



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

**Demetrius Saturday/20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org      October 24/25, 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 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

### Tuesday, October 27

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

### Wednesday, October 28

- 7:00 pm Bible Study (online only)

### Thursday, October 29

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

### Saturday, October 31

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

### Sunday, November 1

- 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.

➤ This past Monday, **His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius**, former head of the Orthodox Church in America, fell asleep in the Lord at the age of 86. Thank you to those parishioners who selflessly attended and/or sang at the services.

**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:* Geroge Shaytar, Paul Yewisiak, Fred Zelesnik. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Olga Tryszyn.

➤ **Vigil Lights From the Rune Family**, for the health of Jenifer Rune and baby. **From Matushka Joni Soroka** for the departed servants Ruth, EJ, and Barbara; for the health of John. **From John Kowalcheck and Olga Cozza** for the health and salvation of our family. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton and for special intentions. **From Charles Wasilko** for the departed servant Carol Wasilko. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants Uncle John Wasilko and Uncle Steve Panik; Many Years and Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary to John and Nancy Pravlochak. **From Matushka Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant Deacon Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants sister-in-law Carol Wasilko and Michelle Bittner; Happy Anniversary and Many Years to John and Nancy Pravlochak! **From Irene Kulchock** for the departed servant Richard Kulchock; for the health of Jan Pravlochak. **From Alina Maksymova** for the health of Victoriia. **From Cathy Namisnak** for the health of David Namisnak; Many Years - Birthday. **From John Mahalchak Family** for the departed servants Veronica, John, and friends and family; for the health of friends and family.

## 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:** The Tower of Babel

**Scripture reference:** Genesis 11:1-8

**Questions to ask/review:**

- Why did the people want to build a tower?
- How high would the tower go? What does this tell us about their motivation?
- Why did God confuse their language? What was the result?
- How does this story relate to the feast of Pentecost? Compare the stories.
- At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes down upon the Apostles. How is this the opposite of the Tower of Babel?
- What are some languages you know of? Can you speak any other languages?
- What is it like to not understand someone's language? How does it make you feel? How does it make the other person feel?

**Suggested Activities at home:**

- Play Jenga or another building game.
- Read family prayers in a different language this week. Find and create brief translations of well-known daily prayers.

**Prayer:** Prayer: Lord, may all the people and languages be unified again through the Gospel. Amen.



# Hymns and Readings for Saturday, Oct 24

## **Tone 8 Troparion** of the Departed

Thou only Creator Who, with wisdom profound,  
mercifully orderest all things,  
and givest unto all that which is useful:  
Give rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy servants  
who have fallen asleep,//  
for they have placed their trust in Thee, our  
Maker and Fashioner, and our God.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

## **Tone 8 Kontakion** of the Departed

With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls  
of Thy servants,  
where sickness and sorrow are no more, neither  
sighing,//  
but life everlasting!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

## **Tone 8 Theotokion** of the Departed

We have thee as a wall and a haven  
and an intercessor well-pleasing to God,//  
Whom thou hast borne, O Virgin Theotokos, the  
salvation of the faithful.

## **Tone 6 Prokeimenon** of the Departed

Their souls shall dwell / with the blessed. (*Ps.*  
*24:13a*)

## **Epistle** of the Saturday (2 Corinthians 1:8-11)

For we do not want you to be ignorant,  
brethren, of our trouble which came to us in  
Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure,  
above strength, so that we despaired even of  
life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in  
ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves  
but in God who raises the dead, who delivered  
us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in  
whom we trust that He will still deliver us, you  
also helping together in prayer for us, that

thanks may be given by many persons on our  
behalf for the gift granted to us through many.

## **Epistle** of Demetrius Saturday (1 Thes4:13-17)

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren,  
concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest  
you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if  
we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even  
so God will bring with Him those who sleep in  
Jesus.

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord,  
that we who are alive and remain until the  
coming of the Lord will by no means precede  
those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will  
descend from heaven with a shout, with the  
voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of  
God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then  
we who are alive and remain shall be caught up  
together with them in the clouds to meet the  
Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be  
with the Lord.

## **Gospel** of the Saturday (Luke 7:1-10)

Now when He concluded all His sayings in the  
hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum.  
And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear  
to him, was sick and ready to die. So when he  
heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to  
Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his  
servant. And when they came to Jesus, they  
begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for  
whom He should do this was deserving, "for he  
loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."

Then Jesus went with them. And when He was  
already not far from the house, the centurion  
sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do  
not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that  
You should enter under my roof. Therefore I did  
not even think myself worthy to come to You.  
But say the word, and my servant will be healed.  
For I also am a man placed under authority,

having soldiers under me. And I say to 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 these things, He marveled at  
him, and turned around and said to the crowd  
that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not  
found such great faith, not even in Israel!" And  
those who were sent, returning to the house,  
found the servant well who had been sick.

## **Gospel** of Demetrius Saturday (John 5:24-30)

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My  
word and believes in Him who sent Me has  
everlasting life, and shall not come into  
judgment, but has passed from death into life.  
Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming,  
and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of  
the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For  
as the Father has life in Himself, so He has  
granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has  
given Him authority to execute judgment also,  
because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at  
this; for the hour is coming in which all who are  
in the graves will hear His voice and come  
forth—those who have done good, to the  
resurrection of life, and those who have done  
evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. I can  
of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My  
judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My  
own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

## **Communion Hymn** of Saturday

Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen and  
taken, O Lord. Their remembrance is from  
generation to generation. Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia!

## Joy of All Who Sorrow

On October 24, the Church commemorates the  
**Icon of the Mother of God, Joy of All Who**

**Sorrow.** A woman named Euphymia (sister of  
Patriarch Joachim) received healing from  
sickness after obeying a voice telling her to find  
this icon and have the priest celebrate a  
Molieben with a blessing of the waters. This  
miracle occurred on October 24, 1688.

The design of this icon depicts the Theotokos, a  
most beautiful blossom of heaven, standing  
among the flowers of paradise. Her Son is  
visible above her in the clouds, the King of  
heaven and earth. Along both sides of the icon,  
framing the Mother of God, are suppliants  
asking for her intercession. She stands with her  
arms spread open and her head tilted as if  
listening. The tenderness and kindness of a  
loving mother are evident in her face. She  
stands in paradise and yet among us.

The theology in this icon depicts the Theotokos  
as also being our mother, who feels our pain. It  
is believed, by Orthodox Christians, that she  
intercedes for us, bringing our pain into her  
Son's presence. She is praying our prayers with  
love, bringing our needs into the unique  
relationship that a mother shares with her  
children. She is our joy, because in her love she  
hears us. Her unceasing intercession and her  
limitless love help heal our sorrows.

## **Tone 2 Troparion** of the Icon

Thou art the joy of all who sorrow  
and the protectress of the oppressed,  
feeder of the hungry, consolation of travelers,  
haven for the tempest-tossed, visitation of the  
sick,  
protection and aid of the infirm, staff of old age,  
O all-pure Mother of the Most High God.//  
Hasten, we pray, to save thy servants.

## **Tone 6 Kontakion** of the Icon

We have no other help, we have no other hope,  
apart from thee, O Lady:  
help us. we hope in thee and in thee we glory.//  
Let us not be confounded for we are thy  
servants..

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Oct 25

## **Tone 3 Troparion** (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** (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** (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** (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 3 Prokeimenon** (Resurrection)

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

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (Galatians 1:11-19)

But I make known to you, brethren, that the  
gospel which was preached by me is not  
according to man. For I neither received it from  
man, nor was I taught it, but it came through  
the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former conduct in  
Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God  
beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I  
advanced in Judaism beyond many of my  
contemporaries in my own nation, being more  
exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my  
fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me  
from my mother's womb and called me through  
His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might  
preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not  
immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor  
did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were  
apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and  
returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to  
see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.  
But I saw none of the other apostles except  
James, the Lord's brother.

## **Gospel of the Sunday** (Luke 16:19-31)

"There was a certain rich man who was clothed  
in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously  
every day. But there was a certain beggar named

Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate,  
desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell  
from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs  
came and licked his sores. So it was that the  
beggar died, and was carried by the angels to  
Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and  
was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he  
lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and  
Lazarus in his bosom.

"Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have  
mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip  
the tip of his finger in water and cool my  
tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But  
Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your  
lifetime you received your good things, and  
likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is  
comforted and you are tormented. And besides  
all this, between us and you there is a great gulf  
fixed, so that those who want to pass from here  
to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to  
us.'

"Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that  
you would send him to my father's house, for I  
have five brothers, that he may testify to them,  
lest they also come to this place of torment.'  
Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the  
prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No,  
father Abraham; but if one goes to them from  
the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him,  
'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets,  
neither will they be persuaded though one rise  
from the dead.' "

## **Communion Hymn of Sunday**

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

# Anastasia the Roman

The Martyr Anastasia the Roman lost her  
parents in infancy, and was then taken to be

reared by the abbess of a women's monastery,  
named Sophia. She raised Anastasia in fervent  
faith, in the fear of God and obedience.

The persecution against Christians by the  
emperor Decius (249-251) began at that time.  
The city administrator, Probus, on the orders of  
the emperor commanded that Anastasia be  
brought to him. Blessed by her abbess to suffer  
for Christ, the young martyr Anastasia humbly  
came out to meet the armed soldiers. Seeing her  
youth and beauty, Probus first attempted  
flattery to make her deny Christ.

"Why waste your youth, deprived of pleasure?  
What is there to gain by enduring tortures and  
death for the Crucified? Worship our gods,  
marry a handsome husband, and live in glory  
and honor."

The saint steadfastly replied, "My spouse, my  
riches, my life and my happiness are my Lord  
Jesus Christ, and you will not turn me away  
from Him by your deceit!"

Probus subjected Anastasia to fierce tortures.  
The holy martyr bravely endured them,  
glorifying and praising the Lord. In anger the  
torturers cut out her tongue.

The people, seeing the inhuman and disgusting  
treatment of the saint, became indignant, and  
the ruler was compelled to end the tortures by  
beheading the martyr. In this manner, Saint  
Anastasia received the crown of martyrdom.

The body of the saint was thrown out beyond  
the city to be eaten by wild animals, but the  
Lord did not permit her holy relics to be  
dishonored. At the command of a holy angel,  
Abbess Sophia went to find Saint Anastasia's  
mutilated body. With the help of two Christians,  
she buried it in the earth.

