



## 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, June 13**  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday, June 15**  
9:00 am Daily Matins  
9:30 am – 12:00 pm Office Hours
- Thursday, June 17**  
9:00 am Daily Matins  
9:30 am – 12:00 pm Office Hours
- Saturday, June 19**  
9:30 am Memorial Divine Liturgy  
4:30 pm Confessions  
5:00 pm Festal Vigil
- Sunday, June 20 Holy Pentecost**  
10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy

## Mark your calendar!

**Vacation Church School:** The week of July 12  
**Parish Picnic:** Sunday, September 12

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

### Seventh Sunday after Pascha

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org June 13, 2021

## Announcements

Next weekend we will celebrate the feast of Pentecost – the Descent of the Holy Spirit. We will serve a Divine Liturgy both on Saturday (a Memorial Liturgy) and Sunday (the Festal Liturgy). Please make every effort to gather for the feast on Sunday. Because we will decorate the Church with greenery, **you may bring a branch of fresh greenery with you from home and place somewhere in the church.**

➤ In last week's bulletin there was a notice for the **"Opening Hearts to Life" event on October 14, 2021**, benefitting Vision for Life, a ministry led by Chris Humphrey and supported by Dr Ashley Loboda who serves on their board. This ministry does important work to support women in crisis pregnancies by directing them to life-saving health care and other supportive work. More information is available in the vestibule or by contacting Chris Humphrey.

➤ The **final Bible Study before our July break** will be held on Wednesday, June 23 and we will complete St Paul's letter to the Romans. What a joy it has been to learn at the feet of St Paul! When we return in August, we will take up the Letter to the Hebrews. Please consider joining us for this exciting study!

***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.***

## 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 June 6 will appear in next week's bulletin.**

## Thank You

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

## Protecting the Truth of Christ

This First Ecumenical Council took place in 325 AD under St. Constantine the Great, in the twentieth year of his reign. For, after the persecution of Christians had come to an end, he first ruled in Rome; but subsequently, he founded the all-blessed city that was named after him, in the year 5838 from the creation of the world; it was then that the Arian controversy began. Arius, who hailed from Libya, went to Alexandria, where he was ordained a Deacon by the Holy Hieromartyr Peter of Alexandria. Thereafter, he began to blaspheme against the Son of God, proclaiming that He was a creature, who had come into being from non-existence and was far removed from the Divine dignity, and that He was called the Wisdom and Word of God by a misuse of language. Arius was, as he pretended, opposing the



impious Sabellios, who said that the Godhead was one Person and one Hypostasis, being the Father at one time, the Son at another time, and the Holy Spirit at

yet another time. When Arius uttered these blasphemies, the great Peter deposed him from the Priesthood, after beholding Christ as an infant on the Holy Table, clad in a torn garment and saying that Arius had rent it.

Since the Church was in confusion and there appeared no remedy for this dogmatic strife, St. Constantine the Great transported the Fathers in question from every region of the inhabited earth, at public expense, to Nicæa and arrived there himself. After all the Fathers had taken their seats, only when bidden did he sit down, and not on a royal throne, but on a seat that was lower than his dignity dictated. When the charges against Arius had been read out, both Arius and those of like mind with him were placed under anathema. The Holy Fathers declared the Word of God to be one in essence, one in honor, and co-unoriginate with the Father. They also set forth the Holy Symbol of the Faith, taking it as far as the clause: "And in the Holy Spirit." The ensuing clauses were completed by the Second Ecumenical Synod. In addition to this, the First Synod determined when and how we should celebrate the Feast of Pascha, and not with the Jews, as had previously been the custom. They promulgated twenty Canons pertaining to ecclesiastical order. The Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Constantine the Great, after everyone else, signed the Holy Symbol of Faith in red letters.

Of these holy Fathers, two hundred and thirty-two were Hierarchs, while eighty-six were Priests, Deacons, or monks; altogether three hundred and eighteen Fathers were present. The most illustrious were the following: St. Sylvester, Pope of Rome and St. Metrophanes, Patriarch of Constantinople were both ill and were present through their representatives; St. Alexander of Alexandria, together with St. Athanasios the Great, who at that time was an Archdeacon; St. Evstathios of Antioch and Patriarch Macarios of Jerusalem; St. Hosius of Cordova; St. Paphnoutios the Confessor; St. Nicholas the Myrrh-Gusher and St. Spyridon of Trimythous, who baptized a philosopher that was there, after refuting his arguments and proving to him the threefold nature of the Godhead. Since two of the Fathers—both of them Hierarchs—had passed on to God during the course of the Synod, St. Constantine the Great, after placing copies of the definition of the Holy Synod in their respective coffins and enclosing them securely therein, found the documents confirmed and signed by them, through the ineffable command of God.

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, June 13

## **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** *(Ascension)*

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,  
granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of  
the Holy Spirit.  
Through the blessing, they were assured  
that Thou art the Son of God,//  
the Redeemer of the world!

## **Tone 8 Troparion** *(Fathers)*

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God,  
Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights  
on the earth.  
Through them Thou hast guided us to the True  
Faith.//  
O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

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

## **Tone 8 Kontakion** *(Fathers)*

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers'  
doctrines have established one Faith for the  
Church.  
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from  
heavenly theology,//  
It defines and glorifies the great mystery of  
piety.

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

## **Tone 6 Kontakion**

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for  
our sake,

and united earth to heaven,  
Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,  
not being parted from those who love Thee,  
but remaining with them and crying://  
“I am with you, and there is no one against  
you!”

## **Tone 4 Prokeimenon** *(Song of the Three Holy Children)*

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, /  
and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!  
*(Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)*

## **Epistle** (Acts 20:16-18, 28-36)

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so  
that he would not have to spend time in Asia;  
for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if  
possible, on the Day of Pentecost.

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for  
the elders of the church. And when they had  
come to him, he said to them: “You know, from  
the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner  
I always lived among you,

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the  
flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made  
you overseers, to shepherd the church of God  
which He purchased with His own blood. For I  
know this, that after my departure savage  
wolves will come in among you, not sparing the  
flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise  
up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the  
disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and  
remember that for three years I did not cease to  
warn everyone night and day with tears.

“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to  
the word of His grace, which is able to build you  
up and give you an inheritance among all those  
who are sanctified. I have coveted no one’s  
silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves  
know that these hands have provided for my  
necessities, and for those who were with me. I

have shown you in every way, by laboring like  
this, that you must support the weak. And  
remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He  
said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’

And when he had said these things, he knelt  
down and prayed with them all.

## **Gospel** (John 17:1-13)

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to  
heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come.  
Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify  
You, as You have given Him authority over all  
flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many  
as You have given Him. And this is eternal life,  
that they may know You, the only true God, and  
Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have  
glorified You on the earth. I have finished the  
work which You have given Me to do. And now,  
O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself,  
with the glory which I had with You before the  
world was.

“I have manifested Your name to the men whom  
You have given Me out of the world. They were  
Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept  
Your word. Now they have known that all things  
which You have given Me are from You. For I  
have given to them the words which You have  
given Me; and they have received them, and  
have known surely that I came forth from You;  
and they have believed that You sent Me.

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but  
for those whom You have given Me, for they are  
Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are  
Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no  
longer in the world, but these are in the world,  
and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through  
Your name those whom You have given Me, that  
they may be one as We are. While I was with  
them in the world, I kept them in Your name.  
Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none  
of them is lost except the son of perdition, that  
the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come  
to You, and these things I speak in the world,

that they may have My joy fulfilled in  
themselves.

## **Hymn to the Theotokos**

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life,  
Who hath ascended from earth to heaven!  
We magnify thee, O Mother of God, who beyond  
reason and understanding gave birth in time to  
the Timeless One.

## **Communion Hymn of the Sunday**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in  
the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Rejoice in the Lord, O  
you righteous; praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## Aquilina of Lebanon

The Holy Martyr Aquilina, a native of the  
Phoenician city of Byblos, suffered under the  
emperor Diocletian (284-305). Her parents raised  
her in Christian piety. When the girl was only  
twelve years old, she persuaded a pagan friend to  
convert to Christ. One of the servants of the  
imperial governor Volusian accused her of teaching  
others not to follow the religion of their fathers.  
The girl firmly confessed her faith in Christ before  
the governor and said that she would not renounce  
Him. Volusian tried to influence the young  
confessor through persuasion and by flattery, but  
seeing her confidence, he ordered her to be  
tortured. They struck her upon the face, then they  
stripped her and beat her with whips. The torturer  
asked, “Where then is your God? Let Him come and  
take you out of my hands”. The saint answered,  
“The Lord is here with me invisibly, and the more I  
suffer, the more strength and endurance will He  
give me.” Before the executioner could carry out  
the sentence, the martyr gave up her spirit to God  
(+ 293). The executioner feared to disobey the  
governor’s orders, so he cut off her head although  
she was already dead. Christians piously buried  
the martyr’s body. Later, her relics were taken to  
Constantinople and placed in a church named for  
her.