



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, May 25
NO VIGIL THIS SATURDAY
Sunday, May 26
10:00 am Divine Liturgy



Paschal Greeting

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!
(Russian) Christos voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!
(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 Paralytic – Fourth Sunday of Pascha

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

May 19, 2019

Announcements

➤ **Today is our last session of Church school for the 2018-2019 school year.** We honor our church school students as well as our high school graduates for their diligence in attending the lessons, participating in class and enriching their faith. **Thank you to our teachers who are so dedicated** to teaching our children the Christian faith. Thank you especially to Matushka Joni, our church school chair and Dn Luke Loboda for proving the themes for the weekly lessons. May God bless all of you!

Congratulations to our High School Graduates!

- **Katarina Mertz** (Bp Canevin High School)
- **Veronika Sechler** (Canon-McMillan High School)
- **Natalie Soroka** (Moon Area High School)

➤ During coffee hour today, **Alex and Olga Noskov will give a brief presentation** about the orphanage in Russia that they visited and gave a gift to on behalf of our parish. Thank you for your generous support!

➤ **Our May hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, May 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.

➤ Fr John Parker, Dean of St Tikhon's Seminary, will be with our parish during the weekend of June 8 and 9. We would like to send him back with a significant gift for the seminary. **A mailing will sent this week about the recent growth of St Tikhon's Seminary and how we can support it.** We're asking for every family to consider a substantial gift to continue the growth of this dynamic, traditional school for church workers. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

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 George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of Michelle Bittner, Larry Polny and Jack Saban. **From Michelle Bittner** for the health of Greg (waiting for kidney transplant) and Tiffany; special intentions. **From Donya Yewisiak** for special intentions. **From Bryan** for the health of Lilia while she is away to her country. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the health of Michelle Bittner, Stephanie Fedora and Marsha Wasilko (belated birthday). **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton and Abbott Tryphon.

Why This Reading

To this point we've heard the story of the Lord's Resurrection during the Sunday gospel readings. However, today we hear a reading from John 5 as a part of the continuing lectionary from the Gospel of St John. Why are we hearing about this healing while we are still in the season of the Holy Pascha? The Synaxarion (description) of the day gives us the answer:

"It is celebrated now, because it occurred during the season of Pentecost, as did the wonders involving the Samaritan woman and the blind man. We celebrate St. Thomas and the Myrrh-Bearers in assurance of Christ's Resurrection from the dead; but we celebrate the other wonders leading up to the Ascension, because they were done at different times in the season of the Hebrew Pentecost, and because St. John, whose Gospel is read during this period, is the only Evangelist to mention them."

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.

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: Orthodoxy in America Part I

Questions to ask/review:

- What are some different Orthodox churches that exist in America today?
- While we already share the same Orthodox faith, what do we want to happen someday between these churches?
- Who was St. Tikhon? Where and how did he serve the church?
- How did the 1917 communist revolution impact the Russian Orthodox church?
- How did St. Tikhon and thousands of other Orthodox Christians face persecution in Russia?
- What do you know about the history of our St. Nicholas parish?

Suggested activities at home:

- Learn more about various jurisdictions of Orthodox churches in America. Using <https://orthodoxyinamerica.org/>, explore different types of Orthodox churches. Discuss how we share the same faith. Discuss some differences in traditions (small t!), music, or architecture.
- Prayer: Lord, build up Your Church in America, and guide us to be unified in You. Amen.



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!

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.

Kontakion of the Sunday Tone 3

By Thy divine intercession, O Lord,
as Thou didst raise up the paralytic of old,
so raise up my soul paralyzed by sins and
thoughtless acts;
so that being saved I may sing to Thee:
Glory to Thy majesty, O Boutiful Christ!

Kontakion of Pascha Tone 8

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal,
Thou didst destroy the power of death.
In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God,
proclaiming: "Rejoice!" to the Myrrhbearing Women,
granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing
Resurrection on the fallen.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 33) Tone 1

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

Epistle (Acts 9:32-42)

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all
parts of the country, that he also came down to the
saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain
man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden
eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to
him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise
and make your bed." Then he arose immediately.
So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and
turned to the Lord.

At Joppa there was a certain disciple named
Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman
was full of good works and charitable deeds which
she did. But it happened in those days that she
became sick and died. When they had washed her,
they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda
was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that
Peter was there, they sent two men to him,
imploing him not to delay in coming to them. Then
Peter arose and went with them. When he had
come, they brought him to the upper room. And all
the widows stood by him weeping, showing the
tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while
she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and
knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he
said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes,
and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave
her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had
called the saints and widows, he presented her
alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa,
and many believed on the Lord.

Gospel (John 5:1-15)

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus
went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by
the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew,
Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great
multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed,
waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel
went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred
up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after
the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever
disease he had. Now a certain man was there who
had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw
him lying there, and knew that he already had been
in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do
you want to be made well?"

The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to
put me into the pool when the water is stirred up;
but while I am coming, another steps down before
me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and
walk." And immediately the man was made well,
took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the
Sabbath.

The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It
is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your
bed."

He answered them, "He who made me well said to
me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked
him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up
your bed and walk'?" But the one who was healed
did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn,
a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus
found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you
have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse
thing come upon you."

The man departed and told the Jews that it was
Jesus who had made him well.

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

Receive the Body of Christ! Taste the Fountain of
Immortality! Praise the Lord from the heavens!
Praise Him in the Highest!

On the Resurrection

"This temporal and brief suffering, how shall it be
exchanged for the reward of a bright and eternal
honour, when, according to the word of the blessed
apostle, 'the Lord shall change the body of our
humiliation, that it may be fashioned like to the
body of His brightness!'...What now must be the
vigour, beloved brethren, of your victorious
consciousness, what the loftiness of your mind,
what exultation in feeling, what triumph in your
breast, that every one of you stands near to the
promised reward of God, are secure from the
judgment of God, walk in the mines with a body

captive indeed, but with a heart reigning, that you
know Christ is present with you, rejoicing in the
endurance of His servants, who are ascending by
His footsteps and in His paths to the eternal
kingdoms! You daily expect with joy the saving day
of your departure; and already about to withdraw
from the world, you are hastening to the rewards of
martyrdom, and to the divine homes, to behold after
this darkness of the world the purest light, and to
receive a glory greater than all sufferings and
conflicts, as the apostle witnesses, and says, 'The
sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be
compared with the glory that shall be revealed in
us.'" (*St Cyprian of Carthage*)

"Day and night
declare to us a
resurrection. The
night sinks to sleep,
and the day arises;
the day again
departs, and the night
comes on. Let us
behold the fruits of
the earth, how the
sowing of grain takes
place. The sower
goes forth, and casts
it into the ground; and
the seed being thus
scattered, though dry and naked when it fell upon
the earth, is gradually dissolved. Then out of its
dissolution the mighty power of the providence of
the Lord raises it up again, and from one seed
many arise and bring forth fruit....Having then this
hope, let our souls be bound to Him who is faithful
in His promises, and just in His judgments. He who
has commanded us not to lie, shall much more
Himself not lie...The apostles have preached the
Gospel to us from the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus
Christ has done so from God. Christ therefore was
sent forth by God, and the apostles by Christ. Both
these appointments, then, were made in an orderly
way, according to the will of God. Having therefore
received their orders, and being fully assured by
the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and
established in the word of God, with full assurance
of the Holy Ghost, they went forth proclaiming that
the kingdom of God was at hand." (*St Clement of Rome*)

