

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 12

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

Saturday, June 15

- 4:30 pm Confessions
- 5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, June 16 – Holy Pentecost

- 10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday we celebrate the Great Feast of Pentecost – the Descent of the Holy Spirit. As is our Orthodox tradition, we will richly decorate the church with green branches. **You are welcomed to join us at 8:30 am to help decorate** and you are invited to bring a freshly cut green branch from home to add it to the adornment of our temple.

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*

Fist Ecumenical Council – 7th Sunday of Pascha

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

June 9, 2019

Announcements

➤ We warmly welcome **Fr John Parker**, Dean of St Tikhon's Seminary, to our parish today and pray that God will continue to guide him as a leader and prophetic voice in the Orthodox Church, calling us to the importance of authentic Orthodox life, mission to our neighbors and evangelization to the world. May God grant him many years!

➤ 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.

➤ **Vacation Church School** week of July 8th. See Matushka Joni Soroka for details and registration!

➤ **Our June hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, June 26. 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, June 23. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm June 26 at the church hall.

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 servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family and Michelle Bittner. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of Michelle Bittner and Alise Lugin. **From Samantha Lopez** for the departed servants, Theodore, Georgia, Justin, Opal and Lydia; for the health of Lazarus and Priest Robert; for recovery from surgery and salvation of souls. **From John & Olga** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov, Rachel Heuer & her child to be born and Seraphima Kowalcheck on her birthday. **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of Natalie on her graduation from high school. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of my friend, Mary Lou; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Mat. Nancy! **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of Mat. Nancy Mell on her birthday. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants of the Wasilko & Dyczko families; for the health of the Wasilko family and Michelle Bittner; Many Years & Happy Birthday to Mat. Nancy Mell & Olga Kasnot. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton and Dave King. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Natalie Soroka on her high school graduation; special intention. **From Tatiana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Andrei, Valentina, Victor, Gina, Lida, Marina and Bruce; for the health of Tatyana, Diana, Adrianna, Edward, Sergey, Veronika, Christopher and Thomas. **From Michelle Bittner** for the health of Greg (awaiting kidney transplant), John Storoschock and Jack Saban.

Thank you!

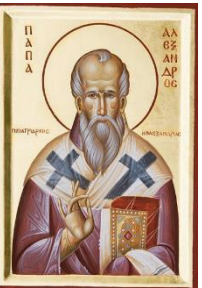
➤ **to Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** for donating all of our June monthly donations in memory of the departed servant of God, Deacon Joseph Mell. Bulletin (\$60), Holy Bread (\$50), Communion Wine (\$40), Altar Candles (\$25). Incense (\$10)

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.

False Teaching

Arius, an Alexandrian presbyter, began teaching some time before 318 that the Logos, the Word of God who became man—Jesus Christ—is not the divine Son of God. For Arius, the Son of God is not the pre-existent, eternally existing, uncreated Second Person of the Holy Trinity, but a created being—created out of nothing, like everything else, by God the Father.

According to Arius, God is not the uncreated Holy Trinity. Rather, God is the Father, the Creator, alone. For Arius, God the Father created His Logos, or Word, or Son, as the first and greatest of His creatures. This Logos then earned the right to be worshiped as God because of His constant devotion to the Father. Thus the Son became God's instrument for the salvation of the world, being born as the man Jesus. Hence, for Arius, Jesus Christ is not the uncreated, divine Son of God having exactly the same uncreated divine nature that God the Father has. Rather, He is a created being, as he also believed about the Holy Spirit.



Saint Alexander, Bishop of Alexandria (r. 312–328), tried to convince Arius to stop this teaching that directly subverted the Bible and the traditional teaching and worship of the Church. But Arius refused to desist. Instead, he appealed far and wide for support. He found his most powerful ally in Eusebius, Bishop of Nicomedia, his former classmate in the Christian school at Antioch led by Saint Lucian (d. 312). Ironically, it was this Arian-sympathizing Bishop Eusebius who eventually became the court theologian to Emperor Constantine in his later years, and who baptized him on his deathbed in 337. Arius' teaching was condemned by the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council in 325 AD when the first part of the Creed was written.

Hymns and Readings for Today

Troparion *of the Resurrection* **Tone 6**

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure
Body.
Thou didst capture hell,
not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin granting life.
O Lord who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee!

Troparion *of the Ascension* **Tone 4**

O Christ God, Thou hast ascended in glory,
granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the
Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing, they were assured
that Thou art the Son of God,
the Redeemer of the world.

Troparion *of the Holy Fathers* **Tone 8**

Most glorious art Thou, 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 Holy Fathers* **Tone 8**

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines
have established one Faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from
heavenly theology,//
It defines and glorifies the great mystery of
Orthodoxy.

Kontakion *of the Ascension* **Tone 6**

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our
sake,
and unite earth to heaven:
Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,
not being parted from those who love Thee,
but remaining with them and crying:
I am with you and no one will be against you!

Prokeimenon *(Song of the Three Youths)* **Tone 4**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our Fathers, and
praised and glorified is Thy name forever!

Epistle (Acts 20:16-18, 28-36)

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that
he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was
hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day
of Pentecost.

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the
elders of the church. And when they had come to
him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day
that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived
among you,

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the
flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you
overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He
purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that
after my departure savage wolves will come in
among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among
yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse
things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.
Therefore watch, and remember that for three
years I did not cease to warn everyone night and
day with tears.

So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to
the word of His grace, which is able to build you up
and give you an inheritance among all those who
are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or
gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that
these hands have provided for my necessities, and
for those who were with me. I have shown you in
every way, by laboring like this, that you must
support the weak. And remember the words of the
Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give
than to receive.'"

And when he had said these things, he knelt down
and prayed with them all.

Gospel (John 17:1-13)

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to
heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come.
Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify
You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh,
that He should give eternal life to as many as You
have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they

may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ
whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the
earth. I have finished the work which You have
given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me
together with Yourself, with the glory which I had
with You before the world was.

"I have manifested Your name to the men whom
You have given Me out of the world. They were
Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept
Your word. Now they have known that all things
which You have given Me are from You. For I have
given to them the words which You have given

Me; and they have received them, and have known
surely that I came forth from You; and they have
believed that You sent Me.

"I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for
those whom You have given Me, for they are
Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine,
and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in
the world, but these are in the world, and I come to
You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those
whom You have given Me, that they may be one as
We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept
them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I
have kept; and none of them is lost except the son
of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But
now I come to You, and these things I speak in the
world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in
themselves.

Hymn to the Theotokos *of the Ascension*

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life who
has ascended from earth to heaven! We magnify
the Mother of God, who beyond reason and
understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless
One!

Communion Hymn *of the Sunday*

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in
the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!
Praise befits the just!

First Ec. Council

**We celebrate the present Feast for the following
reason.** When our Lord Jesus Christ, Who wore

our flesh, had ineffably accomplished His entire
Economy, and had been restored to His Father's
Throne, the Saints, wishing to show that the Son of
God became truly man and that God became
perfect man, ascended, and sat at the right hand of
the majesty on high, and that this Synod of the Holy
Fathers thus proclaimed and confessed Him to be
one in essence and honor with the Father, decreed
for this reason that the present Feast should fall
after the glorious Ascension, exalting this assembly
of so many Fathers, as it were, for proclaiming that
He Who ascended in the flesh was true God and
perfect man in the flesh.

This Synod took place under St. Constantine the
Great, in the twentieth year of his reign (325 AD).
For, it was then that the Arian controversy began.
Arius, who hailed from Libya, went to Alexandria,
where he was ordained a Deacon by the Holy
Hieromartyr Peter of Alexandria. Thereafter, he
began to blaspheme against the Son of God,
proclaiming that He was a creature, who had come
into being from non-existence and was far removed
from the Divine dignity, and that He was called the
Wisdom and Word of God by a misuse of language.
Arius was, as he pretended, opposing the impious
Sabellios, who said that the Godhead was one
Person and one Hypostasis, being the Father at
one time, the Son at another time, and the Holy
Spirit at yet another time. When Arius uttered these
blasphemies, the great Peter deposed him from the
Priesthood, after beholding Christ as an infant on
the Holy Table, clad in a torn garment and saying
that Arius had rent it.

Since the Church was in confusion and there
appeared no remedy for this dogmatic strife, St.
Constantine the Great transported the Fathers in
question from every region of the inhabited earth, at
public expense, to Nicæa and arrived there himself.
When the charges against Arius had been read out,
both Arius and those of like mind with him were
placed under anathema. The Holy Fathers declared
the Word of God to be one in essence, one in
honor, and co-unoriginate with the Father. They
also set forth the Holy Symbol of the Faith, taking it
as far as the clause: "And in the Holy Spirit." The
ensuing clauses were completed by the Second
Ecumenical Synod.