



## 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

**Wednesday, September 11**

**6:30 pm** Daily Vespers

**7:00 pm** Bible Study

**Friday, September 13**

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

**Saturday, September 14 Exaltation of the Cross**

**9:30 am** Festal Divine Liturgy

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

**Sunday, September 15**

**9:15 am** Adult Education

**10:00 am** Divine Liturgy

**After Liturgy** ...Church School



*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*

**Sunday before the Cross Exaltation/Nativity of the Theotokos**

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

September 8, 2019

## Announcements

➤ We are seeking someone to donate the flowers to **adorn the Precious Cross** for the feast (\$75)

➤ **Slavic Food Fest News:** We need more 'STUFF'! Our Basket Auction needs more good 'STUFF, new 'STUFF,' extra 'STUFF', Gift Cards too. Please bring any items for baskets next Sunday! All can be placed on the Fellowship Hall back door table or given to your Basket Committee: Marsha Wasilko, Lindy Hamilton or Suzy Polny. Your donations are greatly appreciated!. REMEMBER, TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE! We request completed baskets be brought in by Sunday, Sept. 29th. Thank you! Your Basket Auction Committee"

➤ **Adult Education** will begin next **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 today 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, Michelle Bittner and Helen Billak Henry. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of Michelle Bittner; special intention. **From Doris Wasilko** for the health of Michelle Bittner and Helen Billak. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha, Helen Billak and Michelle Bittner. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants (parents) Charles and Mary. **From John & Olga** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov, Daniel Kowalcheck on his birthday and Rachel Heuer & her child to be born. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton and Elizabeth Hamilton. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Michelle Bittner. **From Michelle Bittner** for the health of Helen Henry and Gregory; special intentions. **From Alina** for the departed servant, Gennadii. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the health of Helen Billak, Michelle Bittner and our family.

## Thank You

➤ to Sandi Tirpak for donating all of the monthly categories for September, for the health of her family and in memory of her departed family members.



*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.*

## Nativity of the Virgin

Our Lady the Theotokos was a descendant through her father Joachim of the royal tribe of David. Because a child was not born to him, and he was reproached for this, for this reason he did not cease offering to God a double portion of his gifts, being that he was wealthy and a lover of God. Her mother Anna, who also was a descendant of the royal tribe of David, was more noble than anyone else in both her body and her soul.

Because they both grieved over the reproach of childlessness, Joachim went to a mountain, and Anna went into the garden. And both supplicated God with tears to grant them the fruit of the womb. For this they were granted what they longed for, and gave birth to Mary the Theotokos, who is more saintly than all the saints. And so they bore an incomparable and most-excellent beautiful child, for she exceeded all the beautiful children of humanity. Truly they were blessed for their virtuous and God-loving judgment, rather they became more blessed by the incomparable grace and divine childbirth of which they were made worthy. For by their daughter, namely the Ever-virgin Mary, the birth of the Son of God took place.

Now in what manner Anna was of the royal tribe of David, we will now reveal briefly. Mathan was of the twenty-third generation after David (or more precisely the twenty-seventh according to the genealogy of the Evangelist Matthew). He took a wife named Maria who was of the tribe of Judah, and gave birth to a son named Jacob, the father of Joseph the Betrothed, and three daughters: Maria, Sobe and Anna. Maria gave birth to Salome the midwife, Sobe gave birth to Elizabeth, and Anna gave birth to the Theotokos. Thus Salome, Elizabeth and the Theotokos are grandchildren of Mathan and his wife Maria, and first cousins between themselves.

# Hymns and Readings for Today

September 8, 2019

## **Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 3**

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm!

He has trampled down death by death!

He has become the first born of the dead!

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to the world great mercy.

## **Troparion of the Nativity Tone 4**

Thy nativity, O Virgin,

has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!

The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,  
has shone from Thee, O Theotokos.

By annulling the curse,

He bestowed a blessing.

By destroying death, He has granted us eternal  
life.

## **Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 3**

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O  
Merciful One,

leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;

with the prophets and patriarchs

they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of  
Thy power!

## **Kontakion of the Nativity of the Theotokos Tone 4**

By thy nativity, most pure Virgin,

Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness,  
Adam and Eve -- from the corruption of death.

And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin,  
celebrate and sing to thee:

“The barren woman gives birth to the  
Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

## **Prokeimenon of the Sunday Before (Ps 27) Tone 6**

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine  
inheirance.

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

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

## **Epistle of the Sunday before Exaltation (Gal 6:11-18)**

See with what large letters I have written to you  
with my own hand! As many as desire to make a  
good showing in the flesh, these would compel  
you to be circumcised, only that they may not  
suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For  
not even those who are circumcised keep the  
law, but they desire to have you circumcised  
that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid  
that I should boast except in the cross of our  
Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been  
crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ  
Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision  
avails anything, but a new creation.

## **Epistle of the Feast (Philippians 2:5-11)**

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ  
Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not  
consider it robbery to be equal with God, but  
made Himself of no reputation, taking the form  
of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of  
men. And being found in appearance as a man,  
He humbled Himself and became obedient to the  
point of death, even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and  
given Him the name which is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should  
bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth,  
and of those under the earth, and that every  
tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **Gospel of the Sunday Before Exaltation (Jn 3:13-17)**

No one has ascended to heaven but He who  
came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man  
who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the  
serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son  
of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in  
Him should not perish but have eternal life. For

God so loved the world that He gave His only  
begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him  
should not perish but have everlasting life. For  
God did not send His Son into the world to  
condemn the world, but that the world through  
Him might be saved.

## **Gospel of the Feast (Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28)**

Now it happened as they went that He entered a  
certain village; and a certain woman named  
Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she  
had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’  
feet and heard His word. But Martha was  
distracted with much serving, and she  
approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not  
care that my sister has left me to serve alone?  
Therefore tell her to help me.”

And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha,  
Martha, you are worried and troubled about  
many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary  
has chosen that good part, which will not be  
taken away from her.”

And it happened, as He spoke these things, that  
a certain woman from the crowd raised her  
voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that  
bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!”

But He said, “More than that, blessed are those  
who hear the word of God and keep it!”

## **Hymn to the Theotokos of the Nativity Tone 8**

Magnify, O my soul, the most glorious birth of  
the Mother of God!

Virginity is foreign to mothers;  
childbearing is strange for virgins.

But in thee, O Theotokos, both were  
accomplished.

Therefore all we nations of the earth  
unceasingly magnify thee.

## **Communion Hymns of the Sunday and Feast**

Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in  
the highest. I will drink the cup of salvation and  
call on the name of the Lord. Alleluia!

# Today in Church School

**Today's lesson:** St Paul's Letter to the Romans

## **Questions to ask/review:**

- What is another name we use for the Church? (the Body of Christ)
- What are examples of ministries within the body of Christ?
- How are the ministries of the Church similar to our own bodies?
- What talents do you have? How can you use your talents in the Church?

## **Suggested activities at home:**

- Read and discuss this week's Scripture verse (12:4-5): “For as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”
- Review the parts of our body and their functions. Discuss how the Church is similar.
- Sing the song “Father Abraham, had many sons, and many sons had Father Abraham”
- Visit the sick, write a get-well card, or perform service to someone else in the Church this week.
- Prayer: Lord, make me a useful member of your body. Amen.

