



# 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

- Sunday, May 23**  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
- Tuesday, May 25**  
9:00 am Daily Matins  
9:30 am – 12:00 pm Office Hours
- Wednesday, May 26 Feast of Mid Pentecost**  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
6:30 pm Daily Vespers  
7:00 pm Bible Study (Romans 13)
- Thursday, May 27**  
9:00 am Daily Matins  
9:30 am – 12:00 pm Office Hours
- Saturday, May 29**  
4:30 pm Confessions  
5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil
- Sunday, May 30**  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School



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

## Healing of the Paralytic

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org  
May 23, 2021

# Announcements

- **Thank you** to our dedicated teachers who showed incredible ingenuity, patience, and flexibility during the school year as we dealt with the pandemic. Congratulations to our students who came throughout the year!
- We are proud to announce the decision by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America to ordain Subdeacon Jonathan Skowron to the Holy Diaconate. The entire parish rejoices along with the Skowron family on this major event in their lives and the life of our parish! **We know that every parishioner will want to show their support for the Skowron family and our parish by attending this major and joyous event.** The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be on **Sunday, June 6, 2021** beginning at 10:00 am. A festive luncheon will follow in the parish hall immediately after the Divine Liturgy.
- All parishioners who desire to **deepen their faith and understanding** of our Orthodox Faith are welcomed to participate in our parish Bible Study every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Join us in this amazing journey!

➤ We're having a **Parish Picnic** this year, but with a twist: it's **FREE!** Sunday, September 12!

### PASCHAL GREETINGS

(English) Christ is risen! Indeed, He is Risen!  
 (Slavonic) Christos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!  
 (Greek) Christos anesti! Alithos anesti!  
 (Arabic) El Messieh kahm! Hakken kahm!  
 (Romanian) Hristos a inviat! Adevărat a înviat!

# Prayers

- **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Olga Tryszyn.
- **Vigil Lights From the John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends and family. From **Jenifer Rune** for the health of Heather and the Watts family. From **John Kowalcheck and Olga Cozza** for the health of Galina Vilkova; for the health of Peter Kowalcheck on his birthday. From **Alexandra Tirpak** for the departed servant David; for the health and salvation of my family; for special intentions. From **Mat. Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant of God Dn Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants (grandfather) Andrew Wasilko and (aunt) Ann Panik (5-21-1991). From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants (grandfather) Andrew Wasilko and (aunt) Ann Panik; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Chuck Wasilko** for the departed servant (aunt) Ann Panik; for the health of sisters Doris and Marsha. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; for special intentions.

# Thank You

➤ to **Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** for sponsoring the May bulletins and all donation categories (\$210 total) in memory of Deacon Joseph Mell.



*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.*

# This Week in Church School

**Today's lesson:** Minor Prophets

**Scripture reference:** Books of Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habbakuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

### Questions to ask/review:

- How many of the 12 Minor Prophets can you name? (see list above)
- -Why do we call them Minor Prophets? Are their messages less important than the Major Prophets? (no, the terms refer to the size of their books)
- -Give examples of major prophecies about Christ that come from the Minor Prophets.
- -Which prophet spoke of John the Baptist? What did he say about him?

### Suggested Activities at home:

Create a Micah kindness jar. Read Micah 6:8: What does God want of us? "Mercy" is similar to kindness. Have your child write on small red paper hearts several acts of kindness that he or she could perform – for parents, for friends, for school, for the church. For example, "Tidy my room", "Empty the trash", "Pick up used candles", etc. Cover a jar or can with a piece of construction paper. Write on it "Kindness Jar" and decorate it. Remove a heart each day and do what it says.

**Prayer:** Lord, we pray for peace in the world, our community, and for our Church. Amen.



# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, May 23

## **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.

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

## **Tone 3 Kontakion** *(Pentecostarion)*

By Thy divine intercession, O Lord,

as Thou didst raise up the Paralytic of old,

so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and

thoughtless acts;

so that being saved I may sing to Thee://

“Glory to Thy power, O compassionate Christ!”

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

## **Tone 8 Kontakion** *(Pascha)*

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal,

Thou didst destroy the power of death.

In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God,

proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing

Women,//

granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing

Resurrection on the fallen.

## **Tone 1 Prokeimenon** *(Pentecostarion)*

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have

set our hope on Thee! *(Ps. 32:22)*

## **Epistle** (9:32-42)

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a

certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.” Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

## **Gospel** (John 5:1-15)

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man

was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?”

The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”

Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.”

He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’ ”

Then they asked him, “Who is the Man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’ ” But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”

The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

## **Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast**

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

“Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: ‘Rejoice, your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! With Himself He has raised all the dead.’ ”

Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now, and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

## **Communion Hymn of the Sunday**

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## **Christ’s Word is Sufficient**

He did not, however, proceed immediately to heal him, but first tried by conversation to bring him into a believing state of mind. Not that He required faith in the first instance, as He did from the blind man, saying, Believe you that I am able to do this? for the lame man could not well know who He was. Persons who in different ways had had the means of knowing Him, were asked this question, and properly so. But there were some who did not and could not know Him yet, but would be made to know Him by His miracles afterwards. And in their case the demand for faith is reserved till after those miracles have taken place: When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been a long time in that case, He said to him, Will you be made whole? He does not ask this question for His own information, (this were unnecessary,) but to bring to light the great patience of the man, who for thirty and eight years had sat year after year by the place, in the hope of being cured; which sufficiently explains why Christ passed by the others, and went to him. And He does not say, Do you wish Me to heal you? for the man had not as yet any idea that He was so great a Person. Nor on the other hand did the lame man suspect any mockery in the question, to make him take offense, and say, Have you come to vex me, by asking me if I would be made whole; but he answered mildly, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool; but while I am coming, another steps down before me. He had no idea as yet that the Person who put this question to him would heal him, but thought that Christ might probably be of use in putting him into the water. But Christ’s word is sufficient, Jesus said to him, Rise, take up your bed, and walk. *(St John Chrysostom)*