



Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Mat. Janet Mihalick, *Choir Director*

20th Sunday after Pentecost/7th Ecumenical Council

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

October 14, 2018

Announcements

Slavic Food Fest 2018

A **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to everyone who worked so hard to make our **third annual Slavic Food Fest** a success! **A complete list of names of all our dedicated parishioners who worked will be included in next week's bulletin.** A special thank you to the following leads: Donya Yewisiak, chair, Bob Madalinsky, Kitchen, Suzy Polny, Silent Auction, Sasha Gajewski, Bake Sale, Jan Widel, ticket sales, and to **EVERYONE** who gave their time, energy, and love for our parish! **THANK YOU!**

➤ For today's coffee hour we will be selling the remaining foods and baked goods from yesterday's Food Fest. Please be generous so that we can completely "sell out" of our remaining items.

Additionally, books, icons, and other religious articles will be available for purchase that did not sell yesterday. This is your opportunity to purchase outstanding Orthodox materials without any shipping charges.

In both cases, parents: please assist your children and do not permit them to take any of the for sale items without purchasing them.

➤ **Our October hoagie sale** is being held on Wednesday, October 31. 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. Orders are due on Sunday evening, October 28. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm October 31 at the church hall.

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 servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and (brother/uncle) Philip Karavlan ; for the health of family; for Doris Wasilko on her birthday-Many Years. **From Marsha Wasilko** Happy Birthday & Many Years to Doris! **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants from the Wasilko family; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Slava, Bruce, Marina, Galina, Valentina, Lida, Andrei, Andreia; for the health of Diana, Tatyana, Veronika, Adick, Kristofer and Sergei. **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of Melanie on her 25th birthday (10/11) and for Elizabeth Metry Pitt. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servants, (parents) John & Mary Pravlochak; for the health of our family. **From John & Olga** for the health and salvation of our family and Anatoly & Galina Vilkov. **From Suzy & Larry Polny** for the departed servant, William Smythe.

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..

Letter to a Friend

My Dear Friend: You have asked a good question: **"Who are these Holy Fathers you Orthodox Christians are always speaking of, and why are they so important to you? Isn't is enough to just have the Bible?"**

First I must tell you that not only are Holy Fathers important to Orthodox Christians today, but they have been important to Christians from the very beginning; during the great age of Church Councils (the fourth through the eighth centuries) the proclamation of those Councils began with these significant words: "Following the Holy Fathers..." I think you'll find that these Holy Fathers are important to you, too, even though you are not Orthodox, because anyone who loves Christ naturally also loves those who knew and experienced Him intimately, revealing Him to others.

And so, a Holy Father is, first, a member of the Orthodox Church and a saint—that is, a baptized believer, known for the holiness and great virtue of his life, who is now in heaven with Christ. Secondly, a Holy Father is one who teaches the Faith and is an explainer of Holy Scripture. He gives witness to it by both his life and writings, enlightened by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Also, a Holy Father is not self-appointed; he is chosen by God and revealed to the consciousness of the whole Body of Christ as one who has spoken truthfully about divine things. Finally, his words must reflect the teachings of Holy Scripture and the Apostles; he may not teach things contrary to what has always been believed and taught in the Church; he must faithfully hand down what he has received.

Because many people think that Christ's Church somehow "died out," or, as even many Protestants believe, that it apostasized during the first century after Christ (as if such a thing were really possible considering Christ's promise to be with His Church "even unto the end of the ages" (Matt. 25:20), I would like to share with you a glimpse of the early Church as seen in the lives and writings of Holy Fathers, from the time of the Apostles until about 200 A.D. roughly three generations.

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, October 20

5:00pm Vespers and Cathedral Vigil

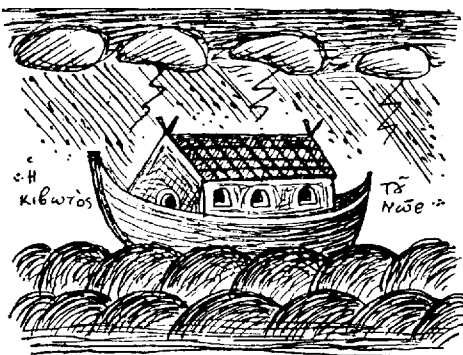
Sunday, October 21

10:00 am to 1:00 pm Pan Orthodox Choir

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.

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

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Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm!
He has trampled down death by death!
He has become the first born of the dead!
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world great mercy.

Troparion of the Holy Fathers Tone 8

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God!
Thou 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!

Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 3

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
with the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise
the divine majesty of Thy power!

Kontakion of the Holy Fathers Tone 6

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.

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 3

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Epistle of the Sunday (Galatians 1:11-19)

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Gospel (Luke 8:5-15)

"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. 8 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 Hymns (Ps 148:1; 32/33:1)

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: The Spread of the Gospel

Questions to ask/review:

- What is evangelism?
- How did the Apostles spread the Gospel?
- Name as many Apostles as you can!
- Where did they travel to spread the Gospel?
- What successes and challenges did they face?
- Name and tell the story of Apostles who were not one of the original 12 disciples? (Barnabas, Luke, Paul, Matthias)

Suggested Activities at home:

- Discuss evangelism. How can we share the Gospel message with our friends and others we meet?
- Take a map of the world (or a globe) and mark all the countries the disciples reached. What are these countries like today?
- Prayer: Lord, help me to spread Your Good News to all the world just as Your disciples did.

(Letter to a Friend continued)

You can easily verify that what you are about to read is not something I've made up; this information can be found in well documented form in any larger library. In fact, I ask you not to take my word for it. Investigate for yourself; take the trouble to be informed about something that affects your very salvation.

In his Epistle to the Philippians, St. Paul mentions a "true yoke-fellow" and "fellow-laborer" named "Clement" (Phil.4:3). You might be surprised to learn that history also knows this man; one of his letters is preserved in manuscript form in the British Museum! He is known as St. Clement the Roman. He was martyred in 97 or 98, shortly after the end of Emperor Domitian's persecution of the Christian Church. His letter is a wonderful witness concerning the existence of Apostolic Succession in the early Church:

"The Apostles received the Gospel for us from the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ was sent forth from God. So then Christ is from God and the Apostles are from Christ. Both therefore came of the will of God in an appointed order. Having therefore received a charge...they went forth with the glad tidings Then, preaching everywhere in country and town, they appointed their first-fruits, when they had proved them by the Spirit, to be bishops and deacons unto all those that should believe They appointed these persons and then also provided a continuance, that when these should fall asleep, other approved men should succeed to their ministration."

Concerning the need to be obedient to the successors to the Apostles he says: "But if certain persons should be disobedient unto the words spoken by Him through us, let them understand that they will entangle themselves in no small transgression and danger."

(Then the writer gives two more examples of important early Fathers.)

Fr Alexey Young