



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

Wednesday, October 10

6:30 pm Daily Vespers
7:00 pm Bible Study

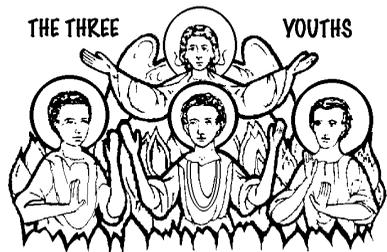
Saturday, October 13

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

****4:00pm Vespers and Cathedral Vigil**

Sunday, October 14

9:15 am Adult Education
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Church School after Communion



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*

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org
October 7, 2018

Announcements

Slavic Food Fest 2018

➤ We'll be holding our third annual **Slavic Food Fest this Saturday, October 13 from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm at our church!** This will be a great opportunity reach out to the Greater Pittsburgh area to not only showcase our Church's historic cultural heritage, but our faith as well! We need your help for this great opportunity! Please see Donya Yewisiak and committee chairpersons on how you can help!

➤ **We are seeking financial donors and supporters** for our **Slavic Food Fest**. Please consider sponsoring any of the Festival items, or miscellaneous donations will also be deeply appreciated. Please see Donya Yewisiak today to see how you can help. Thank you!

➤ **Thank you to everyone associated with this year's Basket Auction.** Because of you we have beautiful items to offer our guests! Come and see! Your Basket Committee sincerely thanks you!

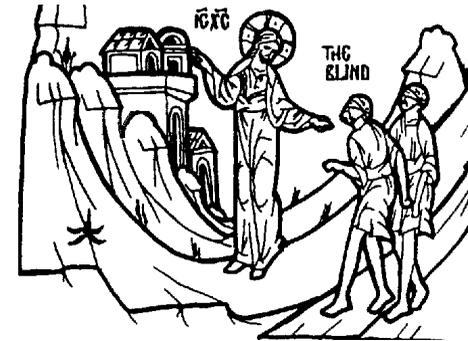
➤ We are in need of **baked goods** for the Slavic Food Festival Bake Sale. A sign-up sheet for the bake sale will be located on the bulletin board in the church basement. See Sasha Gajewski with any questions. alexandra.mihalick@gmail.com or (814) 341-6827



Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be Hospitalized; (None).* Home: Georgiann Robes. Heidi Lewis (40 days). *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** special thanks. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of Doris on her birthday. **From Doris Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Cathy Namisnak** for the departed servant, Anna Namisnak. **From Lindy Hamilton** in honor of the wedding of Victoria Hamilton and Ryan Scott. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of George Kraynak. **From John & Olga** for the health and salvation of our family and Anatoly & Galina Vilkov.



Thank you

➤ to **Michelle Bittner** for donating the October monthly Bulletin (\$60) in memory of Michael and Helen Hruch. Also to the **Robes Family** for donating the Holy Bread (\$50) in honor of Teresa's birthday and Robbie and Teresa's anniversary. To the **Robes Family** for donating the Communion Wine (\$40) in memory of Thomas V Robes Sr on the occasion of his birthday. To **Donya Yewisiak** for donating the Altar Candles (\$25) to the **Fr Thomas and Mat Joni Soroka** for donating the Incense (\$10) on the occasion of daughter Melanie's birthday..

A Mother's Love

Death has one characteristic in common with love: it, like love, works a profound change in many that experience it and go on living. A mother after a funeral goes to the graves of her children. Who goes there? The children in the mother's soul, with the mother, go to their graves. In a mother's soul, the mother lives only in one little corner; all the rest is a palace for the souls of the children taken from her.

So it is with Christ, though to an immeasurably greater extent. He submitted to the confines of the grave so that men, His children, should know the spaciousness of the limitless palace of Paradise.

A mother goes to the graves of her children, as though to raise them to life in her soul, to redeem them by her tears, to have compassion on them by her thoughts. A mother's love saves her children from disappearance and annihilation in this world, at least for a time.

The Lord, humiliated and spat upon, succeeded, through bowing to His Cross and Tomb, in truly raising the whole human race by His love, and saving it forever from vanishing away and being annihilated. Christ's act is incomparably greater than the act of any lonely mother in the world, His love for the human race being immeasurably greater than the love of any mother in the world for her children.

Although a mother, out of her great love and sorrow, always has tears to shed, she takes her remaining tears with her when she herself goes down into the grave. The Lord Jesus, though, shed all His tears for His children, to the last drop – and all His blood to the last drop. Never, O sinner, will more precious tears be shed for you, neither living nor dead. Never will a mother, or wife, or children, or homeland, pay more for you than Christ the Saviour paid...

Coming on earth, the Lord paid two visits to men: the first to those living in the grave of the body and the second to those in the grave of the earth. He died in order to visit His dead children. Ah, how very truly a mother dies when she goes to the graves of her children! –**St Nikolai Velimirovich**

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.

Hymns and Readings for Today

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead!
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out:
O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!
mankind!

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 2

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Thy resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this
and rejoiced with Thee!
And the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever!

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 118) Tone 2

The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation!

Epistle of the Sunday (II Corinthians 11:31-12:9)

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In

Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 7:11-16)

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 (Ps 148)

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!



Today in Church School

Today's lesson: The Council of Jerusalem

Questions to ask/review:

- Who was at the Council? Where is Jerusalem?
- What person “presided” over the council? (James)
- How did the council make its decision? What points were made by Peter? James?
- Who did the council say made the decision? (the Holy Spirit)
- What did the council decide?
- Using the Council of Jerusalem as the example, how should the Church make its decisions? (under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, with consultation of bishops)

Suggested Activities at home:

- Read the story of the council in Acts 15.
- Role play the council with Peter, Paul, and James.
- Do you have a family decision to make this week? Have a family “council” and pattern it after the Jerusalem Council.
- Prayer: Lord, guide us in every decision we make, just as You have guided your Church.

On Suffering

Only the foolish think that suffering is evil. A sensible man knows that suffering is not evil but only the manifestation of evil and healing from evil. Only sin in a man is a real evil, and there is no evil outside sin. Everything else that men generally call evil is not, but is a bitter medicine to heal from evil. The sicker the man, the more bitter the medicine that the doctor prescribes for him. At times, even, it seems to a sick man that the medicine is worse and more bitter than the sickness itself! And so it seems at times to the sinner: the suffering is harder and more bitter than the sin committed. But this is only an illusion – a very strong self-delusion. There is no suffering in the world that could be anywhere near as hard and destructive as sin is. All the suffering borne by men and nations is none other than the abundant healing that eternal Mercy offers to men and nations to save them from eternal death. Every sin, however small, would inevitably bring death if Mercy were not to allow suffering in order to sober men up from the inebriation of sin; for the healing that comes through suffering is brought about by the gracefilled power of the Holy and Life-giving Spirit. **St. Nikolai Velimirovich**, “23. *The Third Sunday After Easter: The Gospel on the Miracle at Bethesda John 5:1-16,*”

Blessed is the man who uses his sufferings, knowing that all suffering in this brief life is loosed on men by God in His love for mankind, for the benefit and assistance of men. In His mercy, God looses suffering on men because of their sins – by His mercy and not His justice. For, if it were by His justice, every sin would inevitably bring death, as the Apostle says: “Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1: 15). In place of death, God gives healing through suffering. Suffering is God’s way of healing the soul of its sinful leprosy and its death. **St. Nikolai Velimirovich**, “22. *The Second Sunday After Easter: The Gospel on the Myrrh-Bearing Women,*”

