



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

Saturday, September 7

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Litya and Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, September 8 – Nativity of the Theotokos

10:00 am Festal 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*

11th Sunday after Pentecost/Church New Year

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org September 1, 2019

Announcements

➤ **Slavic Food Fest News:** "We thank you! We appreciate those who responded to **the Basket Auction donation requests**. Your donations have been amazing! We now have several items either in-hand or promised. If you have yet to offer an item, completed basket or Gift Card, please consider doing so **this next week**. There is still a lot of room on the Auction table! Please see Lindy Hamilton, Marsha Wasilko or Suzy Polny. Your Basket Auction Committee"

➤ **Church School begins next Sunday, September 8** immediately after Communion. Let's encourage our students to learn more about God so that they can draw closer to Him.

➤ **Adult Education** will begin on **Sunday morning, September 15** at 9:15 am and will be held on the **first and third Sundays of the month** in the Parish House meeting room.

➤ Fr Thomas will be giving a brief presentation on the **Orthodox understanding of the Eucharist** as part of an ecumenical panel of speakers next Sunday, September 8 beginning at 2:00 pm at Roots of Faith, 800 Main Street, Sharpsburg PA 15215 (near the Pittsburgh Zoo). Everyone is welcomed to attend.

➤ Our five-part series, "**Basic Orthodoxy**" will begin on Wednesday, September 18 at 7:00 pm, covering the basic beliefs and practices of the Orthodox Faith. This class is perfect for those seeking to enter the Orthodox Faith or anyone wanting to learn more about Orthodoxy. Join us!

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 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. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants of the Wasilko & Dyczko families; for the health of the Wasilko family and Michelle Bittner. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha, Helen Billak, Michelle Bittner and Jack Saban. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of Michelle Bittner and Paul & Helen Henry. **From John & Olga** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov and Rachel Heuer & her child to be born. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; special intention. **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Bruce, Marina, Valentina and Alina; for the health of Tatyana Veronika, Diana, Andreia, Adick and Sergei. **From Stephanie Kluter Rael** for the departed servant, Marina Markos Kluter. **From Stephen Meno** for the departed servants, (parents) Stephen & Sophia and (brother) Joseph; special intentions. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servant, (mother) Amelia-Memory Eternal; for the health of Stephen Meno; special intentions. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for our departed parents; for the health of Michelle Bittner and our family.

Thank You

➤ Our September monthly donors will appear in next week's bulletin.

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.

Church New Year

Why is September 1 the Church New Year?

First, because it is the new year according to the old Roman (Byzantine) Empire.

Second, the Church celebrates because on this day our Lord Jesus Christ went to the Synagogue of the Jews, and was given the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, as Luke the Evangelist writes (Lk. 4). And when the Lord opened the scroll - O the wonder! - He found that place, namely the sixty-first chapter of Isaiah, in which it says the following words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." When the Lord read these words, He rolled up the scroll and gave it to the attendant. Then He sat down and said to the people: "Today the words of this prophecy have been fulfilled in your hearing." Hearing this, the people were astounded by these graceful words which came out of His mouth, as Luke the Evangelist writes.

There is also a third reason why the Church remembers the *Indiction* today, and celebrates the beginning of the new year: that is, in the hymns and prayers which we offer to God on this feast, we ask that God be gracious to us and bless the new year, and that He grant it prosperity and full of all the physical good things. And that He illumine our intellects, that we pass the entire year in purity and with a good conscience, and that we be well pleasing to God by keeping His commandments, so that by this we may acquire eternal heavenly good things.

Hymns and Readings for Today

September 1, 2019

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead!
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out:
O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

Troparion of the Feast Tone 2

O Creator of the Universe,
Thou didst appoint times by Thine own power;
bless the crown of this year with Thy goodness,
O Lord!
Preserve in safety Thy rulers and Thy cities:://
and through the intercessions of the Theotokos,
save us!

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 2

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Thy resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld
this and rejoiced with Thee!
And the world, O my Savior, praises Thee
forever!

Kontakion of the feast Tone 4

O Creator and Master of time and the ages,
Triune and Merciful God of all:
grant blessings for the course of this year,

and in Thy boundless mercy save those who
worship Thee and cry out in fear://
O Savior, grant blessings to all mankind!

Prokeimenon of the feast (Ps 146/147:5) Tone 3

Great is our Lord and abundant in power! His
understanding is beyond measure

Epistle (I Corinthians 9:2-12)

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I
am to you. For you are the seal of my
apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those
who examine me is this: Do we have no right to
eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along
a believing wife, as do also the other apostles,
the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it
only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain
from working? Who ever goes to war at his own
expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not
eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does
not drink of the milk of the flock?

Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does
not the law say the same also? For it is written
in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox
while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is
concerned about? Or does He say it altogether
for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is
written, that he who plows should plow in hope,
and he who threshes in hope should be partaker
of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for
you, is it a great thing if we reap your material
things? If others are partakers of this right over
you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we
have not used this right, but endure all things
lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

Gospel (Matthew 18:23-35)

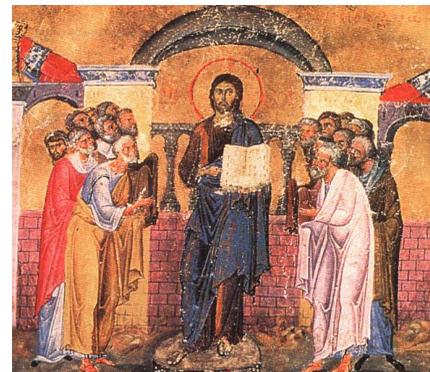
Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a
certain king who wanted to settle accounts with
his servants. And when he had begun to settle
accounts, one was brought to him who owed

him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able
to pay, his master commanded that he be sold,
with his wife and children and all that he had,
and that payment be made. The servant
therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master,
have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'
Then the master of that servant was moved with
compassion, released him, and forgave him the
debt.

But that servant went out and found one of his
fellow servants who owed him a hundred
denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him
by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So
his fellow servant fell down at his feet and
begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and
I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went
and threw him into prison till he should pay the
debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had
been done, they were very grieved, and came
and told their master all that had been done.
Then his master, after he had called him, said to
him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that
debt because you begged me. Should you not
also have had compassion on your fellow
servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his
master was angry, and delivered him to the
torturers until he should pay all that was due to
him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if
each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his
brother his trespasses.

Communion Hymns of the Sunday

Bless the crown of the year with Thy goodness,
O Lord! (Ps 64/65:11 Alleluia!)



Forgiving Others

"If a man insults me, kills my father, my
mother, my brother, and then gouges out my
eye, as a Christian it is my duty to forgive him.
We who are pious Christians ought to love our
enemies and forgive them. We ought to offer
them food and drink, and entreat God for their
souls. And then we should say: 'My God, I
beseech Thee to forgive me, as I have forgiven
my enemies.'" (St Kosmos Aitolos)

"Do not allow the spark of discord and enmity to
smolder. The longer you wait, the more the
enemy tries to cause confusion among you. Be
watchful, so that he does not mock you.
Humility destroys all of his schemes." (St.
Macarius of Optina)

"The drunkard, the fornicator, the proud—he
will receive God's mercy. But he who does not
want to forgive, to excuse, to justify consciously,
intentionally ... that person closes himself to
eternal life before God, and even more so in the
present life. He is turned away and not heard
[by God]." (Elder Sampson)

"Absolutely nothing will help us if we are not
lenient toward the weaknesses of men and
forgive them. For how can we hope that God will
forgive us if we do not forgive others?" (St.
Nikolai Velimirovich)

"Christ prayed for those that crucified Him:
'Father, count not this sin against them; they
know not what they do.' Archdeacon Stephen
prayed for those who stoned him so that the
Lord would not judge this sin against them. And
so we, if we wish to retain grace, must pray for
our enemies. If you do not find pity on a sinner
who will suffer in flames, then you do not carry
the grace of the Holy Spirit, but rather an evil
spirit; and while you yet live, you must free
yourself from his clutches through repentance."
(St. Silouan the Athonite)