



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

Third Saturday/Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org June 27/28, 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, June 27

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
- 4:00 pm Free Community Dinner for those in need
- 5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, June 28

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Monday, June 29 - Feast of Sts Peter and Paul

- 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, June 30

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

During the Month of July

No Matins/Office Hrs, Bible Study or Sat. Vigil

Saturday, July 4

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
- No Vigil

Sunday, July 5

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

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.

Announcements

➤ As we continue to operate under social distancing and masking guidelines, at this point we have not received permission from the Bishop to have indoor Coffee Hour, so we have been holding them outside. We would like to continue to do that, weather permitting, if necessary and our situation changes, to go indoor for coffee hour. Until then **we want to ask for sponsors for coffee hour** which would include either individually wrapped items for both Saturday and Sunday or someone to serve drinks and snacks while wearing gloves. **Please see Susan Porter if you can sponsor an upcoming weekend.**

➤ We have been given permission by Archbishop Melchisedek to hold our **annual Vacation Church School** this Summer. Dates have not yet been chosen, but please contact Matushka Joni Soroka for more details.

➤ Our **Icon Project continues in August!** Fr Theodore and John Jurewicz will be here from August 10-28. The projects completed this year will be the Ascension above the altar, and the vestibule entrance, the candle kiosk and the childcare room. More news next week about the iconography planned and icon sponsorship.

➤ Our **monthly Community Dinners for those in need** continue to be held as take out until further notice. Please see Mat. Ashley Loboda or anyone on the team if you can help sponsor an upcoming dinner on the last Saturday of the month at 4:00 pm.

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.

➤ **Vigil Lights** from the **John Mahalchak** family for the health of friends and family and son John. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of family; congratulations to the Summer family for the baptism of Patrick. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants of God: Polina, Galina, Slava, Valentina, Bruce, Andrei, Marina; for the health of Diana, Tatyana, Christopher, Edward, Sergei, Tatyana, Veronika. From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family; Happy Birthday to Eleanor Kovacs. From **Mat. Nancy Mell** and **Gregory Mell** for the departed servant of God Deacon Joseph C Mell; for the health of family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants of God (father) Charles, (grandfathers) Andrew and Theodore, and (godfather) Michael; Happy 96th Birthday and Many Years to Eleanor Kovacs! From **Charles A Wasilko** for the departed servants of God (father) Charles and (godfather) Joe Dichko.

Thank You

➤ to our June 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.

Patient Endurance

In time of trial it is of great profit to us patiently to endure for God's sake, for the Lord says: "By patient endurance you will win life for yourselves."

He did not say by your fasting, or your solitude and silence, or your singing of psalms, although all of these are helpful in saving your soul.

But he said: "By patient endurance" in every trial that overtakes you, and in every affliction, whether this be insolent and contemptuous treatment, or any kind of disgrace, either small or great; whether it be bodily weakness, or the belligerent attacks of Satan, or any trial whatsoever caused either by other people or by evil spirits.

"By patient endurance you will win life for yourselves," although to this must be added wholehearted thanksgiving, and prayer, and humility. For you must be ready to bless and praise your benefactor, God the Savior of the world, who disposes all things, good or otherwise, for your benefit.

The apostle writes: "With patient endurance we run the race of faith set before us." For what has more power than virtue? What has more firmness or strength than patient endurance? Endurance, that is, for God's sake.

This is the queen of virtues, the foundation of virtue, a haven of tranquility. It is peace in time of war, calm in rough waters, safety amidst treachery and danger. It makes those who practice it stronger than steel.

No weapons or brandished bows, no turbulent troops or advancing siege engines, no flying spears or arrows can shake it.

Not even the host of evil spirits, not the dark array of hostile powers, nor the devil himself standing by with all his armies and devices will have power to injure the man or woman who has acquired this virtue through Christ. (*St Nilus of Ancyra, disciple of St John Chrysostom*)

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, June 27

Tone 2 Troparion of Saturday

Apostles, martyrs, and prophets,
Holy hierarchs, saints, and righteous ones,
Having fought the good fight and kept the faith,
Ye have boldness towards the Saviour.
Intercede for us with Him, for He is good. //
and pray that He may save our souls.

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.

Glory... now and ever...

Tone 8 Kontakion of Saturday

The universe offers thee the God-bearing
martyrs,
As the first fruits of creation, O Lord and
Creator, //
Through the Theotokos and their prayers
establish Thy Church in peace.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon of Saturday (Psalm 31/32)

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O ye righteous.

Epistle of the Saturday (Romans 3:28-4:3)

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by
faith apart from the deeds of the law. Or is He
the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God
of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since
there is one God who will justify the
circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised
through faith. Do we then make void the law
through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary,
we establish the law.

What then shall we say that Abraham our father
has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham
was justified by works, he has something to
boast about, but not before God. For what does
the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and
it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

Gospel of the Saturday (Mt 7:24-8:4)

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of
Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise
man who built his house on the rock: and the
rain descended, the floods came, and the winds
blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall,
for it was founded on the rock.

“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine,
and does not do them, will be like a foolish man
who built his house on the sand: and the rain
descended, the floods came, and the winds blew
and beat on that house; and it fell. And great
was its fall.”

And so it was, when Jesus had ended these
sayings, that the people were astonished at His
teaching, for He taught them as one having
authority, and not as the scribes.

When He had come down from the mountain,
great multitudes followed Him. And behold, a
leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if
You are willing, You can make me clean.”

Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him,
saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately
his leprosy was cleansed.

And Jesus said to him, “See that you tell no one;
but go your way, show yourself to the priest,
and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a
testimony to them.”



The Path to Salvation

by St Ambrose of Optina (d. 1891)

Our salvation, according to St. Peter Damascene,
is located between fear and hope, so that we do
not have self-confidence and do not despair, but
with blessed hope in the mercy and help of God,
we strive to conduct a life in fulfillment of the
Divine commandments.

According to human reasoning, the path of
salvation, it would seem, should be a smooth
path, quiet and peaceful; but according to the
words of the Gospel, this path is sorrowful,
difficult, and narrow. The
Lord said, I came not to send
peace on earth, but a sword
(Matt. 10:34).

What does a person need in
order to learn the ways of the
Lord? A person needs to be
meek and humble, and then
the Lord Himself will teach
him how to walk the way of
the Lord.

The earthly lot of man—
sorrow, labor, sickness,
struggle, sadness, doubt,
confinement, deprivation of
this or that, insult, confusion,
the rising of the passions, the
battle with them, victory or exhaustion, or
hopelessness and the like. It is not in vain that
the Prophet David said: There is no peace in my
bones in the face of my sins (Ps. 37:4).

The beginning of salvation consists in rejecting
your own will and understanding and doing the
will of God.

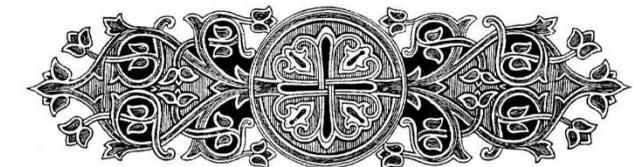
From now on let us strive firmly to not divide
the path of Christ into various branches, but to

combine them into one main one: to love the
Lord with our whole soul and to maintain peace
and holiness with everyone, not thinking
foolishly or suspiciously about anyone.

The mistake on our part is that we do not want
to submit our will to the all-good Divine
Providence, which indicates to us through
circumstances the path beneficial to our soul.
Instead we look for some sort of peaceful way
for ourselves which exists only in dreams, and
in reality is nowhere on earth. There will be rest
not for everyone, but only for a few, when they
sing: “With the saints give rest ...”

We are all confused: can't we arrange our
retirement in such a way? And in
retirement we often think: if it
weren't for this inconvenience, it
not for these circumstances, it
not for that contrary person,
then perhaps it would be easier
and more peaceful for me; but
we forget that discomforts often
come from within us, like evil
thoughts. Where the passions lie,
from there proceeds all of our
discomforts, disagreements,
squabbling, and disorder. But
may He Who came to save
sinners overcome all of these, if
we desire to repent, and become
humbled and submissive.

The Godly-wise fathers teach us
that it is always better to reproach ourselves
and in every unpleasant situation to lay the
blame on ourselves, and not on others. Then we
will find rest and spiritual peace, and we will
hold fast to the true path to salvation.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, June 28

Tone 2 Troparion of the Resurrection

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!”

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Tone 2 Kontakion of the Resurrection

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, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 Kontakion of the Theotokos

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.

Tone 2 Prokeimenon of the Resurrection

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (*Ps 117/118:4*)

Epistle of the Sunday (Romans 5:1-10)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 6:22-33)

“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he

will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

“So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
(Ps 148:1)

The Purpose of Sorrow

Error and delusion in man come from the fact that we do not properly understand the purpose and will of God concerning ourselves. According to His goodness and mercy, the Lord wants to give us eternal blessedness in heaven, in the Heavenly Kingdom, but we, in our blindness seek and are more desirous of temporal happiness and well-being on earth. So the Lord, in His goodness and love for the human race,

instructs us with various sorrows, sicknesses, and other misfortunes.

If the sun shines all the time, then everything in the field withers; therefore rain is needed. If it rains all the time, then everything rots, because wind is needed to aerate everything. And if there is insufficient wind, then a storm is needed to wash everything away. In a person, everything happens beneficially at its proper time, because he is changeable.



A continuously happy life produces extremely unhappy consequences. In nature we see that there are not always pleasant springs and fruitful summers, and sometimes autumn is rainy and winter cold and snowy, and there is

flooding and wind and storms, and moreover the crops fail and there are famine, troubles, sicknesses and many other misfortunes. All of this is beneficial so that man might learn through prudence, patience and humility. For the most part, in times of plenty he forgets himself, but in times of various sorrows he becomes more attentive to his salvation.

If a person endures sorrows with submission to the will of God, while confessing his sins, through this he will be delivered from the threat of eternal torments. Therefore, it is better to endure troubles here, no matter how difficult they may be, casting your sorrow upon the Lord and praying to Him with humility, that He deliver us from faintheartedness and despair, which are worse than any other sins.

When you see that you are depressed, do not forget to reproach yourself. Recall how much you are guilty of before the Lord and before yourself, and admit that you are not deserving of anything better—and you will immediately feel relief.

Boredom is the grandfather of despondency, and laziness is the daughter. In order to drive it away, exert yourself at work, do not be lazy at prayer; then boredom will pass and zeal will come. And if you add patience and humility to this, you will spare yourself from much evil. (*St Ambrose of Optina d. 1891*)