



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!

Schedule This Week

Sunday, May 7

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Tuesday, May 9

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to Noon Office Hours

Wednesday, May 10: Midfeast of Pascha

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, May 11

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to Noon Office Hours

Saturday, May 13

4:30 pm Confession

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, May 14

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Mother's Day Luncheon

o 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

Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Sunday of the Paralytic/St Alexis Toth

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

May 7, 2023

Announcements

➤ We warmly welcome **Fr David Vernak** who is leading us in the Divine Liturgy today. May God grant him and **Matushka Mariam** all earthly and heavenly good things and many blessed years! Thank you for joining us today!

➤ The Parish Council is conducting a **two-week period of feedback from parishioners** and regular attendees **regarding their experience of the current temple configuration** of a standing area and a seating area of pews. There are two ways you can give your feedback: on paper (the forms are at the candle desk), or via electronic form. *The electronic form will be sent via email today to everyone on the parish email list.* Your feedback is an important factor in expressing your views as individual members of the body of Christ and gauging our corporate view as a community. Your responses must include your name and signature (or email address, when electronic) Multiple submissions from one person will not be accepted. The feedback period will be open from Sunday, April 30 to **Sunday, May 14, 2023.**

➤ **All the adult men of the parish** are reminded to pitch in with next week's Mother's Day Luncheon. See Tom Hoffman on how you can help. Every man is asked to donate at least \$10 to sponsor the luncheon costs.

➤ **Pro-Life Ministry Drive:** The mom and baby gift bags are due. Please see Matushka Joni or Mary Hoffman with your fulfilled bags. Thank you for your generosity!

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* John Mahalchak (son), *Home:* (none). *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka.

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, for Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the departed servant, Aaron Russell Hamilton; for the health of Elaine, Hamilton. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, cousin, Susan Wasilko and Ann Polny; for the health of sister, Marsha on her birthday. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, George Shaytar, Ann Polny, cousin, Susan Wasilko; the health of Doris; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Fr. Tom! From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, brother, Robert, family, friends, & newly departed; for the health of family, friends, siblings & serving soldiers-for special intention, peace, anniversaries, and birthdays. From **Irene Kulchock** for the departed servants, Jan Pravlochak and Richard Kulchock. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of daughter, Melanie, father, John, James; Many Years to Fr. Tom on his birthday; special intentions. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, mother, Amelia, and daughter, Amelia; for the health of daughter, Andrea & David on their anniversary, V. Rev. Basil & Mat. Julie; safe travel, Nicholas; special intentions. From **Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Fr. Tom, Marsha Wasilko, Lindy Hamilton, and Lois Fuller--birthdays greetings.

Thank You

➤ to our **May** donors: from Sandi Tirpak (Bulletin \$60) for the health of Fr Basil and Matushka Juliana, (Wine \$40) for the departed servant John and the health of Andrea and David, (Altar Candles \$25) for Fr Thomas; from Mat Joni (Incense \$10) for Fr Thomas.

St Alexis Toth's Conversion

Upon his arrival in America, Father Alexis presented himself to the local Roman Catholic diocesan authority, Archbishop John Ireland, since there was no Uniate bishop in America at that time. Archbishop Ireland belonged to the party of American Catholics who favored the "Americanization" of all Roman Catholics. His vision for the future was founded on a common faith, customs, and the use of the English language for everything except liturgical celebrations. Naturally, ethnic parishes and non-Latin rite clergy did not fit into this vision. Thus, when Father Toth came to present his credentials, Archbishop Ireland greeted him with open hostility. He refused to recognize him as a legitimate Catholic priest or to grant permission for him to serve in his diocese.

As a historian and professor of Canon Law, Father Toth knew his rights under the terms of the Unia and would not accept Archbishop Ireland's unjust decisions. In October of 1890, there was a meeting of eight of the ten Uniate priests in America at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania under the chairmanship of Father Toth. By this time the American bishops had written to Rome demanding the recall to Europe of all Uniate priests in America, fearing that Uniate priests and parishes would hinder the assimilation of immigrants into American culture. Uniate bishops in Europe refused to listen to the priests' pleas for help. Archbishop Ireland sent a letter to his parishes ordering their members not to attend Father Toth's parish nor to accept any priestly ministrations from him. Expecting imminent deportation, Father Toth explained the situation to his parishioners and suggested it might be best for him to leave and return to Europe.

"No," they said. "Let's go to the Russian bishop. Why should we always submit ourselves to foreigners?" It was decided to write to the Russian consul in San Francisco in order to ask for the name and address of the Russian bishop. Subsequently, Bishop Vladimir came to Minneapolis and on March 25, 1891 received Father Toth and 361 parishioners into the Orthodox Church of their ancestors. The parishioners regarded this event as a new Triumph of Orthodoxy, crying out: "Glory to God for His mercy!"

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, May 7

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.

Tone 4 Troparion (St. Alexis)

O righteous Father Alexis,

our heavenly intercessor and teacher,

divine adornment of the Church of Christ,

entreat the Master of All

to strengthen the Orthodox Faith in America,

to grant peace to the world//

and to our souls great mercy!

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

Tone 5 Kontakion (St. Alexis)

Let us, the faithful, praise the Priest Alexis,

a bright beacon of Orthodoxy in America,

a model of patience and humility,

a worthy shepherd of the flock of Christ!

He called back sheep who had been led astray

and brought them by his preaching//

to the Heavenly Kingdom.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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!”

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (Pentecostarion)

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

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

Epistle of the Sunday (Acts 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 of the Sunday (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! The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! (Ps. 111:6) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Miracles of St Alexis Toth

In January, 1993 a certain man prayed to St. Alexis to help him obtain information about his son from whom he had been separated for twenty-eight years. Placing his confidence in the saint's boldness before God, he awaited an answer to his prayer. The very next day the man's son telephoned him. It seems the young man was in church when he was suddenly filled with an overwhelming desire to contact his father. He had been taken to another state by his mother, and she changed his name when he was a child. This is why his father was unable to locate him. Having learned from his mother that his father was an Orthodox Christian, he was able with the help of an Orthodox priest to obtain his father's phone number in a distant city. As a result of that telephone call, the young man later visited his father, who rejoiced to see what sort of man his son had become. The father gave thanks to God and to St. Alexis for reuniting him with his son.

St Alexis was a true man of God who guided many Carpatho-Russian and Galician immigrants through the dark confusion of religious challenges in the New World and back to the unity of the Orthodox Church through his grace-filled words and by his holy example.