



Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Mat. Janet Mihalick, *Choir Director*

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org October 27, 2019

Announcements

➤ **St. Nick's Corner Sale:** Stop by the showcase in the hall to take advantage of this **big sale**. Prices have been slashed on all items. Some items are FREE! See Marsha Wasilko for assistance.

➤ The next session of **Basic Orthodoxy** (4 of 5) will be held on Wednesday, November 6 at 7:00 pm. (First and third Wednesdays of the month.)

➤ The next **Bible Study** will be held on Wednesday, November 13. We will begin studying St Paul's Letter to the Romans. (Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.)

➤ Remember, our **Sunday morning Adult Education** is held on the first and third Sundays of every month at 9:15 am. All are welcome!

➤ **The women of our parish** are invited to attend the Ancient Faith Women's Retreat, Thursday, November 14 to Sunday, November 17 at Antiochian Village Conference Center in Bolivar PA. Speakers this year to include: Dr. Jeannie Constantinou, Dr. Roxanne Louh, Molly Maddex Sabourin, and Mother Christophora of Holy Transfiguration Monastery. For more information, visit ancientfaith.com/events or talk to Mat. Ashley Loboda. Registration closes on 10/15/19.

➤ **Mark your calendars:** Archdiocesan Advent Retreat on Saturday, Nov 16 at St John Orthodox Church in New Kensington beginning at 11am. Fr Thomas will be the presenter.

Prayers

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

➤ **Vigil Light From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family and Michelle Bittner. **From Doris Wasilko** for the health of Michelle Bittner and Nancy & John Pravlochak on their Wedding Anniversary. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, (Uncles) John Wasilko (10/21/00) and Steve Panik (10/21/00); Happy Anniversary & Many Years to John & Nancy Pravlochak! **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the health of Helen & Paul Henry, our family and belated birthday wishes to Doris Wasilko. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; special intentions. **From Edith Humphrey** for the departed servant, Bessie Florence. **From the John Mahalchak family** for the departed servants, (mother) Veronica on her birthday and friends & family; for the health of friends & family; special intention. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for special intentions.

Thank You

➤ to our **October donors!** The Robes Family (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40); Donya Yewisiak (Altar Candles \$25) in memory of Matushka Olga Soroka; the Soroka family (Incense \$10) for the health of Melanie.
➤ to **Deacon Luke** who served our service today in Fr Thomas's absence. May God bless him!

Testing the Spirits

Q: "How are we to discern whether we are in the presence of an angel or a demon?"

A: If whenever you are afraid, your fear is immediately taken away and replaced by unspeakable joy, cheerfulness, courage, renewed strength, calmness of thought, boldness, and love toward God, then take courage and pray because joy and a settled state of soul show the holiness of him who is present. This is how Abraham rejoiced and leaped for gladness beholding the Lord, as did John at the voice of Mary the God-bearer.

However, if there is confusion when you are afraid, hearing knocking, worldly display, threats of death and the other things which I have already mentioned, know that it is not of God, but an onslaught of evil spirits. –St. Anthony (The Life of St. Anthony)

In everything St. Anthony said, there is one thing he emphasizes over and over: **despise the demons, and do not fear them.** We are to pray, make the sign of the cross, have complete disregard for anything they do, and they are completely defeated. Ever since the incarnation of Christ, **the demons are powerless against our will.** As St. Anthony taught us, "The devil doesn't even have power over swine. For as it is written in the Gospel, they besought the Lord, saying, "Let us enter the swine." They had no power over swine, let alone men formed in the image of God."



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.

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, November 2

5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, November 3

9:15 am Adult Education

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

After Services 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.

Hymns and Readings for Today

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 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 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 of the Sunday (Psalm 118) Tone 2

The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation!

Epistle of the Sunday (II Cor 11:31-12:9)

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 8:26-39)

Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a

certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!” For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

Jesus asked him, saying, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.

When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned.

Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.” And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: St. Paul's Letter to the Phillipians

Verse (younger classes): “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” (*Phil 4:4*)

Questions to ask/review (younger classes):

- What is prayer?
- When do/should we pray?
- How should we pray?
- Where should we pray?
- Why is the icon corner a good place to pray?
- What are some types of prayers?
- Why do we repeat some prayers during the liturgy? If we were in a dangerous situation, would we ask for help only one time?

Verse (older classes): Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” (*Phil 2:3*)

Questions to ask/review (older classes):

- What was special about the church of Philippi?
- Have you (or someone you know) ever done the right thing for the wrong reason? Why is this wrong?
- Why did Prophet Jonah go to Nineveh? Why did Pharaoh let the people of Israel go?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Pray together as a family. Encourage the children to make petitions for those they know are in need.
- Prayer: Lord, open my mind and heart, that you may teach me to pray. Amen. or Lord, guide me to do what is right. Guide my heart to do it for You and others. Amen.