



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, June 6

- 10:00 am Memorial Divine Liturgy (O-Z)
- 12:00 pm St Alexander Nevsky Cemetery
- 1:30 pm Mount Calvary Cemetery
- 5:00 pm Vigil for the Feast of Pentecost

Sunday, June 7 - Pentecost

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

Tuesday, June 9

- 9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)
- 9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours/Church Open

Wednesday, June 10

- 7:00 Bible Study (online)

Thursday, June 11

- 9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)
- 9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours/Church Open

Saturday, June 13

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy (A-N suggested)
- 5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, June 14

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy (O-Z suggested)

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*

Saturday Before and/Great Feast of Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org June 6/7, 2020

Temporary Practices

Congratulations to Dr Anna Zemke who was received into the Orthodox Church today through the sacraments of Chrismation and Eucharist. May God richly bless her as she continues her life as an Orthodox Christian!

➤ 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.

Prayers

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

➤ **Vigil Lights From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, parents Charles and Mary, and Raymond, David, Michelle, and Georgianne. **From Mat. Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the departed servants of God, Deacon Joseph and John Keil; for the health of family and of Mat. Nancy Mell on the occasion of her birthday. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the healing of our country; for special intentions. **From Irene Kulchock** for the departed servants of God Richard Kulchock, Stephen Pravlochak, and Bridget Kulchock. **From Cathy Namisnak** for the departed servants of God Frank and Anna; for the health of David, Janet, Chuck Widel, and Lindy Hamilton. **From Chuck Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family; God bless America!

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.



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.

The Holy Spirit

But the Holy Spirit does not speak His own things, but those of Christ, and that not from himself, but from the Lord; even as the Lord also announced to us the things that He received from the Father. For, says He, “the word which ye hear is not Mine, but the Father’s, who sent Me.” And says He of the Holy Spirit, “He shall not speak of Himself, but whatsoever things He shall hear from Me.” And He says of Himself to the Father, “I have,” says He, “glorified Thee upon the earth; I have finished the work which, Thou gavest Me; I have manifested Thy name to men.” And of the Holy Ghost, “He shall glorify Me, for He receives of Mine.” –*St Ignatius (Eph 9)*

Since, also, there is but one unbegotten Being, God, even the Father; and one only-begotten Son, God, the Word and man; and one Comforter, the Spirit of truth; and also one preaching, and one faith, and one baptism; and one Church which the holy apostles established from one end of the earth to the other by the blood of Christ, and by their own sweat and toil; –*St Ignatius (Phil 4)*.

I do also love the prophets as those who announced Christ, and as being partakers of the same Spirit with the apostles. For as the false prophets and the false apostles drew [to themselves] one and the same wicked, deceitful, and seducing spirit; so also did the prophets and the apostles receive from God, through Jesus Christ, one and the same Holy Spirit, who is good, and sovereign, and true, and the Author of [saving] knowledge. For there is one God of the Old and New Testament, “one Mediator between God and men,” for the creation of both intelligent and sensitive beings, and in order to exercise a beneficial and suitable providence [over them]. There is also one Comforter, who displayed His power in Moses, and the prophets, and apostles. –*St Ignatius (Phil 5)*

Hymns and Readings for Saturday, June 6

Tone 8 Troparion *of the Departed*

Thou only Creator Who, with wisdom profound, mercifully orderest all things, and givest unto all that which is useful: Give rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy servants who have fallen asleep,// for they have placed their trust in Thee, our Maker and Fashioner, and our God.

Tone 8 Kontakion *of the Departed*

With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Thy servants, where sickness and sorrow are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting!

Tone 8 Theotokion *of the Departed*

We have thee as a wall and a haven and an intercessor well-pleasing to God,// Whom thou hast borne, O Virgin Theotokos, the salvation of the faithful.

Tone 6 Prokeimenon

Their souls shall dwell / with the blessed. (*Ps 24/25:13*)

Epistle *of the Saturday (Acts 28:1-31)*

Now when they had escaped, they then found out that the island was called Malta. And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold. But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live.” But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days. And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed. They also honored us in many ways; and when we departed, they provided such things as were necessary.

After three months we sailed in an Alexandrian ship whose figurehead was the Twin Brothers, which had wintered at the island. And landing at Syracuse, we stayed three days. From there we circled round and reached Rhegium. And after one day the south wind blew; and the next day we came to Puteoli, where we found brethren, and were invited to stay with them seven days. And so we went toward Rome. And from there, when the brethren heard about us, they came to meet us as far as Appii Forum and Three Inns. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

Now when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him.

And it came to pass after three days that Paul called the leaders of the Jews together. So when they had come together, he said to them: “Men and brethren, though I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans, who, when they had examined me, wanted to let me go, because there was no cause for putting me to death. But when the Jews spoke against it, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, not that I had anything of which to accuse my nation. For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.”

Then they said to him, “We neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the

brethren who came reported or spoken any evil of you. But we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere.”

So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening. And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved. So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, saying,

‘Go to this people and say: “Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.”’

“Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!” And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves.

Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

Gospel *of the Saturday (Jn 21:15-25)*

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”

He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love

You.”

He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”

He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?”

And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.”

Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?”

Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.”

Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?”

This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

Communion Hymn

Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord. Their memory is from generation to generation. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Instead of “We have Seen the True Light”

Troparion of the Departed

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, June 7

First Antiphon (Psalm 19)

v. The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

v. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

v. Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe.

v. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Second Antiphon (Psalm 20)

v. The Lord answer you in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

Refrain: O Gracious Comforter, save us who sing to Thee: "Alleluia!"

v. May He send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!

v. May He remember all your offerings, and fulfill all your plans!

Glory... now and ever...Only-begotten Son...

Third Antiphon (Psalm 21)

v. In Thy strength the king rejoices, O Lord, and exults greatly in Thy salvation.

Refrain: Troparion

v. Thou has given him his heart's desire, and has not withheld the request of his lips.

v. For Thou dost meet him with goodly blessings; Thou dost set a crown of fine gold upon his head.

Tone 8 Troparion of Pentecost

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net
O Lover of Man, Glory to Thee!

Tone 8 Kontakion of Pentecost

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues

He divided the nations;

But when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity.

Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the All Holy Spirit!

Instead of Holy God

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Psalm 19)

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

Epistle of the Feast (Acts 2:1-11)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya

adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

Gospel of the Feast (John 7:37-52; 8:12)

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ."

But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"

Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?"

They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee."

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Hymn to the Theotokos of Pentecost

Rejoice, O Queen! Glory of mothers and virgins!
No mouth, however sweet or fluent
is eloquent enough to praise you worthily!
Every mind is overawed by your childbearing.
Therefore with one voice we glorify you!

Communion Hymn of Pentecost

Let Thy good Spirit lead me on a level path.
Alleluia.

Icon of Pentecost

The position of the figures represents harmony in which no apostle is better than another. The inverse perspective prevents the apostles who are near the back of the semicircle from being painted as smaller, which would happen in the rendering of most normal paintings. In



actuality, they are depicted slightly larger, particularly Peter and Paul as the chief apostles. But even then, they are among equals.

Of course, Paul was not present during this event, but the reality of Pentecost transcends time and space, and in some sense, Paul was later mystically joined to this moment. He is also included to show that he was in complete harmony with the other Apostles.

Why is the head of the semicircle of Apostles empty? Because it is the seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is invisibly present. As he said before ascending, "Behold, I am with you even to the end of the age." He continues to keep that promise, being invisibly present in the church, guiding us through the Holy Spirit.