



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 18

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

7:00 pm Basic Orthodoxy: Session 1 of 5

Saturday, September 21

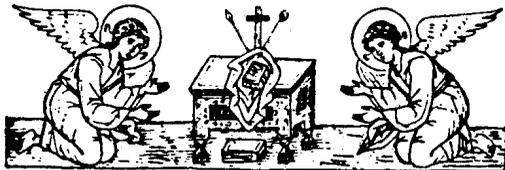
5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, September 22

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 After the Universal Exaltation of the Cross

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org September 15, 2019

Announcements

➤ 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!

➤ **Slavic Food Fest News:** Do you have a favorite restaurant, theater, golf course or grocery store? A gift card from any of these would be an excellent donation to the Slavic Food Festival Basket Auction! Please consider it! 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 Lindy Hamilton, Marsha Wasilko and Suzy Polny.

➤ **Our September hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, September 25. 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, September 22. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm September 25 at the church hall.

➤ Sunday morning **Adult Education** will be held on the **first and third Sundays of the month** at 9:15 am in the Parish House meeting room. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized* Eleanor Kovacs. *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 departed servant, John Shaytar; for the health of Michelle Bittner. **From Doris Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family, Michelle Bittner and Helen Billak. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, (mother) Mary; for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha, Helen Billak and Michelle Bittner. **From Marsha Wasilko** in remembrance of 9/11/2001. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, Amelia, John, Theodore, John, Nicholas and Nicholas. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the departed servant, (twin brother) Russell (9/9/17); for the health of Victoria Scott, Elaine Hamilton and Elizabeth Hamilton. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servant, Reader Leonard (6 months). **From Michelle Bittner** for the health of Helen Billak Henry, Greg (awaiting transplant) and Sasha; special intentions..

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.
➤ to **James and Jessica Wargo** for donating the flowers which adorn the Precious Cross and to Matushka Nakajima for decorating it so beautifully.

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.

Today in Church School

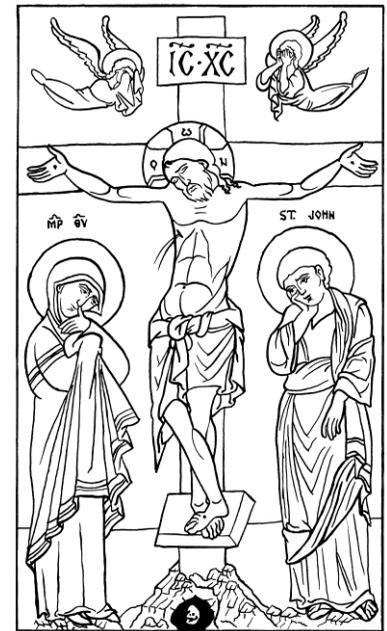
Today's lesson: St Paul's Letter to the Romans

Questions to ask/review:

- Why should we obey the laws?
- Where does Paul say that government power comes from?
- How are many laws similar to God's laws? Give examples from the Ten Commandments.

Suggested activities at home:

- Read and discuss this week's Scripture verse (13:1): "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."
- Visit a police station or discuss the role of police in your community.
- Review and memorize the Ten Commandments.
- Prayer: Lord, we pray for all civil authorities and government officials, that they may rule our country wisely according to Your will.



Hymns and Readings for Today

September 15, 2019

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 4

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion of the Cross Tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

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 4

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion of the Feast Tone 4

As Thou wast voluntarily crucified for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy name. Make all Orthodox Christian glad by Thy power,

granting them victories over their adversaries by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace.

Instead of Holy God

Before Thy cross we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify!

Prokeimenon (Psalm 98:5) Tone 7

Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy.

Epistle of the Sunday after the Elevation (Gal 2:16-20)

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Epistle of the Sunday (I Corinthians 16:13-24)

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love.

I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.

I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

The salutation with my own hand—Paul’s. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Gospel of Sunday after the Elevation (Mark 8:34-9:1)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 21:33-42)

“Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat

one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?”

They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’”

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious cross of the Lord. You are the mystical paradise, O Theotokos, in which Christ blossomed. Through Him, the life-bearing wood of the cross was planted on earth. Now at its elevation, as we bow in worship before it, we magnify you.

Communion Hymns of the Sunday and Feast

Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest. The light of Thy countenance has shown on us, O Lord. Alleluia!



Slavic Food Fest 2019

We are seeking financial donors and supporters for our upcoming Slavic Food Fest on October 12. Please consider sponsoring one of these Festival items:

- **Advertising:** \$300
- **Halupki:** \$300
- **Kolbassi and Kraut:** \$200
- **Chicken Shashlik:** \$150
- **Noodle Halushki:** \$75
- **Soups** (made by Food Committee): \$100
- **Beverages:** (soda, water, ice): \$100
- **Purchase of outdoor portable grill:** \$300
- **Miscellaneous donations**

will also be deeply appreciated

Please see Donya Yewisiak today to see how you can help. Thank you!

The Cross Prefigured

"Although to Adam it was said, 'For the day you eat of it, you must die,' today you have been faithful. Today will bring you salvation. The tree brought ruin to Adam; the tree [of life] shall bring you into paradise. Fear not the serpent; he shall not cast you out, for he has fallen from heaven. I say not to you, 'This day you shall depart,' but 'This day you shall be with Me.'" **St Cyri of Jerusalem**, *Catechetical Lectures*. c 360 AD

"The whole mystery of faith can be seen in the story of Isaac. The lamb is fixed to the tree, suspended by its horns: the first-born carried upon him the wood for the sacrifice. He, then, who upholds the universe by the word of his power, is the same who bears the burden of our wood, and is hung up on the wood, upholding as God, and carried as the lamb, the Holy Spirit having in figure divided the mystery between the two, the only son and the lamb who appears at his side. In the lamb is revealed the mystery of death and in the only son the life which will never be cut short." **St Gregory of Nyssa**, *Homilies on the Resurrection*. c 380 AD

"Elisha threw a piece of wood into the stream of the Jordan. By this means, he retrieved from the water the iron of the axe with which the sons of the prophets wished to cut the wood to build their house. So our Christ has ransomed us at Baptism from our heaviest sins by His crucifixion on the wood and Baptism in the water," **St Justin Martyr**, *Dialogue with Trypho* .c. 150 AD.

"It is plain then that the Lord, in obedience to the Father, endured death on the same day in which Adam died (*Friday*), disobeying God. This day accordingly our Lord would go over again with the rest in his own person, and so came to his Passion on the day before the Sabbath, which is the sixth day of creation, on which man was formed: by his Passion conferring on man a second formation, that which is out of death." **St Ignatius of Antioch**, *Against the Heretics*. c 100 AD

Exaltation of the Cross

Exalting Thee [from] the throat, O Savior, Creation sees the Cross exalted. On the fourteenth the Wood of the Cross is exalted.

Constantine the Great and Equal to the Apostles, first among the emperors of ancient Rome, accepted Christianity. While in the midst of battle, according to some against Magnentius in Rome, or according to others against the Scythians at the Danube River*, he saw that the armies of the enemy were greater in number than his own, and this caused distress and fear. Finding himself in this situation, there appeared in the afternoon the form of the Cross in the sky, marked by stars. And encircling the Cross were letters, also inscribed by stars in Roman, namely Latin letters, which said the following: "Conquer by this."

Straightway there was fashioned a Cross, like the one that appeared in the sky, and he ordered for it to go before the army. Engaging the enemy, they mightily conquered, to the point that most of them were killed. The others left in fear. The power of the Crucified One was therefore understood by this miracle, and he believed that He was the true God, and he was baptized with his mother.

He then sent his mother Helen to Jerusalem, first of all, to venerate and honor with more brilliance the life-giving Tomb of the Lord, and the rest of the Holy Land. Also, to hastily seek and find the honorable Cross of the God-man Savior. For this she investigated with fervent longing, and she found it hidden. Likewise she found the two crosses on which the thieves were crucified. She also found the nails. The empress was confused, however, as to which of three was the Cross of the Lord. She discovered which it was by a miracle, when it raised a dead widow

woman after the Cross of the Lord touched her. The other two crosses of the thieves did not perform the miracle.**

Then she kissed and venerated the honorable Cross with great reverence and faith, not only the empress Helen, but also all the officials with her. Because all the Christians sought to kiss and venerate it, it was not possible to fulfill their desire due to the large crowd, so they sought alternatively to merely see the sweet vision of the honorable Cross, and so by this vision their longing would be satisfied. Wherefore the then blessed Patriarch of Jerusalem Makarios went up onto the ambon, and lifted high with his two hands the honorable Cross, showing it to all the Christians found below. Straightway when they saw it, together they cried out from their heart: "Lord have mercy." From then on it was established by the most divine and God-inspired Fathers of the Church, for all Christians to celebrate on this day, this honorable and universal Exaltation of the divine Cross, to the glory of Christ our true God for Whom they gather.

* The most reliable research indicates that this battle was neither against Magnentius or the Scythians, but against Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge. Also, sources indicate that Constantine became a Christian before this battle through his son Crispus, who was a Christian, after presenting him with certain books of his father who was a Christian.

**Euthymios Zygabenos says that the true Cross of the Lord was distinguished by the inscription of Pilate over one of the crosses that said Christ was King of the Jews. Also, some say that the woman was near death and immediately healed, while others say fragrant basil grew over the location of the actual Cross of Christ. The finding of the Cross is celebrated on March 6th. The two crosses of the thieves were brought to Constantinople and placed in a porphyry pillar in the forum, with other relics.