



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

21st Saturday/Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org Oct 31/Nov 1, 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 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

Tuesday, November 3

- 9:00 am *Moleben* for the Increase of Love and the Uprooting of Hatred and All Animosity

- 10:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, November 5

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

Saturday, November 7

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School
- 5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil
- 6:00 pm Family Night Activities

Sunday, November 8

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

Announcements

➤ Congratulations to **Jenifer and Chris Rune** on the birth of their son, Gerard Seraphim! He was born Tuesday morning at 10:48 am. Mom and baby are doing well and Dad and big sister Sophia are thrilled! May God grant the Rune family many years!

➤ 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.

➤ **Iconography Project:** The remainder of the narthex, the candle kiosk, and children's ("cry") room will be completed when Fr Theodore returns beginning November 9. **We are still in need of donors. Please consider a generous donation!**

➤ **Annual Parish Christmas Card:** For those new to St. Nicholas, this project raises money for the monthly community meal. We ask each person/family to donate \$10 to have their/their family's name printed on our parish Christmas card which is then sent to all parishioners in early December. To participate, see Jan Widell on Saturdays or Susan Porter on Sundays. If you prefer, you may mail your \$10 check payable to "St. Nicholas Orthodox Church" directly to Marsha Wasilko, 1232 Stanford Court, Coraopolis, Pa. 15108. Deadline is November 29. Also available for purchase are boxed Orthodox Christmas cards. See Marsha Wasilko or Susan Porter. Thank you!

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* Geroge Shaytar, Paul Yewisiak, Jenifer Rune (*40 days after giving birth*). *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Olga Tryszyn.

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Doris Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; for special intentions. From **Mat Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant of God Deacon Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Charles Wasilko** for the departed servants Uncle Steve Panik and John Wasilko. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **John and Nancy Pravlochak** for our departed parents; for the health of our family; thanks for anniversary blessings! From **Olga Cozza and John Kowalcheck** for the health of Luke Heuer on his 5th birthday. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Cathy Namisnak, many years on her birthday! From the **John Mahalchak family** for departed friends and family; for the health of friends and family, especially Cheryl, John, and Gregory. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants Polina, Slava, Bruce, Marina, Valentina, Andrei; for the health of Jeff, Diana, Bunny, Bernedet, Veronika, Sergei, Tatyana, and Andriana.

Thank You

➤ to our **November donors, Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell**, for donating all the categories (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10) in loving memory of Deacon Joseph Mell (husband, father) and departed members of the Karavlan family.

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Abraham

Scripture reference: Genesis 12-18

Questions to ask/review:

- Who was Abram? What did God ask Abram to do?
- How did Abram become Abraham? Why did God change his name? How is this name change similar to when someone's name is changed at baptism?
- How do we know Abraham was a great man of faith? How did he respond to God?
- What other people do you believe are examples of great faith? Why?
- Who was Melchizedek? What did Abraham give him?
- What was admirable about Abraham and Sarah's marriage? Not admirable?
- Who visited Abraham and promised Sarah would give birth?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Invite guests for lunch or tea, practice hospitality like Abraham.
- Sing the song "Father Abraham Had Many Sons" (easy to find on the internet).

Prayer: Lord, give us the faith of Abraham to follow You.

Stewards of the OCA Sunday, November 15:

Support the work of the Orthodox Church in America by becoming a Steward of the OCA. Your support will enhance the work of the ministries and departments of the OCA that serve the entire church by providing important resources such as liturgical texts, liturgical music, religious educational material, and educational events. Other new and exciting projects are also under development. Go to oca.org/stewards to learn more and to view the schedule of upcoming live online events that will highlight the work and plans of the departments."

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, Oct 31

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 (2 Corinthians 3:12-18)

Therefore, since we have such hope, we use
great boldness of speech— unlike Moses, who
put a veil over his face so that the children of
Israel could not look steadily at the end of what
was passing away. But their minds were
blinded. For until this day the same veil remains
unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament,
because the veil is taken away in Christ. But

even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies
on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to
the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is
the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face,
beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,
are being transformed into the same image from
glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Gospel of the Saturday (Luke 8:16-21)

“No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a
vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a
lampstand, that those who enter may see the
light. For nothing is secret that will not be
revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be
known and come to light. Therefore take heed
how you hear. For whoever has, to him more
will be given; and whoever does not have, even
what he seems to have will be taken from him.”

Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and
could not approach Him because of the crowd.
And it was told Him by some, who said, “Your
mother and Your brothers are standing outside,
desiring to see You.”

But He answered and said to them, “My mother
and My brothers are these who hear the word of
God and do it.”

Communion Hymn of Saturday

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

St John Kochurov

Saint John Alexandrovich Kochurov (Russian:
Иоанн Александрович Кочуров), hieromartyr
of the Soviet revolution, was one of a number of
young educated priests who came to the United

States in the late 1890s as missionaries among
the émigrés from Carpathian Ruthenia and
Galicia. He was active in establishing parishes
and aiding communities, mainly in the Midwest.

John Kochurov was born on June 13, 1871. His
father was a priest. His education included
attendance at the Ryazan Theological Seminary
before continuing at the St. Petersburg
Theological Academy. He excelled at his studies
at both the seminary and academy. After
graduating in 1895, Fr. John married and then
entered his life's work when he was ordained
deacon. On August 27, 1895, he was ordained a
priest at the St. Alexander Nevsky Lavra in St.
Petersburg by Bishop Nicholas (Ziorov) of the
Diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska.

Having expressed the desire to be a missionary
priest in the United States, Fr. John was soon
transferred and became the first permanent
priest at St. Vladimir's Church in Chicago. This
parish was later to become the Holy Trinity
Cathedral. As St. Vladimir's parish did not yet
have their own building, his first major project
was construction of the church building. Under
the guidance of Bishop Tikhon, later Patriarch
Tikhon of Moscow and saint, Fr. John enlisted
the services of the noted architect Louis Sullivan
to design the church. To finance the project, Fr.
John sought and obtained donations from Tsar
Nicholas II as well as from a few Americans,
notably Harold McCormick and Charles R. Crane
who was the American ambassador to China.
Construction of the church began in April 1902
and was completed the next year for the
consecration by Bishop Tikhon.

Fr. John devoted much effort to aiding the
establishment of other parishes in the Chicago
area. He performed the first service for the
future Archangel Michael Orthodox Church in
southwest Chicago. In the Chicago area he was
active in the formation of the parishes in
Madison, Streator, and Joliet (all in Illinois), as
well as aiding the parishes in Buffalo, NY, and

Hartshorn, OK.

On the social side of parish life, he, with Fr.
Alexis Toth, future Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre,
was influential in the establishment of a major
Orthodox mutual aid society that provided
support for the many newly arrived immigrants.
He also translated religious texts into English,
looking to the time when the church in America
would consist of English-speaking members.
Before his return to Russia, Fr. John helped to
organize the first All-American Council that was
held in Mayfield, Pennsylvania, in 1907.

Fr. John returned to Russia in 1907 where he
was assigned to Narva (now Estonia). Here he
put to use the skills he had learned in the United
States teaching catechism in the schools.

Then in 1916, he was transferred to St.
Catherine's Cathedral in Tsarskoye Selo, just
outside St. Petersburg. At St. Catherine's, he
established himself as a popular priest who was
skilled in presenting moving sermons. Then in
October 1917 the Bolshevik uprising in St.
Petersburg spilled over quickly into Tsarskoye
Selo as the town was attacked by Bolshevik
elements. The people thronged to the churches
where the clergy held prayer services and led
processions throughout the town praying for
peace.

On October 31, 1917 (Old Style), the Bolsheviks
entered Tsarskoe Selo in force and arrested Fr.
John. He was taken by the Bolsheviks out of
town where he was summarily shot. By this act,
Fr. John became the proto-hieromartyr of the
Bolshevik revolution and the Soviet yoke. Fr.
John was buried several days later in the crypt
of St. Catherine's Cathedral.

On December 1994, Fr. John was glorified by the
Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox
Church, as the first of the new martyrs of the
20th century. In the United States he is also
honored as a missionary and inspired preacher.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Nov 1

Tone 4 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ our God is risen,// granting 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 4 Kontakion (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master,// He has risen on the third day!

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 4 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all. (Ps. 103:26)

Epistle of the Sunday (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.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 8:26-39)

Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!” For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

Jesus asked him, saying, “What is your name?”

And he said, “Legion,” because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.

When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned.

Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.” And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

Communion Hymn of Sunday

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

Cosmos and Damian of Asia Minor

Trained and skilled as physicians, they received from the Holy Spirit the gift of healing people’s illnesses of body and soul by the power of prayer. They even treated animals. With fervent love for both God and neighbor, they never took payment for their services. They strictly observed the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, “Freely have you received, freely give.” (Mt. 10:8). The fame of Saints Cosmas and Damian spread throughout all the surrounding region, and people called them unmercenary physicians.

Once, the saints were summoned to a grievously ill woman named Palladia, whom all the doctors had refused to treat because of her seemingly hopeless condition. Through faith and through the fervent prayer of the holy brothers, the Lord healed the deadly disease and Palladia got up from her bed perfectly healthy and giving praise to God. In gratitude for being healed and wishing to give them a small gift, Palladia went quietly to Damian. She presented him with three eggs and said, “Take this small gift in the Name of the Holy Life-Creating Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” Hearing the Name of the Holy Trinity, the unmercenary one did not dare to refuse.

When Saint Cosmas learned what had happened, became very sad, for he thought that his brother had broken their strict vow. On his deathbed he gave instructions that his brother should not be buried beside him. Saint Damian also died shortly afterward, and everyone wondered where Saint Damian’s grave should be. But through the will of God a miracle occurred. A camel, which the saints had treated for its wildness, spoke with a human voice saying that they should have no doubts about whether to place Damian beside Cosmas, because Damian did not accept the eggs from the woman as payment, but out of respect for the Name of God. The venerable relics of the holy brothers were buried together at Thereman (Mesopotamia).