



## 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

### Tonight

7:00 pm Great Vespers with Litiya  
Great Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ  
Blessing of grapes (and fruit and vegetables)

### Saturday, August 11

5:00 pm Great Vespers

### Sunday, August 12

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

*Our own Dr Edith Humphrey will be on 101.5 WORD-FM this Friday at 5:15 pm to discuss her latest book, **Further Up and Further In: Orthodox Conversations with C. S. Lewis on Scripture and Theology** on "The Ride Home with John and Kathy." You can also listen live online at wordfm.com!*



**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

### 10th Sunday after Pentecost/Transfiguration Prefeast

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

August 5, 2018

## Announcements

➤ **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 [orthodoxyinamerica.com](http://orthodoxyinamerica.com).

➤ **Everyone is encouraged to attend the pilgrimage tomorrow, Monday, August 6, at the Monastery of the Holy Transfiguration in Elwood City** on their patronal feast day as well as being the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the monastery. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon will lead the Divine Liturgy beginning at 10:00 am followed by a luncheon for all the pilgrims. The sacrament of Holy Unction will be served at 3:00 pm. Go to [orthodoxmonasteryellwoodcity.org](http://orthodoxmonasteryellwoodcity.org) for details.

➤ A **Spaghetti Dinner** will be held in our parish on Sunday, August 19 after the Divine Liturgy. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-12. Proceeds will fund the cost of a new freezer for our Slavic Food Fest.

➤ Our **August hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, August 29. Italian Hoagies and wraps are \$6.50 each and the Turkey hoagies and wraps are \$7.00 each. Orders can be placed by calling 412-974-9912, faxing 724-926-4052 or emailing [rjmbmsam1@verizon.net](mailto:rjmbmsam1@verizon.net). Orders are due on Sunday evening, August 26. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm August 29 at the church hall.

➤ Congratulations to **Deborah Burgess** who was received into the Orthodox Faith today. May God grant her good health and many blessed years!

## Prayers

➤ **III and infirm:** Known to be Hospitalized; (None). **Home:** Georgiann Robes. 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 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 child to be born. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the newly departed servant, Valentina; for the health of my grandchildren and great grandchildren; safe travels for Nicholas; special intentions.

### Looking ahead:

**Archdiocesan Family Day** – Saturday, August 18 beginning at 12:00 pm and ending with Vespers at 3:00 pm

**Slavic Food Fest 2018** – Saturday, October 13

### Help wanted!

As our number of children grows we are in need of new teachers. If you are interested in teaching our precious children in Church School, please contact Matushka Joni soon!

**HELP  
WANTED**

## Thank you

➤ to **Larry and Suzy Polny** for donating the August monthly categories of Bulletin (\$60), Holy Bread (\$50), Communion Wine (\$40), Altar Candles (\$25) and to **Fr Thomas and Mat Joni Soroka** for donating Incense (\$10) for the health of daughter, Natalie.

**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.**

## Ministry Opportunities

As our parish grows, we have greater needs for ministry opportunities within the parish. **Everyone who cares about and loves this parish can play a role in building up our parish community.** Everyone has been given gifts by God. The purpose of those gifts is to build up the Body of Christ.

The list of needs is great! **In the next few weeks you will hear more about how you can help up use your talents and gifts to play a crucial role in growing our parish's influence and enrich the experience of everyone who belongs to it.**

*But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says:*

*"When He ascended on high,  
He led captivity captive,  
And gave gifts to men."*

*(Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)*

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Eph 4:7-16)*

# Hymns and Readings for Today

## Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,  
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure  
body,  
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,  
granting life to the world.  
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O  
Giver of Life:  
Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!  
Glory to Thy Kingdom!  
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest  
mankind!

## Troparion of the Prefeast Tone 4

Come, you faithful, let us welcome the  
Transfiguration of Christ,  
and let us joyfully cry as we celebrate the prefeast:  
“The day of holy gladness has come;  
the Lord has ascended Mount Tabor//  
to radiate the beauty of His Divinity.”

## Troparion of St Nicholas Tone 4

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.

## Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory,  
raising the world with Thyself.  
Human nature praises Thee as God for death has  
vanished,  
Adam exults, O Master!  
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and  
cries to Thee:  
Thou art the giver of resurrection to all, O Christ!

## Kontakion of the Forefeast Tone 4

Today all mortal nature shines with the divine  
Transfiguration  
and cries with exultation://  
“Christ the Savior is transfigured to save us all!”

## Prokeimenon (Psalm 33) Tone 1

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set  
our hope on Thee!

## Epistle of the Sunday (I Corinthians 4:9-16)

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles,  
last, as men condemned to death; for we have  
been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels  
and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you  
are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are  
strong! You are distinguished, but we are  
dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger  
and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten,  
and homeless. And we labor, working with our own  
hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted,  
we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have  
been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring  
of all things until now.

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my  
beloved children I warn you. For though you might  
have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do  
not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have  
begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge  
you, imitate me.

## Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 17:14-23)

And when they had come to the multitude, a man  
came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying,  
“Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic  
and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire  
and often into the water. So I brought him to Your  
disciples, but they could not cure him.”

Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and  
perverse generation, how long shall I be with you?  
How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to  
Me.” And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came  
out of him; and the child was cured from that very  
hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately  
and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”

So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief;  
for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a  
mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move  
from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing

will be impossible for you. However, this kind does  
not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said  
to them, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed  
into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and  
the third day He will be raised up.” And they were  
exceedingly sorrowful.

# Transfiguration

by St Leo the Great (5<sup>th</sup> c)

## III. The object and the meaning of the Transfiguration

And in this Transfiguration the foremost object was  
to remove the offense of the cross from the  
disciple's heart, and to prevent their faith being  
disturbed by the humiliation of His voluntary  
Passion by revealing to them the excellence of His  
hidden dignity. But with no less foresight, the  
foundation was laid of the Holy Church's hope, that  
the whole body of Christ might realize the character  
of the change which it would have to receive, and  
that the members might promise themselves a  
share in that honour which had already shone forth  
in their Head. About which the Lord had Himself  
said, when He spoke of the majesty of His coming,  
Then shall the righteous shine as the sun in their  
Father's Kingdom Matthew 13:43, while the blessed  
Apostle Paul bears witness to the self-same thing,  
and says: for I reckon that the sufferings of this time  
are not worthy to be compared with the future glory  
which shall be revealed in us Romans 8:18: and  
again, for you are dead, and your life is hid with  
Christ in God. For when Christ our life shall appear,  
then shall you also appear with Him in glory  
Colossians 3:3 . But to confirm the Apostles and  
assist them to all knowledge, still further instruction  
was conveyed by that miracle.

## IV. The significance of the appearance of Moses and Elias

For Moses and Elias, that is the Law and the  
Prophets, appeared talking with the Lord; that in the  
presence of those five men might most truly be  
fulfilled what was said: In two or three witnesses  
stands every word Deuteronomy 19:15 . What more

stable, what more steadfast than this word, in the  
proclamation of which the trumpet of the Old and of  
the New Testament joins, and the documentary  
evidence of the ancient witnesses combine with the  
teaching of the Gospel? For the pages of both  
covenants corroborate each other, and He Whom  
under the veil of mysteries the types that went  
before had promised, is displayed clearly and  
conspicuously by the splendour of the present  
glory. Because, as says the blessed John, the law  
was given through Moses: but grace and truth  
came through Jesus Christ John 1:17, in Whom is  
fulfilled both the promise of prophetic figures and  
the purpose of the legal ordinances: for He both  
teaches the truth of prophecy by His presence, and  
renders the commands possible through grace.

## V. St. Peter's suggestion contrary to the Divine order

The Apostle Peter, therefore, being excited by the  
revelation of these mysteries, despising things  
mundane and scorning things earthly, was seized  
with a sort of frenzied craving for the things eternal,  
and being filled with rapture at the whole vision,  
desired to make his abode with Jesus in the place  
where he had been blessed with the manifestation  
of His glory. Whence also he says, Lord, it is good  
for us to be here: if you will let us make three  
tabernacles , one for You, one for Moses, and one  
for Elias. But to this proposal the Lord made no  
answer, signifying that what he wanted was not  
indeed wicked, but contrary to the Divine order:  
since the world could not be saved, except by  
Christ's death, and by the Lord's example the  
faithful were called upon to believe that, although  
there ought not to  
be any doubt about  
the promises of  
happiness, yet we  
should understand  
that amidst the trials  
of this life we must  
ask for the power of  
endurance rather  
than the glory,  
because the  
joyousness of  
reigning cannot  
precede the times of  
suffering.

