



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

6th Saturday/7th Sunday of Pascha

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org May 30/31, 2020

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, May 30

10:00 am Divine Liturgy (A-N)

Sunday, May 31

10:00 am Divine Liturgy (O-Z)

Tuesday, June 2

9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours/Church Open

Wednesday, June 3

7:00 Bible Study (online)

Thursday, June 4

9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours/Church Open

Saturday, June 6

10:00 am Divine Liturgy (O-Z)

5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, June 7 - Pentecost

10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy (A-N)

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.

Temporary Practices

➤ Welcome! Since we continue under certain pandemic health restrictions, **we ask that you observe the following temporary practices:**

- Please maintain social distance (6 ft) from each other. Same household members do not need to observe this from one another.
- You may show honor to persons depicted in icons by bowing before the icon, or you may choose to venerate (kiss) the icon. If you do venerate, please use a disinfectant wipe in the area you venerated, and then a paper towel to wipe off the residue.
- Please approach one row at a time for Communion. The Eucharist will be distributed by an individual (single use) spoon for each person. Please receive the precious body and blood directly from the spoon – please do not open your mouth wide or tilt your head back.
- Antidoron will be provided in individual cups.
- Before you leave, if you would be so kind as to clean up your area. Use a sanitizing wipe and wipe the areas where you sat and touched and do not leave any papers.
- At the end of the Divine Liturgy, we will come forward to receive a blessing by bowing our heads before the holy cross and Fr Thomas will bless us.

➤ Unfortunately, during this “Yellow” status, we will not be permitted to have coffee hour, in-person meetings or classes, or dinners. We appreciate your understanding and patience.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* Geroge Shaytar, Paul Yewisiak,. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **Vigil Lights from Marsha Wasilko**, for the departed servant (mother) Mary; God bless our veterans, past and present! **From Chuck Wasilko**, for the departed servant (mother) Mary. **From Mat. Joni Soroka**, for the departed servant Barbara; for the health of family. **From Sandi Tirpak**, for the health of Nicholas, Amelia, and Andrea; for special intentions.

Thank You

➤ to our May donors, **Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell**, for donating all the categories (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10) in loving memory of Deacon Joseph Mell (husband, father) and departed members of the Karavlan family, and for the health of Matushka Nancy Mell.

My Child, Just Read!

A monk complained to St. Arsenius that while reading Holy Scripture he does not feel, neither the power of the words read nor gentleness in his heart.

To that the great saint will reply to him: “My child, just read! I heard that the sorcerers of serpents, when they cast a spell upon the serpents, the sorcerers are uttering the words, which they themselves do not understand, but

the serpents hearing the spoken words sense their power and become tamed.

An so, with us, when we continually hold in our mouths the words of Holy Scripture, but even though we do not feel the power of the words, evil spirits tremble and flee for they are unable to endure the words of the Holy Spirit.”

My child, just read!

The Holy Spirit Who, through inspired men, wrote these divine words, will hear, will understand and will hasten to your assistance; and the demons will understand will sense and will flee from you.

That is: He Whom you invoke for assistance will understand, and those whom you wish to drive away from yourself will understand. And both goals will be achieved. (St. Nikolai Velimirovich, Prologue of Ochrid)

Justin Martyr

The Holy Martyr Justin the Philosopher was born around 114 at Sychem, an ancient city of Samaria. Justin's parents were pagan Greeks. From his childhood the saint displayed intelligence, love for knowledge and a fervent devotion to the knowledge of Truth. When he came of age he studied the various schools of Greek philosophy: the Stoics, the Peripatetics, the Pythagoreans, the Platonists, and he concluded that none of these pagan teachings revealed the way to knowledge of the true God.

Once, when he was strolling in a solitary place beyond the city and pondering about where to seek the way to the knowledge of Truth, he met an old man. In the ensuing conversation he revealed to Justin the essential nature of the Christian teaching and advised him to seek the answers to all the questions of life in the books of Holy Scripture. “But before anything else,” said the holy Elder, “pray diligently to God, so that He might open to you the doors of Light.

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.

Hymns and Readings for Saturday, May 30

Tone 4 Troparion *of the Ascension*

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Through the blessing, they were assured that Thou art the Son of God,// the Redeemer of the world!

Tone 4 Troparion *of St Nicholas*

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.

Tone 6 Kontakion *of the Ascension*

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for our sake,

and united earth to heaven,

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love Thee, but remaining with them and crying://

“I am with you, and there is no one against you!”

Tone 7 Prokeimenon

Be Thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; / and Thy glory be over all the earth! (Ps 56/57:11)

Epistle *of the Saturday (Acts 20:7-12)*

Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was

sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, “Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him.” Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

Gospel *of the Saturday (Jn 14:10-21)*

Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them,

it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

Hymn to the Theotokos

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who hath ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify thee, O Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

Communion Hymn

God hath gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (*Ps 46/47:5*)

Instead of “We have Seen the True Light”

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Through the blessing, they were assured that Thou art the Son of God,// the Redeemer of the world! *Then: Let our mouths be filled...*

Justin Martyr (*continued*)

In his thirtieth year, Justin accepted holy Baptism (between the years 133 and 137). From this time Saint Justin devoted his talents and vast philosophical knowledge to preaching the Gospel among the pagans. He began to journey throughout the Roman Empire, sowing the seeds of faith. “Whosoever is able to proclaim Truth and does not proclaim it will be condemned by God,” he wrote.

Justin opened a school of Christian philosophy. Saint Justin subsequently defended the truth of Christian teaching, persuasively confuting pagan sophistry (in a debate with the Cynic philosopher Crescentius) and heretical distortions of Christianity. He also spoke out against the teachings of the Gnostic Marcian.

In the year 155, when the emperor Antoninus Pius (138-161) started a persecution against Christians, Saint Justin personally gave him an Apology in defense of two Christians innocently condemned to

execution, Ptolemy and Lucias. The name of the third remains unknown.

In the Apology he demonstrated the falseness of the slander against Christians accused unjustly for merely having the name of Christians. The Apology had such a favorable effect upon the emperor that he ceased the persecution. Saint Justin journeyed, by decision of the emperor, to Asia Minor where they were persecuting Christians with particular severity. He proclaimed the joyous message of the imperial edict throughout the surrounding cities and countryside.

The debate of Saint Justin with the Rabbi Trypho took place at Ephesus. The Orthodox philosopher demonstrated the truth of the Christian teaching of faith on the basis of the Old Testament prophetic writings. Saint Justin gave an account of this debate in his work Dialogue with Trypho the Jew.

When he returned to Italy, Saint Justin, like the Apostles, preached the Gospel everywhere, converting many to the Christian Faith. When the saint arrived at Rome, the envious Crescentius, whom Justin always defeated in debate, brought many false accusations against him before the Roman court. Saint Justin was put under guard, subjected to torture and suffered martyrdom in 165. The relics of Saint Justin the Philosopher rest in Rome.

The holy martyrs Justin, Chariton, Euelpistus, Hierax, Peonus, Valerian, Justus and the martyr Charito suffered with Saint Justin the Philosopher in the year 166. They were brought to Rome and thrown into prison. The saints bravely confessed their faith in Christ before the court of the prefect Rusticus. Rusticus asked Saint Justin, whether he really thought that after undergoing tortures he would go to heaven and receive a reward from God. Saint Justin answered, “Not only do I think this, but I know and am fully assured of it.”

The prefect proposed to all the Christian prisoners that they offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. When they refused he issued a sentence of death, and the saints were beheaded.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, May 31

Tone 6 Troparion (Resurrection)

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.

Tone 4 Troparion (Ascension)

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,
granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of
the Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing, they were assured
that Thou art the Son of God, //
the Redeemer of the world!

Tone 8 Troparion (Fathers)

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God,
Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights
on the earth.
Through them Thou hast guided us to the True
Faith. //
O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Tone 8 Kontakion (Fathers)

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers'
doctrines have established one
Faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from
heavenly theology, //
It defines and glorifies the great mystery of
piety.

Tone 6 Kontakion (Ascension)

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for
our sake,
and united earth to heaven,
Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,
not being parted from those who love Thee,
but remaining with them and crying: //

“I am with you, and there is no one against
you!”

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers /
and praised and glorified is Thy name
forever! (*Song of the Three Children, v. 3*)

Epistle of the Sunday (*Acts 20:16-18, 28-36*)

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so
that he would not have to spend time in Asia;
for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if
possible, on the Day of Pentecost.

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for
the elders of the church. And when they had
come to him, he said to them: “You know, from
the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner
I always lived among you,

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the
flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made
you overseers, to shepherd the church of God
which He purchased with His own blood. For I
know this, that after my departure savage
wolves will come in among you, not sparing the
flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise
up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the
disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and
remember that for three years I did not cease to
warn everyone night and day with tears.

“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to
the word of His grace, which is able to build you
up and give you an inheritance among all those
who are sanctified. I have coveted no one’s
silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves
know that these hands have provided for my
necessities, and for those who were with me. I
have shown you in every way, by laboring like
this, that you must support the weak. And
remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He
said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’

And when he had said these things, he knelt
down and prayed with them all.

Gospel of the Sunday (*John 17:1-13*)

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to
heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come.
Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify
You, as You have given Him authority over all
flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many
as You have given Him. And this is eternal life,
that they may know You, the only true God, and
Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have
glorified You on the earth. I have finished the
work which You have given Me to do. And now,
O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself,
with the glory which I had with You before the
world was.

“I have manifested Your name to the men whom
You have given Me out of the world. They were
Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept
Your word. Now they have known that all things
which You have given Me are from You. For I
have given to them the words which You have
given Me; and they have received them, and
have known surely that I came forth from You;
and they have believed that You sent Me.

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but
for those whom You have given Me, for they are
Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are
Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no
longer in the world, but these are in the world,
and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through
Your name those whom You have given Me, that
they may be one as We are. While I was with
them in the world, I kept them in Your name.
Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none
of them is lost except the son of perdition, that
the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come
to You, and these things I speak in the world,
that they may have My joy fulfilled in
themselves.

Hymn to the Theotokos

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life,
Who hath ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify thee, O Mother of God, who beyond
reason and understanding gave birth in time
to the Timeless One.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in
the highest! (Ps 148:1)
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits
the just! (Ps 32/33:1)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Instead of “We have Seen the True Light”

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Then: Let our mouths be filled...

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