



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

23rd Saturday/Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org November 14/15, 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 14

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

Sunday, November 15

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

Tuesday, November 17

- 9:00 am Daily Matins

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

Thursday, November 19

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

Friday, November 20

- 7:00 pm Great Vespers with Litiya/Vigil

Saturday, November 21 – Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

- 10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy/Church Sch.
- 5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, November 22

- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

Announcements

➤ Today (Nov 15) we begin the **Nativity Fast** to prepare ourselves for the Great Feast of the the Lord's Nativity. May God strengthen you!

➤ **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. Go to oca.org/stewards to learn more.

➤ **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, Sandi Tirpak, Paul Yewisiak, Jenifer Rune (*40 days after giving birth*).
Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home: Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Olga Tryszyn.

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **John and Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servants Paul Henry and our parents; for the health of our family. From **John Kowalcheck and Olga Cozza** for the health of Alexandra Kowalcheck and Dmitri Kowalcheck on their birthdays; for the health of Nicolai and Galina Vilkov. From **Dr Bob and Tamara Yakovac** for the departed servants of God Paul Henry, Helen Cobb, and Ray Cobb; for the health of Helen Billak. From **Marsha Wasilko** for private intentions; God Bless Our Veterans! From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant of God Paul Henry; for the health of Sandi Tirpak. From **Mat Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant Dn Joseph Mell and John Karavlan; for the health of family. From **Charles Wasilko** for the departed servant Paul Henry; for the health of sisters Doris and Marsha; for the health of Sandi Tirpak. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; for special intentions. From the **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends and family, especially for Cheryl, John, Gregory, Kevin, Mary, Daniel, and Cindy. From **Alina Maksymova** for the health of Victoria. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants Bruce, Polina, Slava, Galina, Marina, Valentina, Andrei, Lido; for the health of Veronika, Diana, Daniel, Tatyana, Sergei, Andrei, Bernedat, Adict.

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: Jacob

Scripture reference: Genesis 25-33

Questions to ask/review:

- Who was Jacob? Who was Esau? How were they different?
- Tell the story of Isaac's blessing his sons.
- Why did Jacob and Esau have anger towards one another? How did Jacob cheat or deceive Esau?
- When have you been tempted to cheat? Why? Why should we resist this temptation? How does it damage people?
- What was "Jacob's ladder"? What does it prefigure?
- How did Laban mistreat Jacob? How did he cheat him?
- Who was Leah? Who was Rachael?
- What happened when Jacob and Esau were reunited?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Jacob made a pot of lentil stew for his brother Esau; make one for dinner. Tell the story of Jacob and Esau.

Prayer: Give us Your blessing, Lord, as Isaac did Jacob.



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, Nov 14

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 8:1-5)

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the
grace of God bestowed on the churches of
Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the
abundance of their joy and their deep poverty
abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I
bear witness that according to their ability, yes,
and beyond their ability, they were freely
willing, imploring us with much urgency that we

would receive the gift and the fellowship of the
ministering to the saints. And not only as we
had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the
Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

Gospel of the Saturday (Luke 9:37-43)

Now it happened on the next day, when they
had come down from the mountain, that a great
multitude met Him. Suddenly a man from the
multitude cried out, saying, “Teacher, I implore
You, look on my son, for he is my only child. And
behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly
cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at
the mouth; and it departs from him with great
difficulty, bruising him. So I implored Your
disciples to cast it out, but they could not.”

Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and
perverse generation, how long shall I be with
you and bear with you? Bring your son here.”
And as he was still coming, the demon threw
him down and convulsed him. Then Jesus
rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the child, and
gave him back to his father.

And they were all amazed at the majesty of God.

Communion Hymn of Saturday

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

St Emperor Justinian

Saint Justinian, a major figure in the history of
the Byzantine state, was also a great champion
of Orthodoxy, a builder of churches and a
Church writer. He was born in the Roman
province of Illyricum. During his reign (527-
565), Byzantium won glory with military
victories in Persia, Africa, and Italy, as a result
of which paganism was decisively routed among

the Germanic Vandals and Visigoth tribes. By
command of the emperor Justinian the pagan
schools in Athens were closed. Justinian sent
John, the Bishop of Ephesus, throughout the
regions of Asia Minor with the aim of spreading
Christianity. John baptized more than 70,000
pagans.

The emperor gave orders to build ninety
churches for the newly-converted, and he
generously supported church construction
within the Empire. His finest structures of the
time are considered to be St. Catherine's
Monastery at Sinai, and the church of Hagia
Sophia at Constantinople. Under Saint Justinian
many churches were built dedicated to our Most
Holy Lady Theotokos. Since he had received a
broad education, Saint Justinian assiduously
concerned himself with the education of clergy
and monks, ordering them to be instructed in
rhetoric, philosophy and theology.

The right-believing sovereign devoted much
attention and effort to the struggle with the
Origenists of his time, who then were reviving
the Nestorian heresy. To counter their heretical
speculations, the Church hymn “Only-Begotten
Son and Immortal Word of God, Who for our
salvation...” was composed, and Justinian
commanded that it be sung in the churches.
From that time to the present day, this hymn is
sung at the Divine Liturgy before the Small
Entrance after the second Antiphon.

At the command of the sovereign, the Fifth
Ecumenical Council was convened in the year
553, censuring the teachings of Origen and
affirming the definitions of the Fourth
Ecumenical Council at Chalcedon. He also
attempted to secure religious unity within the
Empire through his (unsuccessful) dialogues
with the non-Chalcedonians.

The holy Emperor Justinian wished to have
orderly rule and law within the realm. Under his
guidance and supervision a complete

compendium of Roman law was compiled. It has
come down to us as a law codex known as “the
Justinian Codex.” The “Church laws” of Justinian
are included in all the variants of the Russian
collections of Canon Law.

In his personal life, Saint Justinian was strictly
pious, and he fasted often. During Great Lent he
would not eat bread nor drink wine. He is also
remembered for promoting the idea of
“symphony” between church and state. The holy
Emperor Justinian died in the year 565.

St Empress Theodora

Saint Theodora was the wife of Saint Justinian
the emperor, and lived during the sixth century.

The Empress Theodora was at first a notorious
harlot and actress, and an adherent of the
Monophysite heresy, but then she repented.
After becoming empress, she led a virtuous life,
maintaining purity of both soul and body. She
provided wise counsel for her husband during
his reign, and she also saved his throne during
the Nika riots of 532 through her political
intelligence and expertise.

Saint Theodora died in 548



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Nov 15

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 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 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 6 Prokeimenon (*Resurrection*)

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine
inheritance!

Epistle of the Sunday (Ephesians 2:4-10)

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 10:25-37)

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?”

So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.”

But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that

road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”

And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Communion Hymn of Sunday

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

On Being a Holy Leader

Our holy and God-bearing Fathers have given as a testament in their holy writings that it is not fitting for brethren in monasteries and laymen in their Church parishes to come together in some numbers in the name of Christ, and to live without a superior, but by all means they should have one who is skilled in spiritual understanding, to whom they might give over all their will and submit in everything as to the Lord Himself. An instructor needs to be capable, by the God-given spiritual understanding which he possesses, to instruct and shepherd the souls of the brethren in the pasture of salvation.

The root and foundation for every Superior or Priest is humility and meekness. As the Holy Fathers write, let the superior for the flock be humble, meek, without malice, quiet, well able

to bear any snares of the adversary; let him be able to give an example of patience and chaste life for his spiritual children.

Furthermore, it is required that the Priest to be wise in the Holy Scripture, that he be just, that he know how to instruct his disciples, that he have for everyone a true, unhypocritical love, that he be meek, humble, patient and free from anger and from all other passions- love of money, vainglory, love of delicacies, and so forth. The disciples for their part should be in the hands of the Priest like an instrument in the hands of a master, or like clay in the hands of a potter.

Gifts a Priest should possess are Hypostatic Wisdom which comes from Divine understanding. Divine understanding, whereby the Priest understands, and firmly defends with all his soul, and keeps unharmed as the apple of his eye, the dogmas of the Orthodox Faith...

Also, an instructor should also have the ability to counsel, but which instruction is given rightly and truly according to the teachings and instructions of the Holy Fathers; he should also have firmness, by which he should remain firm in faith and love; and in him should be the feat of God, by which he keeps God's commandments. Fiery love he should also have by which he loves the Lord with his whole soul, warming everyone with his love and zeal, and being painfully concerned for each, compassionate toward all, and embracing with his soul especially his spiritual children.

In addition, he should also possess peace with everyone, never being grieved against anyone or disdainful of anyone; and longsuffering which is joined with meekness, in order for him not to be seen angry or disturbed, but showing patience and hope in his longsuffering. Lastly, a Priest should have humility of wisdom and simplicity in order to guide the souls of his spiritual children to the path of salvation.