

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

Great Feast of Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org June 20, 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

Sunday, June 20 - Pentecost

10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, June 22

9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, June 23

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, June 24

9:00 am Matins (Morning Service)

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Friday, June 25

5:00 pm "Pascha" Open House/Soroka Res.

Saturday, June 26

NO VIGIL

Sunday, June 27

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

To our Visitors: Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.

Announcements

➤ Everyone is invited downstairs for a **luncheon in honor of Father's Day** and the men of our parish. This luncheon is sponsored by the St Nicholas Sisterhood. Thank you to Susan Porter and everyone who helped to make this luncheon special.

➤ This **entire week is fast free** in honor of the Festal Week.

➤ Fr Thomas and Matushka Joni cordially invite you and your family to our belated **annual "Paschal" Open House this coming Friday, June 25** from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm. 207 Parliament Drive, Moon Township PA 15108. We look forward to seeing you!

➤ There will be **no Vigil this coming Saturday, June 26**. Fr Thomas will be attending the Archdiocesan Assembly in DuBois PA.

➤ The **final Bible Study before our July break** will be held this 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

➤ Students K-8 are invited to our yearly **Vacation Church School from July 12-15**, 10a-1p daily. This year's theme will be "Sharing the Good News." Age-appropriate activities, crafts, lessons, games, and music. To register, contact Matushka Joni Soroka at jonisoroka@yahoo.com.

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 John Mahalchak Family** for the health of friends & family-John, Cheryl, Gregory, Kyla Elizabeth. **From John & Nancy Pravolchak** for the departed servants, our parents; for the health of our grandchildren. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, John, John, Nicholas, John, Stephen, Fr. Daniel, Fr. Eugene; for the health of my family; Happy Father's Day; special intentions. **From Mat. Nancy K Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servants, Dn. Joseph Mell and (parents) Philip & Ella Karavlan; for the health of family. **From Charles Wasilko** for the departed servant, (uncle) Bill Falick; for the health of (Godmother) Carol Daniels; for Polny's on their 52nd Wedding Anniversary. **From Doris Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family and Carol Daniels; Many Years to Larry & Suzy on their wedding anniversary. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of (cousin) Carol Daniels. **From Irene Kulchock** for the health of Jan Pravlochak, Vivian Moore, Nicole Borza (on her birthday). **From Bob & Mary Beth Madalinsky** for the departed servants, Phyllis Crompton and Shirley Hudson. **From Nancy Shaytar** for the health of (husband) George.

Thank You

➤ to our June 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, and for the health of Matushka Nancy Mell.

The Gift of the Spirit

"Through the Holy Spirit comes our restoration to paradise, our ascension into the kingdom of heaven, our return to the adoption of sons, our liberty to call God our Father, our being made partakers of the grace of Christ, our being called children of light, our sharing in eternal glory, and, in a word, our being brought into a state of all "fulness of blessing," both in this world and in the world to come, of all the good gifts that are in store for us, by promise hereof, through faith, beholding the reflection of their grace as though they were already present, we await the full enjoyment." - **St. Basil the Great, "On the Holy Spirit"**



"Jesus tells us that His holy Disciples will be more courageous and more understanding when they would be, as the Scripture says, Endowed with power from on high (Luke 24:49), and that when their minds would be illuminated by the torch of the Spirit they would be able to see into all things, even though no longer able to question Him bodily present among them. The Saviour does not say that they would no longer as before need the light of His guidance, but that when they received His Spirit, when He was dwelling in their hearts, they would not be wanting in any good thing, and their minds would be filled with most perfect knowledge." -**St. Cyril of Alexandria**

"As the Lord put on the body, leaving behind all principality and power, so Christians put on the Holy Spirit, and are at rest." - **St. Macarius the Great, "Spiritual Homilies" (Homily 26)**

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 Sunday, June 20

First Antiphon (Psalm 19)

v. The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handwork.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the **Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

v. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

v. Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe.

v. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Second Antiphon (Psalm 20)

v. The Lord answer you in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

Refrain: O Gracious Comforter, save us who sing to Thee: “Alleluia!”

v. May He send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!

v. May He remember all your offerings, and fulfill all your plans!

Glory... now and ever...Only-begotten Son...

Third Antiphon (Psalm 21)

v. In Thy strength the king rejoices, O Lord, and exults greatly in Thy salvation.

Refrain: Troparion

v. Thou has given him his heart’s desire, and has not withheld the request of his lips.

v. For Thou dost meet him with goodly blessings; Thou dost set a crown of fine gold upon his head.

Tone 8 Troparion of Pentecost

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net
O Lover of Man, Glory to Thee!

Tone 8 Kontakion of Pentecost

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues

He divided the nations;

But when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity.

Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the All Holy Spirit!

Instead of Holy God

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Psalm 19)

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

Epistle of the Feast (Acts 2:1-11)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya

adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”

Gospel of the Feast (John 7:37-52; 8:12)

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.” Others said, “This is the Christ.”

But some said, “Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?” So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why have you not brought Him?” The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this Man!”

Then the Pharisees answered them, “Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.” Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, “Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?”

They answered and said to him, “Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee.”

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

Hymn to the Theotokos of Pentecost

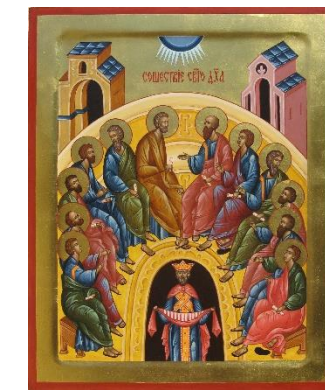
Rejoice, O Queen! Glory of mothers and virgins!
No mouth, however sweet or fluent
is eloquent enough to praise you worthily!
Every mind is overawed by your childbearing.
Therefore with one voice we glorify you!

Communion Hymn of Pentecost

Let Thy good Spirit lead me on a level path.
Alleluia.

Icon of Pentecost

The position of the figures represents harmony in which no apostle is better than another. The inverse perspective prevents the apostles who are near the back of the semicircle from being painted as smaller, which would happen in the rendering of most normal paintings. In



actuality, they are depicted slightly larger, particularly Peter and Paul as the chief apostles. But even then, they are among equals.

Of course, Paul was not present during this event, but the reality of Pentecost transcends time and space, and in some sense, Paul was later mystically joined to this moment. He is also included to show that he was in complete harmony with the other Apostles.

Why is the head of the semicircle of Apostles empty? Because it is the seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is invisibly present. As he said before ascending, “Behold, I am with you even to the end of the age.” He continues to keep that promise, being invisibly present in the church, guiding us through the Holy Spirit.