



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 28

10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Trisagion in memory of George Shaytar

Tuesday, May 30

9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Saint Emmelia Homeschool Cooperative
10:30 am to Noon Office Hours

Thursday, June 1

9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am to Noon Office Hours

Saturday, June 3

9:30 am Memorial Divine Liturgy
4:30 pm Confession
5:00 pm Festal Vigil

Sunday, June 4: Pentecost

10:00 am Festal 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

Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Seventh Sunday of Pascha: Holy Fathers

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

May 28, 2023

Announcements

➤ Upcoming Divine Liturgies:

We will serve the **Divine Liturgy on Tuesday at 9:30 am** in honor of St Emmelia to mark the end of the school year for the St Emmelia Homeschool Consortium that meets at our parish. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend.

This **Saturday at 9:30 am** we will serve a **Memorial Divine Liturgy** for all the departed. The Saturday before Pentecost is the traditional day to make these commemorations. If you have not yet submitted a list of names of your Christian departed family members, you may do so. Please give them to Fr Thomas or directly to Marsha Wasilko. Thank you to Marsha for diligently maintaining our list of the departed members of our parishioners' families.

➤ We express our condolences to our parishioner, Chad Whitacre and his family, on the falling asleep in the Lord of his father, **Rev Rodney Alan Whitacre**. Rev Whitacre was a great friend of the Orthodox Church and a brilliant scholar of New Testament Greek. May the Lord grant him eternal rest!

➤ Looking ahead!

Monday, July 10- Thursday, July 13, 2023
Vacation Church School (Preschool-Middle)



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 **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, Aunt Ann Panik, Grandfather, Andrew Wasilko, and mother, Mary. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, mother, Mary, grandfather, Andrew Wasilko, and Aunt Ann Panik; for the health of Doris. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Galina, Slava, Andrei, Valentina, Diana, Gina, Marina, Robert, and Bruce; for the health of Beth, Tatyana, Christopher, Thomas, Tatyana, Olga Edward, Joe, Alison's kids, Jack, Nino, and Roman. From **Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, parents, brother, Ann, Chris, Uncle Frank, (newly departed) Ludmilla and Barb, Greg; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for anniversaries, birthdays, special intention, and peace. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, husband, George. From **George M. Shaytar** for the departed servant, my dad, George. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health for Elaine Hamilton and family; special intention. From **the Pravlochaks** for the departed servant, Jan Pravlochak; for the health of Marsha, David, and Christina. From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, mother, Amelia, Daniel, and daughter, Amelia; for the health of Christy, God Bless our Veterans; Memory Eternal to our veterans who have given all; special intentions.

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 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.

The Ascension

"...while they were looking, He was taken up and a cloud received Him from their eyes" (Acts 1:9)—the event [is] expressed in nine Greek words. What does all this mean?

For one thing it means that the Gospels are not biographies as we understand the term. But more importantly it reveals that the Ascension was not the ending of a story, but the beginning of one, not the conclusion of Christ's life so much as the beginning of the life of the Church. It is no coincidence that the Evangelist who narrated the Ascension also narrated at great length and repeatedly the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, so that Luke is the Evangelist of the Holy Spirit as well as the Evangelist of the Ascension. The two events are connected, for one is the cause of the other. Christ foretold it during His last night with His disciples prior to His arrest: "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you" (John 16:7). Luke narrated the fulfillment in the words of Peter's Pentecostal sermon: "Being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this which you both see and hear" (Acts 2:33).

The temptation is to regard the Holy Ascension as if it were the Holy Absence, as if Christ has gone away and we now have less of His presence than was available when He walked the earth. It is not so. While He walked the earth, the apostles could be with Him, but this nearness was conditioned by time and space, and there were times when they were not with Him. When He was not physically in Judea, for example, Mary and Martha could not be with Him. Now that He has been exalted (*continued*)

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, May 28

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! (v. 3)

Epistle of the Sunday (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 of the Sunday (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 of the Feast

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life,
Who hath ascended from earth to heaven!

We the faithful, with one accord, magnify thee,
the Mother of God, who, beyond reason and
understanding, ineffably 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!

The Ascension *(continued)*

to the Father’s right hand and has sent His
Spirit, we can be near Him always, for His
presence is no longer conditioned by time and
space. Everyone can now be close to Jesus and
by the power of the Spirit can be with Him every
waking hour and even every sleeping hour. The
Ascension and the sending of the Spirit means
that we now have more of Jesus, not less of Him.
That is why the Lord said at the end of
Matthew’s Gospel that He would be with us until
the close of age. These words were not a denial
of a future ascension, but a promise of it. The
challenge for us now is to live as children of the
Ascension, and as children of the Spirit. Our
Lord’s presence and power are always available
to us. The question is: how often do we avail
ourselves of them? (*Fr Lawrence Farley*)

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all
the nations, baptizing them in the name
of the Father and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all
things that I have commanded you; and
lo, I am with you always, even to the end
of the age.”** (*Mt 28:19-20*)