



# 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 26

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

## Saturday, June 29

10:00 am *Festal Divine Liturgy*  
*St Alexander Nevsky Cathedral*  
*Allison Park PA*  
*Feast of Sts Peter and Paul*

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

## Sunday, June 30

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy



**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*

## First Sunday after Pentecost - All Saints Sunday

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
 OrthodoxPittsburgh.org  
 June 23, 2019

# Announcements

➤ **The Apostles Fast** begins tomorrow (Monday) and goes through this Friday, June 28. The reason for the Apostles Fast is, after having received the Holy Spirit (Pentecost), we are **preparing us to undertake the mission given to all of us – to witness to the truth of Christ to the entire world.** It is a very ancient fast, and was already well known in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Use this time to recommit your life to speak the words of God to the world as you fast from meat and dairy.

➤ The 10th anniversary of Consecration Celebration of His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek will be held this **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!

➤ **Vacation Church School** week of July 8<sup>th</sup>. 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:* Georgiann Robes (Sewickley), Jack Saban (VA). *Home:* Helen Billak, Katarnia Mertz (post-partum),. *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 Helen Billak; Happy Birthday Eleanor Kovacs. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, John, John, Nicholas and Nicholas; for the health of Nicholas; special intentions. **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of Natalie, Jacqueline and Melanie; safe travels. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, (father) Charles, (grandfathers) Theodore Dyczko & Andrew Wasilko and (brother) Ray; Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday & Many Years to Eleanor Kovacs! **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, (father) Charles Wasilko and (godfather) Joe Dichko. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, (uncle) Bill Falick and Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of Helen Billak & family and Larry & Suzy Polny on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary-Many Years! **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; special intention. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Helen, Paul & Sasha Henry, Larry & Suzy Polny –Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Natalie Soroka- safe travels, Eleanor Kovacs on her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday-God grant her many years. **From Alben Ivanova** for the departed servants, Mak Stanchev and Sonya Kancheva. **From Michelle Bittner** for the health of Helen, Jack, Tiffany and Greg. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for our departed fathers, Stephen & John; for the health of (husband) John, Helen Billak and Michelle Bittner. **From Tatiana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Andrei, Valentina, Lida and Marina; for the health of Tatyana, Diana, Adrianna, Edward, Megan, Ailene, Christopher and Thomas.

# 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.**

# Types of Saints

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for humans to be saintly. Saint means “holy one.”

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints lists six categories of saints: “Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous....” The order of six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament.

The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons.

The last category, the Righteous, are those who attained holiness of life while living “in the world.” Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Saints Joachim and Anna, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, Saint Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

# Hymns and Readings for Today

## **Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 8**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!  
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us  
from our sufferings!  
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: Glory to Thee.

## **Troparion of All Saints Tone 4**

As with fine porphyry and royal purple,  
Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyr's  
blood shed throughout all the world.  
She cries to Thee, O Christ God:  
Send down Thy bounties on Thy people.  
Grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to  
our souls.

## **Kontakion of All Saints Tone 8**

The universe offers Thee the God-bearing martyrs  
as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator.  
By their prayers keep Thy Church, Thy habitation,  
in abiding peace,  
through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One.

## **Prokeimenon of the Sunday (Psalm 76) Tone 8**

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

## **Prokeimenon of All Saints (Psalm 67) Tone 4**

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel!

## **Epistle (Heb 11:33-12:1)**

...who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked  
righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the  
mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire,  
escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness  
were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned  
to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received  
their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured,  
not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a  
better resurrection. Still others had trial of  
mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and  
imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn  
in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword.  
They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins,  
being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the

world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts  
and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony  
through faith, did not receive the promise, God  
having provided something better for us, that they  
should not be made perfect apart from us.  
Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so  
great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every  
weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us,  
and let us run with endurance the race that is set  
before us looking unto Jesus, the author and  
finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set  
before Him endured the cross, despising the  
shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the  
throne of God.

## **Gospel (Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30)**

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I  
will also confess before My Father who is in  
heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I  
will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

He who loves father or mother more than Me is not  
worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter  
more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who  
does not take his cross and follow after Me is not  
worthy of Me.

Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we  
have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall  
we have?" So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say  
to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of  
Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have  
followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging  
the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has  
left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother  
or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake,  
shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.  
But many who are first will be last, and the last first.



# Prayer and Saints

Orthodox Christians pray not only to God, but also to  
the Mother of God and the saints. This practice of  
prayer in the Orthodox Church differs from, for  
example, the practice of Protestant communities.  
Protestants do not recognize prayer to the Mother of  
God and the saints. They say: we do not need  
intermediaries to approach God. This is a fair remark  
– we do not need “intermediaries” – but the conclusion  
drawn therefrom is wrong. After all, we don't pray to  
the Mother of God as to a kind of middle tier between  
us and God; we pray to her because she is the Mother  
of God, because it is impossible to separate her from  
her Divine Son.

When the Lord was on the Cross, His beloved disciple  
stood next to Him, and He said to her: Woman, behold  
thy son! And to his disciple He said: Behold thy  
Mother (John 19: 26-27). He thereby, as it were, gave  
over not only to his beloved disciple, but to all His  
disciples, her protection and care. From that moment  
she, as the Mother of her Son, also became the  
Mother of His followers, that is, the Mother of the  
Church. And we turn to her as to our Mother and the  
Mother of the Church. We say in prayer to the Mother  
of God: “Most Holy Theotokos, save us.” This doesn't  
mean that we consider her to be our savior. The  
Savior is Christ. But we confess her involvement in the  
mystery of salvation, her participation in this mystery.  
And we understand that salvation is possible for us  
because the Mother of God expressed her agreement  
with the word of God

The tradition of the veneration of saints in the  
Christian Church is very ancient; it has existed from  
the very moment of the Church's appearance, from  
the first years of its existence. Christian churches in  
antiquity were built on the graves of martyrs. And it  
was the blood of martyrs, according to the words of  
one ancient ecclesial writer, that was the “seed of  
Christianity”; that is, Christianity spread through the  
exploit of the martyrs.

The martyrs are people who showed by the example  
of their own life and death that man can repeat  
Christ's exploit; that earthly man, for all his

weaknesses and infirmities, can likewise sacrifice  
himself for people and for God, as did Jesus Christ.  
He who offered himself in sacrifice became a spiritual  
hero in the eyes of other people, especially in the eyes  
of those who knew him. The veneration of this saint  
began immediately after his death. The tradition has  
been preserved to the present day according to which  
an Orthodox church must have at least a small part of  
a saint. One should not perform the Divine Liturgy  
on a simple table: it is to be performed on a Holy  
Table or special board into which part of the relics of a  
saint is sewn. The reason for this is that martyrs and  
saints are the foundation upon which the Christian  
Church is built. We pray to saints because these were  
people who, although they were like us, thanks to the  
exploit of their lives attained deification, becoming like  
Christ. We pray to them because they followed the  
path that we are trying to follow. And the experience of  
many Christians witnesses to the fact that the saints  
hear our prayers and answer them.

Unfortunately, some people regard the saints rather  
like the pagans regarded their gods: on the principle of  
“what saint can help with what.” Such people go to  
church and ask: “To what saint should I put up a  
candle in order to get an apartment?” “To what saint  
should I pray for a toothache,” etc. We should  
remember that the saints are not some kind of idols  
from which one can obtain something special. The  
saints are not specialists in finding apartments, in  
curing toothaches, or other similar things. There are,  
of course, saints who were doctors during their lives,  
and we turn to them with appeals for healing, such as  
the Holy Great-Martyr Panteleimon. And, indeed,  
through the prayers of such saints many healings do  
occur. But by no means should one regard the saints  
as a sort of fetish: we shouldn't replace prayer to the  
saints, as to people who attained spiritual perfection  
and who can help us in prayer, with prayer to the  
saints as some sort of idols that are needed only for  
attaining specific help.

The saints are above all our heavenly friends, who  
can help us progress on the path to salvation, on the  
path to God. And only secondarily are saints those  
that can help us in specific everyday matters.

