



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 27**
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday, June 29 Sts Peter and Paul**
**9:00 am Divine Liturgy
No Office Hours
- Thursday, July 1**
No Office Hours
- Saturday, July 3**
No Vigil
- Sunday, July 4**
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.

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

Feast of All Saints

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org June 27, 2021

Announcements

➤ **Monday, June 28, is a fast day** in preparation for the Feast of Sts Peter and Paul on Tuesday. The extreme shortness of this Apostles' Fast is due to the lateness of the Pascha/Pentecost Date which is calculated on the uncorrected Julian Calendar (which is currently 13 days behind the astronomical reality) and the date of Sts Peter and Paul, which is always on June 29. This fast is to prepare us to preach the gospel.

➤ ****Please note that Tuesday's Divine Liturgy for Sts Peter and Paul begins at 9:00 am** (not our usual 9:30 am start time).

➤ There will be **no Vigil this coming Saturday**. The next Vigil will be held on Saturday, July 10.

➤ 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.

➤ Tuesday/Thursday Daily Matins and Office Hours will **not be held during the Month of July**. Additionally, Wednesday evening Bible Study will be **suspended during the month of July**.



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 John, Cheryl, friends & family. **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Valentina, Diana, Andrei, Bruce and Ivan; for the health of Thomas, Christopher, Tatyana, Adrianna, Edward, Veronika, Sergei and Tatyana. **From Margaret Speth** for the departed servants, Michael, William, Metro, Panko; for the health of David, Kenneth, Joseph, Carol, Kimberly, Anna, and Tracy. **From Mat. Nancy K Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From Charles Wasilko** for the departed servants, (father) Charles and (godfather) Joe Dichko. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants from the Wasilko & Dyczko families; for the health of Eleanor Kovacs on her birthday. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, (father) Charles and (grandfathers) Andrew & Theodore; for the health of Fr. Patrick; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Eleanor Kovacs! **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; special intention. **From John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova, Nora, Elizabeth, Dana, and Nicolas & Adam Kowalcheck on their birthdays. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Reader Michael Soroka for return to good health; Eleanor Kovacs~ God Grant You Many Years.

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.

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.

Imitating God

If you love Him, you will be an imitator of his kindness. Do not marvel that a man may become an imitator of God. He can, if he is willing.

It is not by ruling over his neighbors, or by seeking to hold the supremacy over those that are weaker, or by being rich and showing violence towards those that are inferior, that happiness is found. Not by any of these things can one become an imitator of God. These things do not at all constitute His majesty.

On the contrary, the one who is an imitator of God is he who takes upon himself the burden of his



neighbor; who, in whatever ways he may be superior, is ready to benefit another who is deficient; who, whatever things he has received from God, he distributes to the needy and thus becomes a god to those who receive from him.

Do this, and you shall see, while still on earth, that God in the heavens rules over [the universe]. Then you shall begin to speak the mysteries of God. Then shall you both love and admire those that suffer punishment because they will not deny God. Then shall you condemn the deceit and error of the world because you shall know what it is to truly live in heaven. You shalt despise that which is esteemed to be death here, when you shall fear what is truly death: that which is reserved for those who shall be condemned to the eternal fire, which shall afflict those even to the end that are committed to it. (ch. 10) **Letter to Diognetus, c. 2nd century.**

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, June 27

Tone 8 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!

Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 4 Troparion (*from the Pentecostarion*)

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyrs' blood shed through-out all the world.

She cries to Thee, O Christ God:

“Send down Thy bounties on Thy people,// grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls!”

Tone 8 Kontakion (*from the Pentecostarion*)

The universe offers Thee the God-bearing Martyrs as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator.

By their prayers keep Thy Church, Thy habitation, in abiding peace// through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (*Resurrection*)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (*Ps 75/76:11*)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (*Saints*)

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel. (*Ps 67/68:35*)

Epistle of the Saturday (*Hebrews 11:33-12:2*)

...who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle,

turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel of the Sunday (*Mt 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30*)

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?”

So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

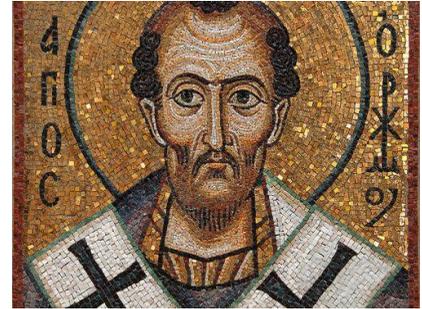
Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*) Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the just! (*Ps 32/33:1*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

True Beauty

For it is not the body wherein the beauty lies, but the expression, and the bloom which is shed over its substance by the soul. Now then, I bid you love that which makes the body also to appear such as it is. And why speak I of death? Nay even in life itself, I would have you mark how all is hers that is beautiful. For whether she be pleased, she showers roses over the cheeks; or whether she be pained, she takes that beauty, and involves it all in a dark robe. And if she be continually in mirth, the body improves in condition; if in grief, she renders the same thinner and weaker than a spider's web; if in wrath, she has made it again abominable and foul; if she show the eye calm, great is the beauty that she bestows; if she express envy, very pale and livid is the hue she sheds over us; if love, abundant the gracefulness she at once confers. Thus in fact many women, not being beautiful in feature, have derived much grace from the soul; others again of brilliant bloom, by

having an ungracious soul, have marred their beauty. Consider how a face that is pale grows red, and by the variation of color produces great delight, when there is need of shame and blushing. As, on the other hand, if it be shameless, it makes the countenance more unpleasing than any monster.



For nothing is fairer, nothing sweeter than a beauteous soul. For while as to bodies, the longing is with pain, in the case of souls the pleasure is pure and calm. Why then let go the king, and be wild about the herald? Why leave the philosopher, and gape after his interpreter? Have you seen a beautiful eye? Acquaint yourself with that which is within; and if that be not beautiful, despise this likewise. For surely, did you see an ill-favored woman wearing a beautiful mask, she would make no impression on you: just as on the other hand, neither would you suffer one fair and beautiful to be disguised by the mask, but would take it away, as choosing to see her beauty unveiled.

This then I bid you do in regard of the soul also, and acquaint yourself with it first; for this is clad with the body instead of a mask; wherefore also that abides such as it is; but the other, though it be mishapen, may quickly become beautiful. Though it have an eye that is unsightly, and harsh, and fierce, it may become beautiful, mild, calm, sweet-tempered, gentle.

This beauty therefore let us seek, this countenance let us adorn; that God also may have pleasure in our beauty, and impart to us of His everlasting blessings, by the grace and love towards man of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and might forever and ever. Amen.