



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

**19<sup>th</sup> Saturday/Sunday after Pentecost**

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org      October 17/18, 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, October 17**

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

**Sunday, October 18**

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

**Tuesday, October 20**

- 9:00 am Daily Matins
- 10:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

**Thursday, October 22**

NO MATINS OR OFFICE HOURS

**Saturday, October 24**

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

**Sunday, October 25**

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School



*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.*

# Announcements

➤ **Iconography Project:** The Iconography in the altar (the Ascension of Christ) has been completed and the work on the entrance to the church (narthex) is about 90% complete. The remainder of the narthex, the candle kiosk, and children's ("cry") room **will be completed when Fr Theodore returns in November. We appreciate everyone who has shown interest in supporting this project.**

➤ The Orthodox Mother's Group will be sponsoring a **Family Vespers Night on Saturday, November 7 at 6:00 pm.** It will be a time for fellowship, food, and fun with other Orthodox families with young children. It will be immediately following 5:00 pm Vigil. Snacks and drinks will be provided. All families with young children are welcomed to attend. See Alexandra Summers for more info.

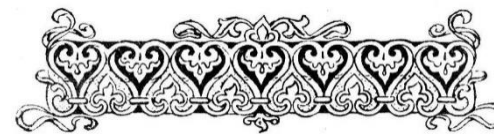


**To our Visitors: Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.**

# Prayers

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

➤ **Vigil Lights From Alexandria Tirpak** for special intentions. **From Charles Wasilko** for the departed servant Carol Wasilko. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants Carol Wasilko and Michelle Bittner; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine; for special intentions. **From Mat Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant of God Dn Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From the John Mahalchak family** for the departed servants of God friends and family, especially Veronica Mahalchak on her birthday; for the health of friends and family, especially John, Cheryl, Gregory, Kevin, Mary, and Daniel; for Igumen Patrick. **From Dawna Beckett** for the departed servants of God Donald Petkash, Olga and Michael Petkash, Helen and Nestor Jula. **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants of God Polina, Galina, Slava, Valentina, Bruce, Andrei, Manna, Gina, Victor, Mana; for the health of Vicka, Bernadette, Sergey, Adrianna, Diana, Edward, Veronika, Tatyana, Jeff.



# Thank You

➤ **Thank you to our October donors** Altar Candles \$25 **from Donya Yewisiak** in memory of Matushka Olga Soroka; Incense \$10 **from the John Mahalchak Family** for the health of family and friends.

# This Week in Church School

**Today's lesson:** Noah

**Scripture reference:** Genesis 6-8

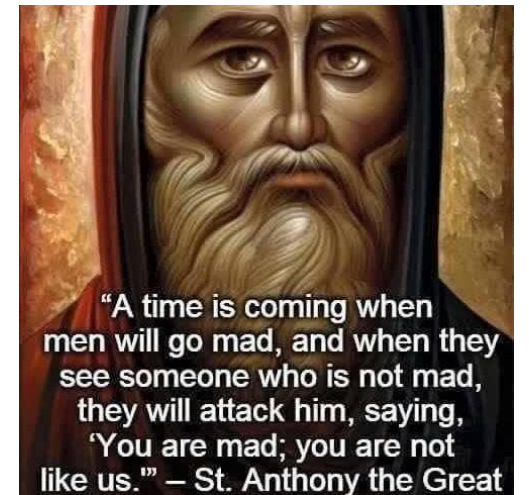
**Questions to ask/review:**

- Why did God flood the earth? Why did He choose Noah?
- How do you think Noah felt building a huge boat in his backyard with all the neighbors laughing at him?
- Have people ever laughed at you? How did it feel? How did you respond? How did Noah respond to this "peer pressure"?
- What did God command after the flood? What do rainbows tell us?

**Suggested Activities at home:**

- Build a small boat out of construction paper, cardboard, and tape. See how long the boat lasts in the bathtub. Have a boat making competition with siblings
- Paint a picture of Noah, his family, the animals, and a rainbow.
- Teach and sing the song "Arky Arky" (lyrics and rhythm easily found on internet)

**Prayer:** Lord, strengthen us to follow you when it is hard.





# Hymns and Readings for Saturday, Oct 17

## **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 (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 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 (1 Cor 15:58-16:3)**

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast,  
immovable, always abounding in the work of the  
Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in  
the Lord.

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as  
I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so  
you must do also: On the first day of the week

let each one of you lay something aside, storing  
up as he may prosper, that there be no  
collections when I come. And when I come,  
whomever you approve by your letters I will  
send to bear your gift to Jerusalem.

## **Gospel of the Saturday (Luke 6:1-10)**

Now it happened on the second Sabbath after  
the first that He went through the grainfields.  
And His disciples plucked the heads of grain and  
ate them, rubbing them in their hands. And  
some of the Pharisees said to them, “Why are  
you doing what is not lawful to do on the  
Sabbath?”

But Jesus answering them said, “Have you not  
even read this, what David did when he was  
hungry, he and those who were with him: how  
he went into the house of God, took and ate the  
showbread, and also gave some to those with  
him, which is not lawful for any but the priests  
to eat?” And He said to them, “The Son of Man is  
also Lord of the Sabbath.”

Now it happened on another Sabbath, also, that  
He entered the synagogue and taught. And a  
man was there whose right hand was withered.  
So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him  
closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath,  
that they might find an accusation against Him.  
But He knew their thoughts, and said to the man  
who had the withered hand, “Arise and stand  
here.” And he arose and stood. Then Jesus said  
to them, “I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on  
the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life  
or to destroy?” And when He had looked around  
at them all, He said to the man, “Stretch out  
your hand.” And he did so, and his hand was  
restored as whole as the other.

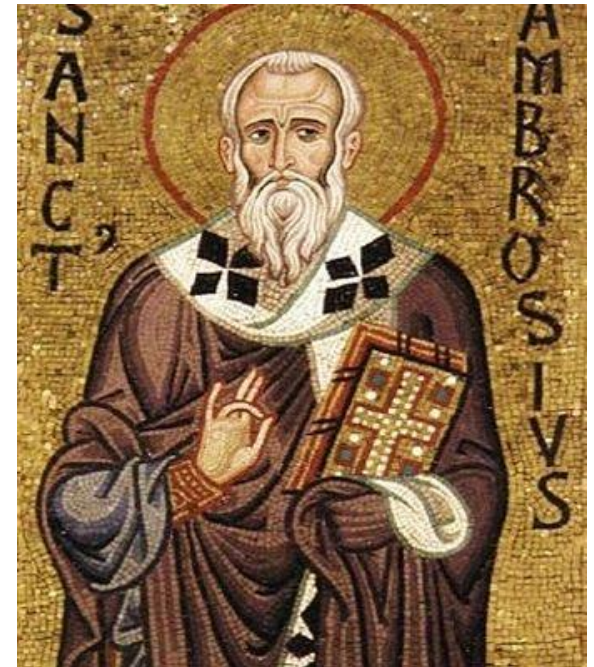
## **Communion Hymn of Saturday**

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous. Praise befits  
the just. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (Ps 33:1)

# Ambrosiaster Q&A

**QUESTION 61.** *Why did the Savior, responding to the Jews who accused the disciples of breaking the Sabbath by crushing ears of corn in their hands to eat them, bring them the example of David, who had eaten breads that were permitted to be slaughtered? Only to the priests, an example which, far from justifying them, makes them guilty of the same fault as David, who, moreover, did not do this action on a Sabbath day (1 Sam. 21:4).* — The Savior wants to confuse the hypocrisy of the Jews with many examples. He therefore cites to them greater transgressions under the law without anyone having dared to accuse them, he shows the Sabbath violated several times in the law, the breads reserved for priests eaten by the priests by those who were not, and these transgressions having as authors men who enjoyed great authority under the law. The first was Joshua, the son of Nave, who, by the command of God himself, did not observe the Sabbath day and saw the walls of Jericho fall on his approach (Josh. 1:20). It was therefore very useful to him to have obeyed the command of God rather than the Sabbath law. The Maccabees, defeated in a first battle, delivered a second on the Sabbath and triumphed over their enemies (1 Mac. 2:38,41). David had already received the royal anointing and robbed the Philistine of his armies, whom he had killed by the power of God (1 Sam. 21:1). Now, finding himself on a journey, pressed by hunger, he received from the hands of the high priest some bread which he was forbidden to eat; but this defense was only out of necessity, which permitted its use. The high priest, before this necessity, gave him these loaves, and David, the chosen of God, did not hesitate to take them. It is the same with the Sabbath, so it is not forbidden to give circumcision on the Sabbath. Commands whose violation does not entail any danger must be observed; but if there is

necessity, or can transgress them without any danger, because they have been given rather to impress a certain respect than as necessary to salvation. On the contrary, what is forbidden absolutely is never allowed, and transgression, whatever the necessity, is always harmful. What laws prohibit as essentially bad is always forbidden. As for the precepts of which we have said that transgression is sometimes permitted, it is for example the ages of obligation, which we may not observe in case of necessity without being guilty, if we are authorized by the weakness of the stomach or disease. The Jews did not ignore it, and their accusation against the disciples of breaking the Sabbath law was not sincere. Now, the Savior did not wish to oppose to them the time of the law which touched his soul in order not to irritate them more, but he fights their calumnious accusation by examples taken in the past much more favorable for them in the defense of the Sabbath and, as we have said above, he confounds them not only on the Sabbath article, but on the breads reserved for priests.



# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Oct 18

## **Tone 2 Troparion** (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** (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** (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** (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** (Resurrection)

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (Ps. 117:14)

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9)

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my

infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

## **Gospel of the Sunday** (Luke 8:5-15)

“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?”

And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that

‘Seeing they may not see,  
And hearing they may not understand.’

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

## **Communion Hymn of Sunday**

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

# St Luke, Iconographer

The holy Church from antiquity preserves the tradition that the apostle Luke the Evangelist was the first person to paint an icon of the Mother of God. In a stichera for the feast of the Kazan icon of the Mother of God (October 22), we hear: “The proclaimer of the Gospel mysteries, who was the first to write Thy icon, brought it to Thee, O Sovereign Lady and Thou didst make it thine own; and having made it powerful to save those who honor Thee, Thou didst rejoice for Thou art merciful, and bring us salvation.” The distinguished Russian researcher N. P. Kondakov in his work dedicated to the icon of the Mother of God, “Hodigitria”, wrote based on Byzantine sources, “Further, tradition confirms that this icon was painted by the Evangelist Luke himself at the blessing of the Mother of God herself: ‘May my grace be with this icon’. It was then sent to King Theophilus in Antioch, and after it was transferred to Constantinople, it was placed in the Blachernae Church. The whole web of these traditions is woven around certain historical facts, but either of varying times, or in another order. The ancient tradition that says that the holy Evangelist Luke painted this icon of the Mother of God goes back as far as the eighth century. According to the Lives of saints, this testimony was cited by Patriarch Germanos, in an epistle to Constantine Copronimos attributed to St. John Damascene, and in an epistle of the patriarch to Emperor Theophilus. This tradition was finally confirmed by the ninth century” (Iconography of the Mother of God, v.2 [Moscow, 1998] 153).

