



## 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, June 5 – Ascension of Christ**

**7:00 pm** Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

**NO LITURGY ON THURSDAY**

**Saturday, June 8**

**4:30 pm** Confessions

**5:00 pm** Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

**Sunday, June 9**

**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*

**Healing of the Blind Man – Sixth Sunday of Pascha**

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

June 2, 2019

## Announcements

➤ **Fr John Parker**, Dean of St Tikhon's Seminary, will be visiting our parish during the weekend of June 8 and 9. We would like to present him with a significant gift for the seminary. **A mailing is begin given to each family today 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.



➤ The 10th anniversary of Consecration Celebration of His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek will be held on **Saturday, June 29** (the feast of Sts Peter and Paul) at **St Alexander Nevsky Cathedral** (1600 Guyton Road, Allison Park, PA 15101) at **10 AM** with a Hierarchical Liturgy and a luncheon downstairs in the church hall immediately following. **This is an open invitation and there is no charge and no RSVP required** in advance. Everyone is invited to attend this special day!



➤ We're partnering with several Orthodox Churches in Pittsburgh to begin an **Orthodox Teen Fellowship**. This ministry will engage Orthodox teenagers with meaningful activities, challenging discussions and fellowship to make connections with other teens who share their Orthodox faith in God. See Kristie Mertz for more information.

## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm: Known to be Hospitalized; Jack Saban (VA). Home: Larry Polny, 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 servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and all Veterans; for the health of family and Michelle Bittner. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of Michelle Bittner; special intention. **From Bryan** for the health of Lily for a safe return from her country this week. **From John & Olga** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov and Rachel Heuer and her child to be born. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, (cousin) John and (aunt) Julia; for the health of my family, V. Rev. Basil and Larry; special intentions. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the newly departed servants, (mother) Mary (5/26/69), (grandfather) Andrew Wasilko (5/22/54) and (aunt) Ann Panik (5/21/91); Thank you to our Veterans-past, present & future! **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, (mother) Mary (5/26/69--50 years). **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, (mother) Mary (50 yrs., 5/26/69); for the health of the Wasilko family and Michelle Bittner. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton and Abbott Tryphon; special intention.



## Thank you!

➤ to **Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** for donating all of our June monthly donations in memory of the departed servant of God, Deacon Joseph Mell. Bulletin (\$60), Holy Bread (\$50), Communion Wine (\$40), Altar Candles (\$25). Incense (\$10)

**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.**

## The Ascension

The mystery of our salvation, dearly-beloved, which the Creator of the universe valued at the price of His blood, has now been carried out under conditions of humiliation from the day of His bodily birth to the end of His Passion. And although even in the form of a slave many signs of Divinity have beamed out, yet the events of all that period served particularly to show the reality of His assumed Manhood. But after the Passion, when the chains of death were broken, which had exposed its own strength by attacking Him, Who was ignorant of sin, weakness was turned into power, mortality into eternity, contumely into glory, which the Lord Jesus Christ showed by many clear proofs in the sight of many, until He carried even into heaven the triumphant victory which He had won over the dead. As therefore at the Easter commemoration, the Lord's Resurrection was the cause of our rejoicing; so the subject of our present gladness is His Ascension, as we commemorate and duly venerate that day on which the Nature of our humility in Christ was raised above all the host of heaven, over all the ranks of angels, beyond the height of all powers, to sit with God the Father. On which Providential order of events we are founded and built up, that God's Grace might become more wondrous, when, notwithstanding the removal from men's sight of what was rightly felt to command their awe, faith did not fail, hope did not waver, love did not grow cold. For it is the strength of great minds and the light of firmly-faithful souls, unhesitatingly to believe what is not seen with the bodily sight, and there to fix one's affections whither you cannot direct your gaze. (*St Leo the Great*)



# Hymns and Readings for Today

## **Troparion** of the Resurrection Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,  
Co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born for our salvation from the Virgin.  
For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh  
to endure death  
and to raise the dead,  
by His glorious resurrection.

## **Kontakion** of the Sunday Tone 4

I come to You, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes  
and call to You in repentance:  
You are the most radiant light of those in darkness.

## **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 76) Tone 8

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

## **Epistle** (Acts 16:16-34)

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days.

But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid

many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

## **Gospel** (John 9:1-38)

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind[b] said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he."

Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."

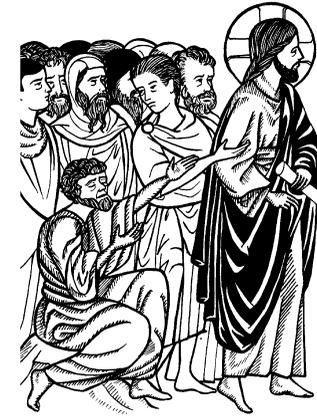
Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."



So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."

The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

## **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.