



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, May 15

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

7:00 pm Bible Study

(**no Bible Study on May 22)

Saturday, May 18

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, May 19

9:00 am Adult Education

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Paschal Greeting

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

(Russian) Christos voskresel! Voistinu Voskresel!

(Greek) Christos anesti! Alithos anesti!

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*

The Holy Myrrhbearers – Third Sunday of Pascha

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

May 12, 2019

Announcements

➤ **Happy Mother's Day!** The men of our parish invite everyone downstairs after the Divine Liturgy today for our annual **Mother's Day Brunch** in honor of the women of our parish. **Men of the parish** are reminded to give a **minimum** \$10 contribution to Bob Madalinsky to sponsor the cost of the brunch. We are also in need of male volunteers to set up, cook, and clean up.

➤ **Next week is our last session of Church school for the 2018-2019 school year.** On that day, we will honor our church school students and teachers as well as our high school graduates. Parents should make every effort to ensure that students are in attendance next Sunday.

➤ The history of the **Orthodox Monastery of the Holy Transfiguration** in Elwood City and its founder, Mother Alexandria (Princess Illena of Romania) at will be held this Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm. The speaker, Zenaida Bench, holds an MA in Theology and now resides at the monastery as a volunteer. The program is free and open to the public. Medure Annex Building, 408 N. Jefferson St, New Castle PA 16101. www.lawrencechs.com

➤ **Our May hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, March 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. Orders are due on Sunday evening, May 26. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm May 29 at the church hall.

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.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be Hospitalized;* Jack Saban (VA). *Home:* Georgiann Robes. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Olga Bednar, Garnette Kerchum, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

Vigil Lights **From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family and Michelle Bittner. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, (cousin) Michael Wasilko; for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha; safe journey. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, (cousin) Michael Wasilko; for the health of Marsha, Michelle, Lawrence and Fr. Tom. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Larry Polny. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, Ann Polny (5/4/05), (cousin) Susie Wasilko (5/5/74), (uncle) Joseph Dichko (5/10/15); for the health of Larry; safe travels; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Fr. Tom! **From John & Olga** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov, Rachel Heuer & her child to be born, Daniel & Nora Kowalcheck & family and Nicholas & Elizabeth Kowalcheck & family on their travels. **From Bryan** for the health of Lily while she traveling to her home. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for our departed parents; for the health of our family. **From Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servant, Pete Kerchum. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of my family and David & Andrea on their anniversary; special intentions. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of Larry Polny and Michelle Bittner.

A Woman's Power

Look how patient a woman is in her good works, how insatiable her love is. The love of a mother has always been revered as a model of this gentle and holy love. The mother's love has been glorified by writers and poets in all times and in all nations.

We are often asked whether men and women are equal in their abilities. They are equal and at the same time unequal. Women's abilities are intended for one goal, while men's for another. A woman has

her own field of activity in which her abilities are, of course, incomparably higher than those of a man. It is her home and family. This is the field where a woman reveals all the power of her soul. This is where she is a full master, though her influence here is often inconspicuous. Her power is manifested not in oppression or rude force, but in captivating gentleness. It is in the family that her efficiency and her mysterious art to penetrate a man's heart is manifested. The ability to care, to share, to respond, to show tact and to encourage tied and grieving souls - this is the mainspring used by women for domestic control.

The abilities that the woman received from God, however, cannot be revealed in all their fullness. She is capable of fulfilling her calling, but at the same time she is incapable of it. She is capable because she does seek to accomplish her predestination and incapable because of sin that chokes and sometimes corrupts the good seeds that God planted in her heart.

The woman's heart, ardent and jealous, good and evil, strong and weak as it is at the same time, needs to be guided to a good goal. The good seeds planted by God in it need to be grown in the right way. But who can heal and teach the woman's heart? Nobody can reform and renew it but the Son of God Who became flesh in order to restore human nature so that we may be saved. Only from Him the woman can receive the strength to accomplish her predestination in this life.

When Christ the Savior preached on earth, nobody sympathized with Him as much as women. Just as a woman's heart is attracted to Him, so His heart is attracted to hers, because the Son of God, by His very nature, is love. He performed His feat on earth as a humble servant for all. The woman, therefore, who is also called to love will find in our Savior the One Who is intimately akin to her in her modest and humble service. If Christian faith is precious to the human soul, it is especially precious to the woman's soul. A woman cannot be a true woman if she does not accept the Gospel as a real Christian whose place is by the side of the humble and loving Savior. In this lies her greatness, her holiness and her salvation. Amen. -Archimandrite Kirill (Pavlov)

Hymns and Readings for Today

Paschal Troparion

Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Troparia of the Sunday *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!

The Noble Joseph,

when he had taken down Thy most pure body from
the tree,

wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices
and placed it in a new tomb.

But Thou didst rise on the third day, O Lord,
granting the world great mercy.

Kontakion of the Sunday *Tone 2*

The angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the
tomb and said:

Myrrh is fitting for the dead,

But Christ has shown Himself a stranger to
corruption!

So proclaim: The Lord is risen;
granting the world mercy!

Kontakion of the Sunday *Tone 2*

Thou didst command the myrrhbearers to rejoice, O
Christ God!

By Thy resurrection, Thou didst stop the
lamentation of Eve, the first mother!

Thou didst command them to preach to Thine
apostles:

The Savior is risen from the tomb!

Kontakion of Pascha *Tone 8*

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal,

Thou didst destroy the power of death.

In victory Thou didst arise, O Christ God,

proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing
Women,//

granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing
Resurrection on the fallen.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 28) *Tone 6*

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine in
heritance!

Epistle (Acts 6:1-7)

Now in those days, when the number of the
disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint
against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because
their widows were neglected in the daily
distribution. Then the twelve summoned the
multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not
desirable that we should leave the word of God and
serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from
among you seven men of good reputation, full of
the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint
over this business; but we will give ourselves
continually to prayer and to the ministry of the
word.”

And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And
they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy
Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon,
Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,
whom they set before the apostles; and when they
had prayed, they laid hands on them.

Then the word of God spread, and the number of
the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a
great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Gospel (Mark 15:43-16:8)

Then Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council
member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom
of God, coming and taking courage, went in to
Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate
marveled that He was already dead; and
summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had
been dead for some time. So when he found out
from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.
Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and
wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a

tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and
rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And
Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph
observed where He was laid.

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene,
Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought
spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very
early in the morning, on the first day of the week,
they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And
they said among themselves, “Who will roll away
the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But
when they looked up, they saw that the stone had
been rolled away—for it was very large. And
entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in
a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they
were alarmed.

But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek
Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen!
He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.
But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is
going before you into Galilee; there you will see
Him, as He said to you.”

So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb,
for they trembled and were amazed. And they said
nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:
“Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: ‘Rejoice, your
Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
With Himself He has raised all the dead.’” Rejoice,
O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the
Lord has shone on you. Exult now, and be glad, O
Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the
Resurrection of your Son!

Communion Hymn of the Sunday

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O
Zion.



Today in Church School

Today's lesson: Orthodoxy in America Part I

Questions to ask/review:

- How did the Orthodox faith come to America?
- Who was St. Herman of Alaska? How did he share the Gospel with the native people? What miracles did St. Herman perform?
- Who was St. Innocent of Alaska? What did he do to help natives learn the Scriptures?
- What challenges were faced by missionaries to America?

Suggested activities at home:

- Learn more about the Diocese of Alaska today. A video at <https://oca.org/media/video/19th-aac-diocese-of-alaska> shows Alaskan churches and footage of those building up the church today.
- Prayer: Lord, strengthen and enlighten us to spread your Word in all of America.

“Whenever we enter the church and draw near to the heavenly mysteries, we ought to approach with all humility and fear, both because of the presence of the angelic powers and out of the reverence due to the sacred oblation; for as the Angels are said to have stood by the Lord’s body when it lay in the tomb, so we must believe that they are present in the celebration of the Mysteries of His most sacred Body at the time of consecration.” - Venerable Bede