



Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*

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, August 8

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
- 4:30 pm Confessions
- 5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, August 9

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, August 11

No Daily Matins during iconographic work

Wednesday, August 12

- 7:00 Bible Study

Thursday, August 13

No Daily Matins during iconographic work

Friday, August 14

- 7:00 pm Vespers/Litya and Cathedral Vigil

Saturday, August 15: Dormition of the MOG

- 10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy
- 4:30 pm Confessions
- 5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, August 16

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Ninth Saturday/Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org August 8/9, 2020

Announcements

➤ Everyone is encouraged to join us to celebrate the upcoming **Great Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God** on Friday, August 14 for Vigil at 7:00 pm and Saturday, August 15 for Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am, where we will also bless flowers (and herbs). Everyone is encouraged to bring flowers/herbs to be blessed.

➤ **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. See Fr Thomas if you're interested in sponsoring some of the work.

➤ Due to the work that will take place in the church from August 10-28, **we will not serve the Daily Matins on Tuesdays and Thursdays** during that time.



Thank You

➤ to our August donors, **from Sandi Tirpak** (Bulletin \$60) for the health and guidance of her family, (Holy Bread \$50) in memory of Nicholas, Nicholas, Amelia, and John, (Communion Wine \$40) for our Lord's guidance for my grandchildren, and (Incense \$10) in memory of Archpriest Paul; **from Donya Yewisiak** (Candles \$25) in memory of Fr Vladimir Soroka (father).

Prayers

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

➤ **Vigil Lights from Kristie Mertz** for the health of mother Janice Bosko, mother-in-law Caroline Mertz, and sister Juliann Bosko Young. **From Mat. Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant of God Dn Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From John Kowalcheck and Olga Cozza** for Rachel Heuer on her birthday. **From Charles A Wasilko** for the health of sisters Doris and Marsha. **From Doris M Wasilko** for the health of Mat. Janet Mihalick, George Shaytar, and Paul Yewisiak.



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.

On the Glorification of St Herman

(1970) There is no better medicine, however, for a cynical generation such as ours than the glorification of a saint. What we are doing here may seem like utter foolishness to a world that prides itself on its scientific attitude, but notice how society has taken an interest in this canonization and respects us for our seriousness. The world, without knowing it perhaps, needs and wants holiness, for holiness means wholeness, integrity, meaning, real humanity, because humanity is real only when it knows and loves God. Therefore, this must be far more than a series of impressive ceremonies; it must be the very source of inspiration that will set the direction of our Orthodox Church in America for her future. St. Herman came to America as a missionary. He had not only the task of preaching the Gospel to the natives of this land, but he also had to protect them from people who already had the Christian faith. He truly followed Christ. He took up his cross and followed Him faithfully. Those whom he taught and served were convinced of his sanctity even during his lifetime.

This canonization can do much for our Orthodox Church in America. We are assured that one more witness has joined that great cloud of witnesses. We have another intercessor before the throne of God, and, in this case, a special intercessor; because he was truly interested in America and its evangelization, obeying the commission of Christ to "go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28,10). Thus, we have also a special example, not only in his personal holiness, but in the very purpose for which he came to America. Very simply, his purpose must become our purpose, and his goals our goals. God has guided us to a new position of responsibility in two things. We have taken the name of America and consequently the responsibility before Christ for America's salvation. And then, He has given us a saint, as both example and protector. It is now left to us to respond. God grant that we may no longer misunderstand our purpose here. (+Archbishop Dmitri of Dallas)

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, Aug 8

At the Little Entrance “Come Let us Worship”

...O Son of God, *transfigured on the Mountain*, save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia

Tone 7 Troparion (Feast)

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, O Christ God,

revealing Thy glory to Thy Disciples as far as they could hear it.

Let Thine everlasting Light shine upon us sinners, //

through the prayers of the Theotokos! O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

Tone 4 Troparion (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, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 7 Kontakion (Feast)

On the mountain Thou wast transfigured, O Christ God,

and Thy Disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it;

so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary,

and would proclaim to the world //

that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all! (*Ps 103/104:24*)

Epistle of the Day (Romans 14:6-9)

He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Gospel of the Day (Matthew 15:32-39)

Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, “I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.”

Then His disciples said to Him, “Where could we get enough bread in the wilderness to fill such a great multitude?”

Jesus said to them, “How many loaves do you have?”

And they said, “Seven, and a few little fish.”

So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left. Now those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. And He sent away the multitude, got into the boat, and came to the region of Magdala.

Tone 4 Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

Magnify, O my soul, the Lord Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor!

Thy birthgiving was undefiled; God came forth from thy womb and He appeared on earth wearing flesh, and made his dwelling among men. Therefore we all magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Communion Hymn of the Feast

O Lord, we will walk in the light of Thy countenance, and will exult in Thy name forever. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (*Ps 88/89:15b*)

Relations with Others

A Christian must be courteous to all. His words and deeds should breath with the grace of the Holy Spirit, which abides in his soul, so that in this way he might glorify the name of God. He who regulates all of his speech also regulates all of his actions. He who keeps watch over the words he is about say also keeps watch over the deeds he intends to do, and he never goes out of the bounds good and benevolent conduct. The graceful speech of a Christian is characterized by delicateness and politeness. This fact, born of love, produces peace and joy. On the other hand, boorishness gives birth to hatred, enmity, affliction, competitiveness, disorder and wars. (*St. Nektarius of Aegina, The Path to Happiness, 7*)

It is joyful to feel that we do not and cannot have any enemies among men, but only unhappy brethren, who are deserving of pity and help, even when, through misunderstanding, they become our enemies and fight against us. Woe! They do not understand that the enemy is found within ourselves, and that first of all one must cast him our of oneself, and then also help

others to do the same. We have only one enemy: the devil and his evil spirits. But man, no matter how far he has fallen, never loses certain sparks of light and goodness which may be blown into a bright flame. But for us there is no reason to fight against people, even when they consistently send against all kind of blows and rebukes ... To fight against people is to take a false position of our enemies. Even if we succeed, we gain nothing from this fight, but rather become estranged from our own success. (*Martyr Roman Medved, Letter to His Daughter from the Gulag, 1932*).

With all your power, ask the Lord for humility and brotherly love, because God freely gives His grace for love towards one's brother. Do an experiment on yourself: one day ask God for love towards your brother, and another day - live without love. You will see the difference. (*St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, XVI.8*)

Adorn yourself with truth, try to speak truth in all things; and do not support a lie, no matter who asks you. If you speak the truth and someone gets mad at you, don't be upset, but take comfort in the words of the Lord: Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of truth, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 5:10). (*St. Gennadius of Constantinople, The Golden Chain, 26,29*).

Draw nigh to the righteous, and through them you will draw nigh to God. Communicate with those who possess humility, and you will learn morals from them. A man who follows one who loves God becomes rich in the mysteries of God; but he who follows an unrighteous and proud man gets far away from God, and will be hated by his friends. (*St. Isaac the Syrian, Sermon 57,8*)

If you cannot close the mouth of one who reviles his brother, at least avoid conversation with him. (St. Isaac the Syrian, Homily 89)

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Aug 9

Tone 8 Troparion (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 7 Troparion (Feast)

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, O Christ God,
revealing Thy glory to Thy Disciples as far as they could bear it.
Let Thine everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners,//
through the prayers of the Theotokos! O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

Tone 7 Troparion (St. Herman)

O joyful North Star of the Church of Christ, guiding all men to the Heavenly Kingdom, teacher and apostle of the True Faith, intercessor and defender of the oppressed, adornment of the Orthodox Church in America:
Blessed Father Herman of Alaska, pray to our Lord Jesus Christ!//
for the salvation of our souls!

Tone 8 Kontakion (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,//
and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

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

Tone 3 Kontakion (St. Herman)

The eternal light of Christ our Savior guided thee, O blessed father Herman, on thine evangelical journey to America to proclaim the Gospel of peace.

Now thou standest before the throne of glory: intercede for thy land and its people,// asking peace for the world and salvation for our souls.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 7 Kontakion (Feast)

On the mountain Thou wast transfigured, O Christ God,
and Thy Disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it;
so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary,
and would proclaim to the world!//
that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps 75/76:11)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Feast)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all! (Ps 103/104:24)

Epistle of the Sunday (1 Corinthians 3:9-17)

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will

suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 14:22-34)

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

Tone 4 Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

Magnify, O my soul, the Lord Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor!

Thy birthgiving was undefiled; God came forth from thy womb and He appeared on earth wearing flesh, and made his dwelling among men. Therefore we all magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Communion Hymn of Sunday

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! O Lord, we will walk in the light of Thy countenance, and will exult in Thy name forever. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (Ps 148:1, 88/89:15b)

Sayings of St Herman

"And I, a sinner, have been trying to love God for more than forty years, and cannot say that I perfectly love Him. If we love someone we always remember him and try to please him; day and night our heart is occupied with that object.

Is that how you, gentlemen, love God? Do you often turn to Him, do you always remember Him, do you always pray to Him and fulfill His holy commandments? 'For our good, for our happiness at least let us make a vow that from this day, from this hour, from this minute we shall strive to love God above all else and to fulfill His holy will.'"

