthodoxinamerica.com.

➤ **Thank you to all those who helped** with our Community Day last Sunday. To Dn Luke and Matushka Ashley for their leadership, to those who cooked food and served, those who set up and broke down the tables and chairs, those who canvased the neighborhood with flyers, and to all those who welcomed our guests. May God richly bless you for your efforts! Our mission statement in action!

➤ **The Pelmeni orders are ready for pickup today.** Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make this sale a great success! The Sisterhood has generously earmarked the proceeds to be put toward a commercial mixer for the kitchen. It will be used for prosphora, parish events, and future fundraisers. May God bless all of you!

There will be no hoagie sale in the month of July.

➤ **Looking ahead:**
Slavic Food Fest 2018 – Saturday, October 13

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm: Known to be Hospitalized; (None).** Home: Sandi Tirpak, Georgiann Robes, George Shaytar. Doris Wasilko, Jessica Baker (40 days with new born). *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Olga Bednar, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Slava, Galina, Valentina, Bruce, Gina, Andrei and Lida; for the health of Adrianna, Thomas, Edward, Diana, Tatyana, Sergei, Veronika, Kristofer, Tatyana, Ray and Yaroslav. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha. **From John & Olga** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov and Elizabeth Kowalcheck & her unborn child.



Thank you

➤ to **Paul and Lois Fuller** for donating all categories [Bulletin (\$60), Holy Bread (\$50), Communion Wine (\$40), Altar Candles (\$25), Incense (\$10)] for the health of family.

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.

On Error and Division

“I know that after I leave savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own numbers men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.”

— St. Paul, (Acts 20:29-30)

“If any man follows him that makes a schism in the Church, he shall not inherit the kingdom of God. If anyone walks according to a strange opinion, he agrees not with the passion [of Christ.]. Take heed, then, to have but one Eucharist. For there is one flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, and one cup to [show forth] the unity of His blood; one altar; as there is one bishop, along with the presbytery and deacons, my fellow-servants: that so, whatsoever you do, you may do it according to [the will of] God.”

— St. Ignatius of Antioch, *Epistle to the Philadelphians*, 3:2-4:1, 110 A.D.

“Do not have a single thing to do with schismatics and absolutely nothing with heretics . . . As you know I myself have avoided them due to their Christ hating and heterodox heresy.”

— St. Anthony the Great (4th c)

“For I reckon it misanthropy and a departure from Divine love to lend support to error, that those previously seized by it might be even more greatly corrupted.”

— St. Maximus the Confessor (7th c)



Hymns and Readings for Today

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 7

By Thy cross, Thou didst destroy death!
To the thief, Thou didst open paradise!
For the myrrh-bearers, 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.

Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 7

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!

Kontakion of the Theotokos Tone 6

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.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 29) Tone 7

The Lord shall give strength to His people! The
Lord shall bless His people with peace!

Epistle (I Cor 1:10-18)

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same
thing, and that there be no divisions among you,
but that you be perfectly joined together in the
same mind and in the same judgment. For it has
been declared to me concerning you, my brethren,
by those of Chloe's household, that there are
contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of
you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I
am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ
divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you
baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you except
Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I
had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized
the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not
know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did
not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel,
not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ
should be made of no effect. For the message of
the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of
God.

Gospel (Matthew 14:14-22)

And when Jesus went out He saw a great
multitude; and He was moved with compassion for
them, and healed their sick. When it was evening,
His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a
deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send
the multitudes away, that they may go into the
villages and buy themselves food."

But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go
away. You give them something to eat." And they
said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and
two fish."

He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He
commanded the multitudes to sit down on the
grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish,
and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke
and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the
disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and
were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of
the fragments that remained. Now those who had
eaten were about five thousand men, besides
women and children.

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the
boat and go before Him to the other side, while He
sent the multitudes away.

Multiplying Loaves

by St Cyril of Alexandria (5th c)

But observe the incomparable gentleness of Him
Whom they supplicate. For not only does He grant
all that they ask Him to bestow on those who
followed Him, but also adds thereto of His own
bountiful right hand; refreshing in every way those
that love Him, and nurturing them unto spiritual
courage. And this we may see from what has now
been read. For the blessed disciples besought
Christ that those who were following Him, having
had their requests granted them, might be sent
away, and disperse as they best could. But He
commanded them to supply them with food. The
thing, however, was impossible in the eyes of the
disciples, for they had brought nothing with them
but five loaves and two fishes: and this they drew
near and confessed to Him. To magnify, therefore,
the greatness of the miracle, and make it in every
way evident that He is in His own nature God, He
multiplies that little many times, and looks up to
heaven to ask a blessing from above, being intent
in this also upon our good. For He is Himself That
which filleth all things, being the blessing that
cometh from above from the Father. But that we
may learn that when we commence a meal, and
are about to break bread; it is our duty to offer it to
God, placing it, so to speak, upon our stretched out
hands, and calling down a blessing upon it from
above, He purposely became our precedent, and
type, and example in the matter.

But what was the result of the miracle? It was the
satisfying a large multitude with food: for there were
as many as five thousand men besides women and
children, according to what another of the holy
Evangelists has added to the narrative. Nor did the
miracle end here; but there were also gathered
twelve baskets of fragments. And what do we infer
from this? A plain assurance that hospitality
receives a rich recompense from God. The
disciples offered five loaves: but after a multitude
thus large had been satisfied, there was gathered
for each one of them a basketful of fragments. Let
nothing therefore prevent those who are willing
from receiving strangers, whatever there may be

likely to blunt the will and readiness of men
thereunto: and let no one say, "I do not possess
suitable means; what I can do is altogether trifling
and insufficient for many." Receive strangers, my
beloved; overcome that unreadiness which wins no
reward: for the Saviour will multiply thy little many
times beyond expectation, and though thou givest
but little, thou wilt receive much. "For he that
soweth blessings shall also reap blessings,"
according to the blessed Paul's words.

But since thou hast brought thyself to so great folly
as to imagine that there is anything impossible with
God, and with empty babble hast said that He
cannot prepare a table for His people in the
wilderness, answer the question we now put to
thee: Wilt thou embrace the faith now that thou
seest a table prepared by Christ in the wilderness,
and an innumerable multitude so abundantly
supplied with food that twelve baskets of remnants
were collected? or wilt thou still refuse to believe,
and ask another sign? When, therefore, wilt thou be
found believing? When wilt thou cease from finding
fault with the ineffable power of Christ? When wilt
thou put a door and bolt to thy tongue? and
delivering it from the language of blasphemy,
change it to a better use by praising Him, so that
thou also mayest be a partaker of the blessings He
bestows? For His mercies are revealed upon those
who love Him, and He delivers them from all
sickness. He supplies them also with spiritual food,
by means of which each one attains to manliness in
every thing that is praiseworthy.

For the flocks of the believers have, as it were, a
pasture full of divers plants and flowers, in the holy
Scriptures, which are their wise guides: and filled
with spiritual joy at the glorious doctrines and
instructions which they contain, they frequent
the sacred courts. And this it is which long ago was
proclaimed in the words of Isaiah: "And there shall
be upon every high mountain, and upon every high
hill, running waters upon that day." And again; "And
the mountains shall drop sweetness: and the hills
flow with milk."