



Welcome!

Whether you are searching for a new church home or just visiting, we are 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

Today after the Divine Liturgy

Trisagion for the Departed
In memory of Archpriest Vladimir Soroka and Priest Joseph Nakajima

There will be no services for the feast of the Transfiguration (Aug 5/6). We encourage you to visit Holy Transfiguration Monastery for their pilgrimage.

Saturday, August 10

No Saturday Vespers/Vigil

Sunday, August 11

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*

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

August 4, 2019

Announcements

➤ **We warmly welcome Fr Joseph Wargo** who is leading us in the Divine Liturgy this morning. Fr Joseph is the father of our own Reader James Wargo. We are happy to have him here with us today and wish him and his family all of God's choicest blessings, good health and many blessed years!

➤ During the summer months, let us continue to offer **worship and praise to God every Sunday** in thanksgiving for the continued blessings He richly pours out on us. In this way, God is glorified, we sustain our faith, and we become an example to others. Traveling this summer? Seek out a church to visit on Sunday morning at orthodoxyinamerica.org.

➤ **Please see the ad in today's bulletin** from our new "Orthodox Teen Fellowship." They'll be helping to create and pack backpacks for underprivileged children who are going back to school. They need your help! See Annaliese Mertz or Nathanael Cassidy for information about how you can help!

➤ **Bible Study** begins up again on Wednesday, August 14. All are welcomed to learn with us!

➤ **Christoph and Kristie Mertz** would like to invite the parish to their home between 12:00pm and 8:30pm on **Sunday August 11, 2019** to celebrate the baptism of their grandson Oliver and the high school graduation of their daughter Katarina: 2055 Kearns Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15205.

➤ **While Fr Thomas is away**, please feel free to contact him at frthomas@orthodoxpittsburgh.org and he will respond as soon as possible or text him for emergencies at 412-336-8596.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm: Known to be hospitalized (none).** Home: Helen Billak, Jack Saban *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home*: Olga Bednar, Garnette Kerchum, Georgiann Robes, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **Vigil Lights from From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family, Michelle Bittner, Helen Billak Henry and John Righetti. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, Alise Lugin; for the health of Michelle Bittner and Helen Billak. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, Valentina Barsom and Archimandrite Pitirim; for the health of Michelle Bittner, Helen Billak, John Righetti & Georgiann Robes. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha, Helen Billak, Michelle Bittner and Georgiann Robes. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servants, Fr. Vladimir Soroka (8/4/05) & Reader Leonard Soroka; for the health of Hugh & JoAnn Conley- congratulations on their marriage. **From Michelle Bittner** for the health of Greg (kidney transplant) and Helen Henry; special intentions. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton. **From Carol Horan** for the health of (sister) Susan. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servant, (uncle) Michael; for the health of my family, in thanksgiving; special intentions. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of Helen Billak and John Righetti. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the health of Helen Billak, Michelle Bittner and our family.

Thank You

➤ to our August donors! **Donya Yewisiak** for Holy Bread (\$50) and Altar Candles (\$25) in memory of father, Fr Vladimir Soroka. **Fr Thomas and Matushka Joni Soroka** for Incense (\$10) for the health of daughter, Natalie, on her 18th birthday.

Weak Faith

All evil comes from weak faith. Feebleness and dwindle of faith lead to the destitution of virtue and the enriching of evil. How deprived contemporary Christians are of the great wealth of the virtues that were so abundant in the first centuries of Christianity! Love for God was then so fervent that many Christians of their own free will gave themselves over to the persecutors of the faith for torture; indeed, at times there were not enough executioners to put them all to death. Love for one's neighbor was likewise so ardent in these blessed ones that Clement of Alexandria wrote that he knew Christians who not only sold their property in order to give alms, but even sold themselves into slavery, only that they might be able to help their brothers.

Can the faith of ancient and contemporary Christians be compared? Truly, all contemporary evil comes from weakness of faith. If one cuts the branches from a tree, they may grow back; but if the root is cut the tree quickly dies. What the root is to the tree, faith is to the soul. It nourishes the soul and enables it to grow and bear fruit, and for this reason is called the root of immortality. If a Christian lives, he lives by faith, as says the Apostle Paul: The just shall live by faith (Rom. 1:17). Though such a man should come under attack from all the powers of hell, he will easily be able to put them to flight. With the help of faith man achieves perfection in the virtues. If, however, the root of faith is cut, not only do the fruits, that is, the virtues, quickly die, but also the leaves – that by which a Christian is outwardly distinguishable from other people.

The falcon who is born free, who is accustomed to fly in the pure and open air, and who has tremendous power in his beak and talons – how can he endure being controlled, prodded with a stick, and held in captivity? Will he not defend himself with beak and talon? So also the Christian who knows that sin is repugnant to God and worse than any calamity, and who confesses that the God – man Jesus was crucified in order to destroy sin – how can such a Christian sin? Many Christians think that sin is a childishly innocent evil, and not especially great. (*St Nikodemus the Hagorite*)

Hymns and Readings for Today

August 4, 2019

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 St Nicholas Tone 4

You appeared to your flock as a rule of faith,
an image of humility, and a teacher of abstinence.
Because of your lowliness heaven was opened to you!
Because of your poverty riches were granted to you!
O holy Bishop Nicholas,
pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 6

When Christ God the Giver of Life
raised all the dead from the valleys of misery with
His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.
He is the Savior of All, the Resurrection, the Life,
and the God of all.

Kontakion of the Theotokos Tone 6

Steadfast protectress of Christians,
constant advocate before the creator,
do not despise the cry of us sinners,
but in your goodness come speedily to help us who
call on you in faith.
Hasten to hear our intercessions and to intercede
for us, O Theotokos
For you always protect those who honor you.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 27/28:9) Tone 6

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!

Epistle (Romans 15:1-7)

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Gospel (Matthew 9:27-35)

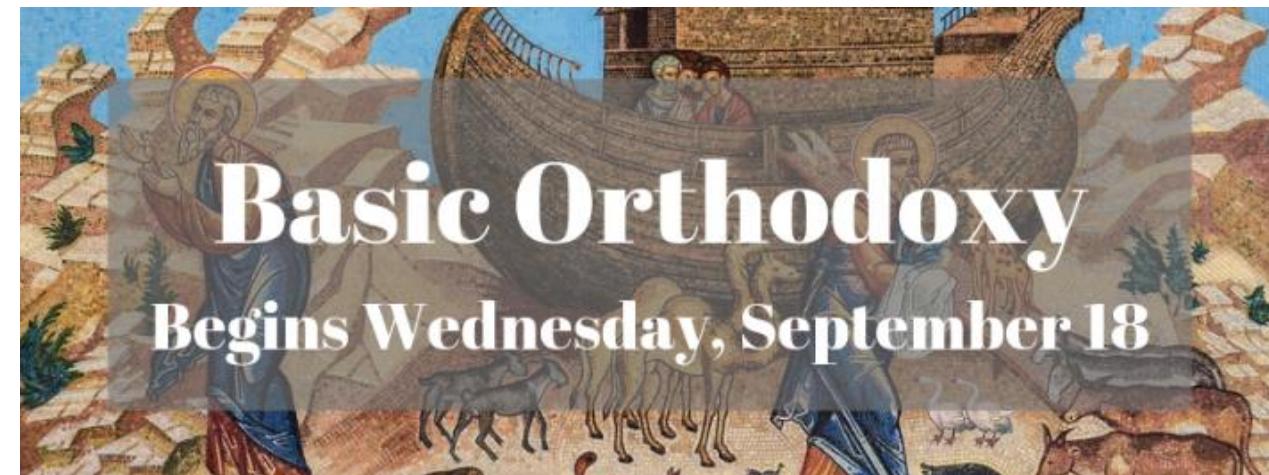
When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!" But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons."

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.



Five one-hour sessions will be perfect for inquirers, new Orthodox Christians, or Orthodox Christians who want to learn more about their faith in an interactive presentation at 7:00 pm. Vespers at 6:30 pm.