



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

Fourth Saturday/Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org July 4/5, 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, July 4
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
No Vigil

Sunday, July 5
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
During the Month of July

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

Saturday, July 11
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
No Vigil

Sunday, July 12
10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Announcements

➤ The Commonwealth of PA's Governor has ordered that there be no groups greater than 25 gathering this weekend and that masks be worn outside when not social distancing. However, **churches are specifically exempted from this order**. Please continue to physical distance, wear masks when possible, and maintain safety.

➤ As we continue through the summer months, **beginning July 11**, we are seeking **sponsors for coffee hour**, taking necessary precautions while serving or serving individually wrapped items. **Please see Susan Porter if you can sponsor an upcoming weekend**. Coffee hour (fellowship) will take place outside if weather conditions permit. If it is deemed too hot or rainy, we will hold it inside in the church hall.

➤ 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.

➤ **During the month of July** there will be no daily Matins or office hours, Saturday Vigil, or Bible Study.

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 Kristie Mertz** for the departed servant (uncle) Lawrence Janicko. **From Alexandria Tirpak**, memory eternal Uncle Mike Hanich; for the health and salvation of family; God bless our country; for special intentions. **From Matushka Nancy and Gregory Mell**, for the departed servant of God, Deacon Joseph Mell and the newly departed Regina Tucker; for the health of family. **From Tatiana Sechler** for the departed servants of God Bruce, Polina, Hava, Galina, Marina, Valentina, Andrei, Alex. For the health of Liola, Tatyana, Veronika, Sergei, Tatyana, Adick, Berneolet, Eva, Daina, Michel, and Misha. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants of God, the Wasilko and Dyczko families; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles Wasilko** for the health of sisters Doris and Marsha. **From the John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends and family and son John. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family.

Thank You

➤ to our July donors, **from Sandi Tirpak** (Bulletin \$60) for the health of her family; **from Rick Porter (Candles \$25)** for Susan on her birthday; **from Matushka Joni Soroka** (Communion Wine \$40 and Incense \$10) for the health of Fr Thomas on the 20th anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood

St John Maximovitch

“Now the Church consists of both her earthly and heavenly parts, for the Son of God came to earth and became man that He might lead man into heaven and make him once again a citizen of Paradise, returning to him his original state of sinlessness and wholeness and uniting him unto Himself.

This is accomplished by the action of Divine grace graced through the Church, but man's effort is also required. God saves His fallen creature by His own love for him, but man's love for his Creator is also necessary; without it he cannot be saved. Striving towards God and cleaving unto the Lord by its humble love, the human soul obtains power to cleanse itself from sin and to strengthen itself for the struggle to complete victory over sin.”



“For a man's complete sanctification, the body of the servant of the Lord must be united with the Body of Christ, and this is accomplished in the Mystery of Holy Communion. The true Body and the true Blood of Christ which we receive become part of the great Body of Christ.

Of course, for union with Christ, the mere conjoining of our body with the Body of Christ does not suffice. The consumption of the Body of Christ becomes beneficial when in spirit we strive towards Him and unite ourselves with Him. Receiving the Body of Christ, while turning away from Him in spirit, is like the contact with Christ which they had who struck Him and mocked and crucified Him. Their contact with Him served not for their salvation and healing, but for their condemnation. But those who partake with piety, love and readiness to serve Him, closely unite themselves with Him and become instruments of His Divine will.”

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.

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 Saturday, July 4

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 6:11-17)

Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead
indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus
our Lord.

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal
body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do
not present your members as instruments of
unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves
to God as being alive from the dead, and your
members as instruments of righteousness to

God. For sin shall not have dominion over you,
for you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Shall we sin because we are not
under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do
you not know that to whom you present
yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's
slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to
death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?
But God be thanked that though you were slaves
of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form
of doctrine to which you were delivered.

Gospel of the Saturday (Mt 8:14-23)

Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house,
He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever.
So He touched her hand, and the fever left her.
And she arose and served them.

When evening had come, they brought to Him
many who were demon-possessed. And He cast
out the spirits with a word, and healed all who
were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was
spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“He Himself took our infirmities
And bore our sicknesses.”

And when Jesus saw great multitudes about
Him, He gave a command to depart to the other
side. Then a certain scribe came and said to
Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You
go.”

And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and
birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man
has nowhere to lay His head.”

Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord,
let me first go and bury my father.”

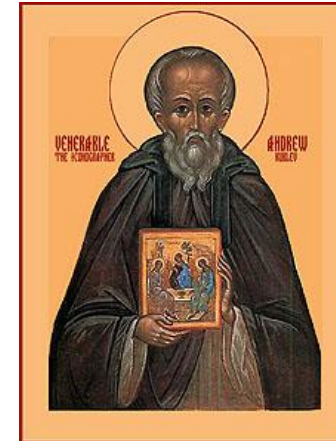
But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the
dead bury their own dead.”

Now when He got into a boat, His disciples
followed Him.

St Andrei Rublev

Saint Andrew Rublev, Russia's greatest
iconographer, was born near Moscow sometime
between 1360 and 1370. While still very young,
he went to the Holy Trinity Monastery, and was
profoundly impressed by Saint Sergius of
Radonezh (September 25).

After the death of Saint Sergius in 1392, Saint
Nikon (November 17) succeeded him as igumen.
Saint Andrew became a novice in the monastery
under Saint Nikon. Sometime before 1405 he
moved to the Spaso-Andronikov Monastery
founded by Saint Andronicus (June 13), with the
blessing of Saint Nikon. There Saint
Andrew received monastic tonsure
and was taught iconography by
Theophanes the Greek and the
monk Daniel, Saint
Andrew's friend
and fellow-ascetic.



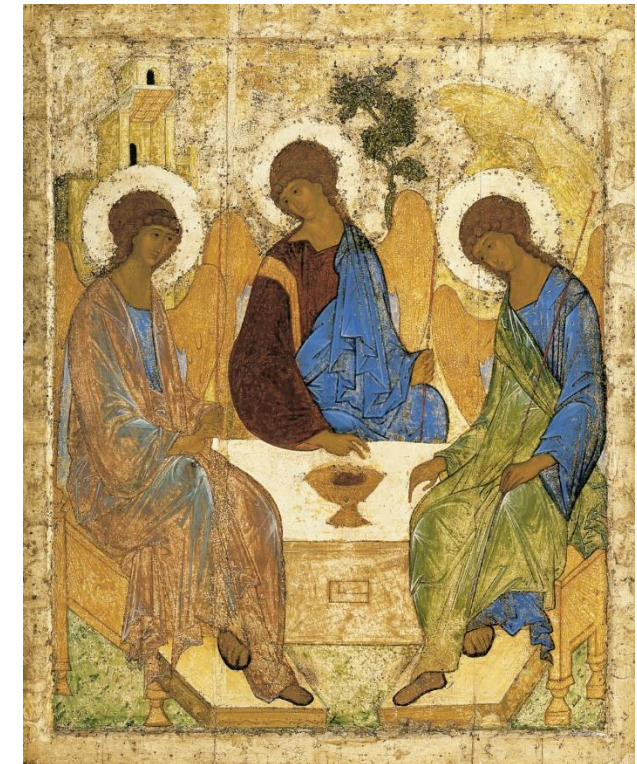
Saint Andrew is
first mentioned in
the Chronicles in 1405, when he, Theophanes,
and Prochorus painted the cathedral of the
Annunciation. His next important project, which
he undertook with the monk Daniel, was to
paint the frescoes in the Dormition Cathedral in
Vladimir in 1408.

Saint Nikon of Radonezh asked Saint Andrew
and Daniel to paint the new church in the
reconstructed monastery of the Holy Trinity,
which had been destroyed by the Tatars in 1408.
At this time Saint Andrew painted his most
famous icon: the Holy Trinity (actually, the

Hospitality of Abraham).

Another joint work of these greatest Russian
Orthodox icon painters is referred to 1425-1427,
the time they painted the Holy Trinity Lavra of
St. Sergius. It is also believed that Rublev
painted one or more miniatures for the Khitrovo
Gospels, a Russian illuminated Gospel Book
from the late 14th century. The last years of his
life, Andrei Rublev spent in the Andronikov
Monastery of the Savior in Moscow where he
created his last masterpiece of Eastern Orthodox
iconography, the frescoes of the Savior
Cathedral.

Saint Andrew fell asleep in the Lord between
1427-1430, and was buried in the Andronikov
Monastery. He was over seventy years old at the
time of his death. The monk Daniel, who died
before Saint Andrew, appeared to his friend and
urged him to join him in eternal blessedness.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, July 5

Tone 3 Troparion of the Resurrection

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

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 3 Kontakion of the Resurrection

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One,

leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;

with the Prophets and Patriarchs//

they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

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

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing

praises to our King, sing praises! (*Ps 46/47:6*)

Epistle of the Sunday (Romans 6:18-23)

And having been set free from sin, you became

slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms

because of the weakness of your flesh. For just

as you presented your members as slaves of

uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more

lawlessness, so now present your members as

slaves of righteousness for holiness.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free

in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you

have then in the things of which you are now

ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

But now having been set free from sin, and

having become slaves of God, you have your

fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God

is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 8:5-13)

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a

centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,

saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home

paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”

And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal

him.”

The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am

not worthy that You should come under my roof.

But only speak a word, and my servant will be

healed. For I also am a man under authority,

having soldiers under me. And I say to this one,

‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he

comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to

those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I

have not found such great faith, not even in

Israel! And I say to you that many will come

from east and west, and sit down with Abraham,

Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But

the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into

outer darkness. There will be weeping and

gnashing of teeth.” Then Jesus said to the

centurion, “Go your way; and as you have

believed, so let it be done for you.” And his

servant was healed that same hour.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

(Ps 148:1)

On Tradition

“One should not seek among others the truth that can be easily gotten from the Church. For in her, as in a rich treasury, the apostles have placed all that pertains to truth, so that everyone can drink this beverage of life. She is the door of life.” + *St. Irenaeus of Lyons, Against Heresies, III.4*

“We do not change the boundaries marked out by our Fathers. We keep the Tradition we have received. If we begin to lay down the Law of the Church even in the smallest things, the whole edifice will fall to the ground in no short time.” + *St. John of Damascus*

“Having read Holy Scripture very carefully, you should also read the holy Fathers who interpret the Scriptures. You will receive no less delight from reading the Fathers than you do from the Scriptures. The Fathers develop the hidden

meanings in Scripture and with their own writings help us to understand what we did not before. Because of that philosophic axiom that all men by nature seek knowledge, we must say that great delight follows naturally when we learn about hidden and unknown matters. This is why there will be ineffable joy and gladness that will come to your soul from the interpretations and the words of the holy Fathers. You too will be shouting, as did David, those enthusiastic words in the Psalms.” + *St. Nicodemos of the Holy Mountain, A Handbook of Spiritual Counsel*

“Wherefore, brethren, let us plant ourselves upon the rock of faith and the Tradition of the Church, removing not the landmarks set by our holy fathers, nor giving room to those who are anxious to introduce novelties and to undermine the structure of God’s holy ecumenical and apostolic Church. For if everyone were allowed a free hand, little by little the entire Body of the Church would be destroyed.” + *St. John of Damascus*

“When there is a respect for small things, there will be an even greater respect towards the bigger things. When there is no respect for small things, then neither will there be for the bigger ones. This is how the Fathers maintained Tradition.” + *Elder Paisios*

“Listen to me, people of all nations, men, women, and children, all of you who bear the Christian name: If any one preach to you something contrary to what the holy catholic Church has received from the holy apostles and fathers and councils, and has kept down to the present day, do not heed him. Do not receive the serpent’s counsel, as Eve did, to whom it was death. If an angel or an emperor teaches you anything contrary to what you have received, shut your ears.” + *St. John of Damascus, Apologia of St. John Damascene Against Those Who Decry Holy Images*