



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, September 19

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, September 20

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, September 22

9:00 am Daily Matins

10:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, September 24 – Alaskan Saints

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

10:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, September 26

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, September 27

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.

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

Sat/Sun after the Elevation of the Cross

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org September 19/20, 2020

Announcements

➤ **Iconography Project:** The Iconography in the altar (the Ascension of Christ) has been completed. The work on the entrance to the church (narthex), candle kiosk, and children's ("cry") room **will begin later this week, when Fr Theodore returns to our church. We appreciate everyone who has shown interest in supporting this project.** You will note on the walls that are being prepared hand written notes concerning icons that will go in those places. A donation list will be prepared and sent.

➤ On this coming **Thursday, September 24, we will serve a Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am** in honor of the Synaxis of All Saints of Alaska. Fr Thomas will be hosting several priest-friend guests and it will be an opportunity for us to serve this beautiful feast. All are welcomed to attend.



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.

➤ **Vigil Lights From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants Polina, Slava, Bruce, Galina, Marina, Valentina; for the health of Veronika, Tatyana, Adick, Diana, Ondreya, Berneolet, Sergei, Tatyana, Cristofer. **From the John Mahalchak family** for the departed servants Veronica and John Mahalchak on their wedding anniversary and for friends and family; for the health of friends and family, especially John and Cheryl. **From the Mertz family** for the newly departed Caroline Mertz-Teunissen. **From Mat Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant Dn Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles Wasilko** for the health of sisters Doris and Marsha. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants from the Wasilko family and John Shaytar; for the health of John Pravlochak on his birthday. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants John, Nicholas, Nicholas, Amelia, and those who perished on 9/11/2001. For the health of my family -- God Bless America; for special intentions. **From Fr Thomas and Mat Joni Soroka** for the departed servant Ernest John Mike; for the health of family. **From John and Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servants Mat Janet Mihalick and Michelle Bittner; for the health of our family.

➤ **Thank you to our September donor, Margie Speth** (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, (Candles \$25, Incense \$10) for the health of her family and in memory of her departed family members.

On the Cross

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up” (John 3:14). And just exactly as all who were bitten by the serpents looked upon the bronze serpent which was suspended and were healed, thus also every Christian who believes in our Christ and has recourse to His life-bearing wounds... is cured of the bites of the spiritual serpent of sin and by this most holy nourishment is made to live unto the renewal of a new creation, that is, new life in harmony with His life-giving commandments. **Elder Ephraim, “Counsels from the Holy Mountain”**

The Cross, is wood which lifts us up and makes us great ... The Cross uprooted us from the depths of evil and elevated us to the summit of virtue. **St. John Chrysostom**

The holy Fathers relate a story that when the thief of the Gospel came to the gates of the Kingdom, the Archangel with the flaming sword wanted to chase him away, but he showed him the Cross. Immediately the fire-bearing Archangel himself withdrew and permitted the thief to enter. Understand here not the wooden cross. But which? The Cross in which the chief Apostle Paul boasts and concerning which he writes, ‘I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus’ (Gal. 6:17). **Anatoly of Optina**

Of course, it would be easier to get to paradise with a full stomach, all snuggled up in a soft feather-bed, but what is required is to carry one's cross along the way, for the kingdom of God is not attained by enduring one or two troubles, but many! **Elder Anthony of Optina**

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, Sept 19

Tone 1 Troparion (*Cross*)

O Lord, save Thy people,
and bless Thine inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Thy Cross,//
preserve Thy habitation!

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 4 Kontakion (*Cross*)

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross
for our sake,
grant mercy to those who are called by Thy
Name, O Christ God;
make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy
power,
granting them victories over their adversaries//
by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy
weapon of peace!

Instead of the Trisagion Hymn

Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O
Master, and Thy holy Resurrection we glorify.

Tone 7 Prokeimenon

Extol the Lord our God: / worship at His
footstool for He is holy!

Epistle of the Sat After (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)

For you see your calling, brethren, that not
many wise according to the flesh, not many
mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has
chosen the foolish things of the world to put to
shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak
things of the world to put to shame the things
which are mighty; and the base things of the
world and the things which are despised God
has chosen, and the things which are not, to
bring to nothing the things that are, that no
flesh should glory in His presence.

Gospel of the Saturday After (John 8:21-30)

Then Jesus said to them again, “I am going
away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your
sin. Where I go you cannot come.”

So the Jews said, “Will He kill Himself, because
He says, ‘Where I go you cannot come?’”

And He said to them, “You are from beneath; I
am from above. You are of this world; I am not
of this world. Therefore I said to you that you
will die in your sins; for if you do not believe
that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

Then they said to Him, “Who are You?”

And Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been
saying to you from the beginning. I have many
things to say and to judge concerning you, but
He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world
those things which I heard from Him.”

They did not understand that He spoke to them
of the Father.

Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the
Son of Man, then you will know that I am He,
and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My
Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He
who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left
Me alone, for I always do those things that

please Him.” As He spoke these words, many
believed in Him.

Tone 8 Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of
the Lord!

You are a mystical Paradise, O Theotokos,
who, though untilled, hast brought forth Christ;
through Him the life-bearing wood of the Cross
was planted on earth.
Now at its Exaltation,
as we bow in worship before it, we magnify you.

Communion Hymn of Saturday

The light of Thy countenance has been signed
upon us, O Lord. (*Ps 4/5:6*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

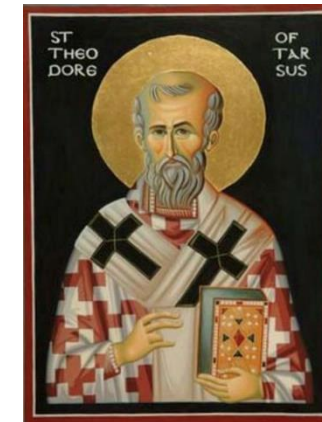
Theodore of Tarsus

**Saint Theodore was the eighth Archbishop of
Canterbury (668-690), and one of England’s
great saints.** He was a Greek from Tarsus, the
home of Saint Paul. He was a highly-educated
monk living in Rome who was quickly advanced
through all the clerical ranks and consecrated as
Archbishop of Canterbury at the age of sixty-
five. Saint Adrian (January 9), an African who
was the abbot of a monastery near Naples, was
sent to assist Saint Theodore.

Saint Theodore arrived in Kent in 669, when he
was almost seventy. In spite of his age, he was
quite energetic, traveling throughout England
founding churches and consecrating bishops to
fill those Sees which were left vacant by an
outbreak of plague. He also created new Sees
and established a school in Canterbury where
Greek was taught.

In Northumbria, Saint Theodore settled a
dispute involving episcopal succession. Saint

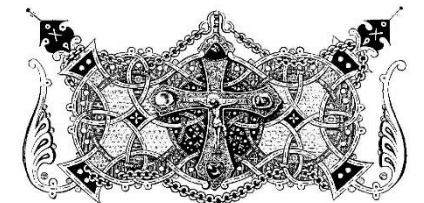
Wilfrid (October 12) had been elected Bishop of
Lindisfarne (the See was later transferred to
York), and he traveled to Gaul to be consecrated
by a Roman bishop, because he would not accept
consecration from a Celtic bishop. In the
meantime, Saint Chad, or Ceadda (March 2), had
been elected and uncanonically consecrated
because Wilfrid remained in Gaul for three
years. Although Saint Theodore deposed Saint
Chad, he recognized his worthiness to be a
bishop. He regularized the consecration, then
sent Saint Chad to be Bishop of Mercia. Saint
Wilfred was restored to his See.



Saint Theodore
summoned a council
of the entire English
Church at Hertford in
672. Not only was this
the first church
council in England, it
was the first
assembly of any kind
attended by
representatives from
all over the country.

In 679 he convened
another synod at Hatfield to maintain the purity
of Orthodox doctrine and to condemn the heresy
of Monothelitism.

Saint Theodore fell asleep in the Lord in 690,
and his body remained incorrupt for a long time.
Under his leadership, the English Church
became united in a way that the various tribal
kingdoms did not. The diocesan structures
which he established continue to serve as the
basis for church administration in England. He
was respected for his administrative skills, and
also for his moral and canonical decisions.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Sept 20

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 1 Troparion (*Cross*)

O Lord, save Thy people,
and bless Thine inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Thy Cross,//
preserve Thy habitation!

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*

Tone 6 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

When Christ God the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery
with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life,
and the God of all.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 Kontakion (*Cross*)

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross
for our sake,
grant mercy to those who are called by Thy
Name, O Christ God;
make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy
power,
granting them victories over their adversaries//
by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy
weapon of peace!

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glorify.

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footstool for He is holy!

Epistle of the Sunday After (Galatians 2:16-20)

knowing that a man is not justified by the works
of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we
have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be
justified by faith in Christ and not by the works
of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh
shall be justified.

“But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ,
we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ
therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if
I build again those things which I destroyed, I
make myself a transgressor. For I through the
law died to the law that I might live to God. I
have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I
who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life
which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the
Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for
me.

Epistle of the Sunday (2 Corinthians 4:6-15)

For it is the God who commanded light to shine
out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to
give the light of the knowledge of the glory of
God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the excellence of the power may be of God
and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every
side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not
in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck
down, but not destroyed— always carrying about
in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the
life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.
For we who live are always delivered to death
for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be
manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is
working in us, but life in you.

And since we have the same spirit of faith,
according to what is written, “I believed and
therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore
speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord
Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will
present us with you. For all things are for your
sakes, that grace, having spread through the
many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the
glory of God.

Gospel of the Sunday Before (Mark 8:34-9:1)

When He had called the people to Himself, with
His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever
desires to come after Me, let him deny himself,
and take up his cross, and follow Me. For
whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but
whoever loses his life for My sake and the
gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a
man if he gains the whole world, and loses his
own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange
for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and
My words in this adulterous and sinful
generation, of him the Son of Man also will be
ashamed when He comes in the glory of His
Father with the holy angels.”

And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you
that there are some standing here who will not

taste death till they see the kingdom of God
present with power.”

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 22:35-46)

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a
question, testing Him, and saying, “Teacher,
which is the great commandment in the law?”

Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your
God with all your heart, with all your soul, and
with all your mind.’ This is the first and great
commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You
shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these
two commandments hang all the Law and the
Prophets.”

While the Pharisees were gathered together,
Jesus asked them, saying, “What do you think
about the Christ? Whose Son is He?”

They said to Him, “The Son of David.”

He said to them, “How then does David in the
Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying:

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool” ’?

If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his
Son?” And no one was able to answer Him a
word, nor from that day on did anyone dare
question Him anymore.

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