



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

22nd Saturday/Synaxis Bodiless Powers

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org November 7/8, 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, November 7

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

Sunday, November 8

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

Tuesday, November 10

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

Wednesday, November 11

- 7:00 pm Bible Study (Online Only)

Thursday, November 12

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

Saturday, November 14

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

Sunday, November 15

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

Announcements

➤ **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!**

➤ **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."

➤ **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!

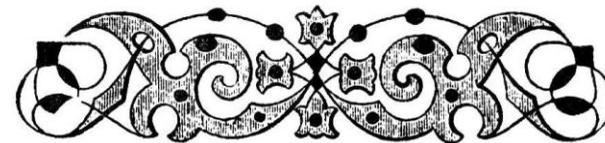
Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* Geroqe 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 Jeff and Luann Kopycinski** for the departed servant Ellsworth Kopycinski. From the **John Mahalchak family** for departed friends and family; for the health of friends and family, especially John, Cheryl, Gregory, Kevin, Mary, and Daniel. From **John Kowalcheck and Olga Cozza** for the health of Dana Kowalcheck on her birthday. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants of the Wasilko and Dyczko families; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants Uncle John Wasilko and Uncle Steve Panik (20 years); for the health of Igumen Patrick. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; for special intentions. From **Charles Wasilko** for the departed servant Ala Chtchurakov; for the health of sisters Doris and Marsha and for Igumen Patrick.

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: Isaac

Scripture reference: Genesis 21-25

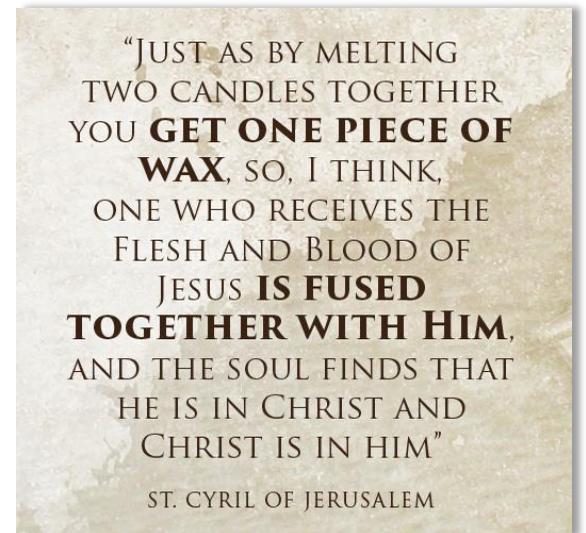
Questions to ask/review:

- Who were Ishmael and Isaac? Who are the sons of Ishmael today? The sons of Isaac?
- What does the Apostle Paul teach about Isaac and Ishmael in the book of Galatians? What does it teach us?
- How did God test Abraham's faith through his son Isaac? What does this event foreshadow?
- How did Isaac find a wife? Who was his wife?
- What qualities did Rebekah show?

Suggested Activities at home:

- For families, make a list about challenges that come with having siblings. Discuss what it would be like to feel less important than another sibling. Compare this to the story of Isaac and Ishmael.

Prayer: Lord, thank You that we are wonderfully made, even as the baby Isaac.



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 5:1-10)

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent,
is destroyed, we have a building from God, a
house not made with hands, eternal in the
heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring
to be clothed with our habitation which is from
heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall
not be found naked. For we who are in this tent
groan, being burdened, not because we want to

be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality
may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has
prepared us for this very thing is God, who also
has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident, knowing that while
we are at home in the body we are absent from
the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We
are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be
absent from the body and to be present with the
Lord.

Therefore we make it our aim, whether present
or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we
must all appear before the judgment seat of
Christ, that each one may receive the things
done in the body, according to what he has
done, whether good or bad.

Gospel of the Saturday (Luke 9:1-6)

Then He called His twelve disciples together and
gave them power and authority over all demons,
and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the
kingdom of God and to heal the sick. And He
said to them, “Take nothing for the journey,
neither staffs nor bag nor bread nor money; and
do not have two tunics apiece.

“Whatever house you enter, stay there, and from
there depart. And whoever will not receive you,
when you go out of that city, shake off the very
dust from your feet as a testimony against
them.”

So they departed and went through the towns,
preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

Communion Hymn of Saturday

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



33 Martyrs of Melitine

The holy martyr Hieron was born in the city of
Tiana in great Cappadocia. Raised by a pious
mother, he was a kindly and good Christian.

The co-ruling emperors Diocletian (284-305)
and Maximian (284-305) sent a large military
detachment headed by Lysias to Cappadocia to
eradicate Christianity there, and also to
conscript healthy and strong men into the
imperial army. Among those pressed into
service, Lysias also ordered his men to draft
Hieron, who was distinguished by his great
physical strength and dexterity. But Hieron
refused to serve emperors who persecuted
Christians. When they attempted to seize him by
force and bring him to Lysias, he took a stick
and started beating the soldiers who had been
sent to bring him. The soldiers scattered,
ashamed of being defeated by a single man.
Hieron then hid himself in a cave with eighteen
other Christians. Lysias would not risk losing
his soldiers by storming the cave.

Upon the advice of Cyriacus, one of Hieron’s
friends, Lysias lifted the siege of the cave and
withdrew his detachment. Then Cyriacus
persuaded Hieron not to offer resistance to the
authorities. He and the other new conscripts and
accompanying soldiers were sent to the nearby
city of Melitene.

Soon Hieron had a vision in his sleep, in which
his impending martyrdom was foretold. Lysias
told the soldiers gathered at Melitene to offer
sacrifice to the pagan gods. Hieron and another
thirty-two soldiers refused to do this, and
openly confessed their faith in Christ. Then the
persecutor gave orders to beat the martyrs, and
to cut off Hieron’s arm at the elbow. After cruel
tortures they threw the martyrs into prison
barely alive, and they beheaded them four days
later.

A certain rich and illustrious Christian by the
name of Chrysanthus ransomed Hieron’s head
from Lysias. When the persecutions finally
ceased, he built a church on the place where
they executed the holy martyrs, and he placed
the venerable head in it. The bodies of all the
executed saints were secretly buried by
Christians. In reign of the emperor Justinian,
during the construction of the church of Hagia
Eirene (Holy Peace), the venerable relics were
uncovered and found incorrupt.

The other martyrs are: Hesychius, Nicander,
Athanasius, Mamas, Barachus, Callinicus,
Theogenes, Nikon, Longinus, Theodore,
Valerius, Xanthius, Theodoulus, Callimachus,
Eugene, Theodochus, Ostrychius, Epiphanius,
Maximian, Ducitius, Claudian, Theophilus,
Gigantius, Dorotheus, Theodotus, Castrichius,
Anicletus, Themelius, Eutyichius, Hilarion,
Diodotus and Amonitus.

40 Children Martyrs

The Martyrs Melasippus and Karina and their
son Antoninus, and 40 children converted by
their martyrdom at Ancyra suffered during the
reign of the emperor Julian the Apostate in the
city of Ancyra in Phrygia in the year 363. The
holy Martyrs Melasippus and Karina, lacerated
by iron hooks and exhausted, died under
torture.

Their son Antoninus, whom the persecutor
forced to watch the torture of his parents, spat
in the face of the apostate emperor. For this he
was subjected to cruel tortures, but he remained
unharmed, and then he was beheaded. Forty
other youths, seeing that the Lord had preserved
His confessor Antoninus unharmed by tortures,
believed in Christ, and they openly confessed
their faith and endured martyrdom..

glory and gain, but to honor God, and to spread word of Him, for the benefit of those under them.

ARCHANGELS (1 Thess 4:16) are messengers of great and wondrous tidings. They reveal prophecies and the mysteries of the faith. They enlighten people to know and understand the will of God, they spread faith in God among the people, illuminating their minds with the light of the Holy Gospel.

ANGELS (1 Pet 3:22) are in the lowest rank of the heavenly hierarchy, and closest to people. They reveal the lesser mysteries of God and His intentions, guiding people to virtuous and holy life. They support those who remain steadfast, and they raise up the fallen. They never abandon us and they are always prepared to help us, if we desire it.

All the Ranks of the Heavenly Powers are called angels, although each has its own name and position by virtue of their service. The Lord reveals His will to the highest ranks of the angels, and they in turn inform the others.

Over all the Nine Ranks, the Lord appointed the Holy Archangel Michael (his name in Hebrew means “who is like unto God”), the faithful servitor of God, as Chief Commander. He cast down from Heaven the arrogantly proud Lucifer and the other fallen spirits when they rebelled against God. Michael summoned the ranks of angels and cried out, “Let us attend! Let us stand aright before our Creator and do not consider doing what is displeasing unto God!”

According to Church Tradition, and in the church services to the Archangel Michael, he participated in many other Old Testament events.

Holy Scripture and Tradition give us the names of the Archangels:

Gabriel: strength (power) of God, herald and servitor of Divine omnipotence (Dan 8:16, Luke 1:26). He announces the mysteries of God.

Raphael: the healing of God, the curer of human

infirmities (Tobit 3:16, 12:15)

Uriel: the fire or light of God, enlightener (3 Ezdras 5:20). We pray for him to enlighten those with darkened minds. **Selaphiel:** the prayer of God, impelling to prayer (3 Ezdras 5:16). He prays to God for mankind. **Jehudiel:** the glorifying of God, encouraging exertion for the glory of the Lord and interceding for the reward of efforts.

Barachiel: distributor of the blessings of God for good deeds, entreats the mercy of God for people.

Jeremiel: the raising up to God (3 Ezdras 4:36)

On icons the Archangels are depicted in according to the character of their service:

Michael tramples the devil underfoot, and in his left hand holds a green date-tree branch, and in his right hand a spear with a white banner on which is outlined a scarlet cross, or sometimes a fiery sword.

Gabriel with a branch from Paradise, presented by him to the Most Holy Virgin, or with a shining lantern in his right hand and with a mirror made of jasper in his left.

Raphael holds a vessel with healing medications in his left hand, and with his right hand leads Tobias, carrying a fish for healing (Tobit 5-8).

Uriel in his raised right hand holds a naked sword at the level of his chest, and in his lowered left hand “a fiery flame.”

Selaphiel in a prayerful posture, gazing downwards, hands folded on the chest.

Jehudiel holds a golden crown in his right hand, in his left, a whip of three red (or black) thongs. Barachiel is shown with a white rose on his breast. Jeremiel holds balance-scales in his hand.

Each person has a guardian angel, and **every nation** also receives its own guardian angel from God (Dan. 10:13). When **a church** is consecrated, it also receives a guardian angel (Palladius, Dialogue. Ch. 10).

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Nov 8

Tone 5 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

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.

Tone 4 Troparion *(Bodiless Powers)*

O Commanders of the heavenly hosts, we who are unworthy beseech you: by your prayers encompass us beneath the wings of your immaterial glory, and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry out to you:// “Deliver us from all harm, for you are the Commanders of the Powers on high!”

Tone 5 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man,// and we cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

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

Tone 2 Kontakion *(Bodiless Powers)*

Commanders of God’s armies

and ministers of the divine glory, princes of the bodiless angels and guides of mankind; ask for what is good for us, and for great mercy// O Supreme Commanders of the Bodiless Hosts.

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 6:11-18)

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Epistle of the Angels (Hebrews 2:2-10)

For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. But one testified in a certain place, saying:

“What is man that You are mindful of him,
Or the son of man that You take care of him?
You have made him a little lower than the angels;
You have crowned him with glory and honor,
And set him over the works of Your hands.
You have put all things in subjection under his feet.”

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 8:41-56)

And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus’ feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying.

But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years,

who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.

And Jesus said, “Who touched Me?”

When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, “Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’ ”

But Jesus said, “Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.” Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately.

And He said to her, “Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”

While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house, saying to him, “Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher.”

But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, “Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.” When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, “Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead.

But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, “Little girl, arise.” Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Gospel of the Angels (Luke 10:16-21)

He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.”

Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”

And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

Communion Hymn of Sunday

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

The Synaxis of the Chief of the Heavenly Hosts, Archangel Michael and the Other Heavenly Bodiless Powers: Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jehudiel, Barachiel, and Jeremiel was established at the beginning of the fourth century at the Council of Laodicea, which met several years before the First Ecumenical Council. The 35th Canon of the Council of Laodicea condemned and denounced as heretical the worship of angels as gods and rulers of the world, but affirmed their proper veneration.

The Angelic Ranks

The Highest Hierarchy includes: the Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones.

The six-winged **SERAPHIM** (Flaming, Fiery) (Is 6:12) stand closest of all to the Most Holy Trinity. They blaze with love for God and kindle such love in others.

The many-eyed **CHERUBIM** (outpouring of wisdom, enlightenment) (Gen 3:24) stand before the Lord after the Seraphim. They are radiant with

the light of knowledge of God, and knowledge of the mysteries of God. Through them wisdom is poured forth, and people’s minds are enlightened so they may know God and behold His glory.

The **THRONES** (Col 1:16) stand after the Cherubim, mysteriously and incomprehensibly bearing God through the grace given them for their service. They are ministers of God’s justice, giving to tribunals, kings, etc. the capacity for righteous judgment.

The Middle Angelic Hierarchy consists of three Ranks: Dominions, Powers, and Authorities:

DOMINIONS (Col 1:16) hold dominion over the angels subject to them. They instruct the earthly authorities, established by God, to rule wisely, and to govern their lands well. The Dominions teach us to subdue sinful impulses, to subject the flesh to the spirit, to master our will, and to conquer temptation.

POWERS (1 Pet 3:22) fulfill the will of God without hesitation. They work great miracles and give the grace of wonderworking and clairvoyance to saints pleasing to God. The Powers assist people in fulfilling obediences. They also encourage them to be patient, and give them spiritual strength and fortitude.

AUTHORITIES (1 Pet 3:22, Col 1:16) have authority over the devil. They protect people from demonic temptations, and prevent demons from harming people as they would wish. They also uphold ascetics and guard them, helping people in the struggle with evil thoughts.

The Lowest Hierarchy includes the three Ranks: Principalities, Archangels, and Angels:

PRINCIPALITIES (Col 1:16) have command over the lower angels, instructing them in the fulfilling of God’s commands. They watch over the world and protect lands, nations and peoples. Principalities instruct people to render proper honor to those in authority, as befits their station. They teach those in authority to use their position, not for personal