



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, June 25

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, June 27

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to Noon Office Hours

Wednesday, June 28

6:00 pm Vigil / Feast of Sts Peter and Paul

7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, June 29

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

10:30 am to Noon Office Hours

Saturday, July 1

4:30 pm Confession

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, July 2

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

Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Third Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

June 25, 2023

Announcements

➤ **As we enter into the summer months**, a reminder that our diligence in attendance at the Sunday Divine Liturgy, the holy feast days, and the various activities of the church, is encouraged to continue. Through the summer months let us offer worship and praise to God in thanksgiving for the continued blessings

A special **official parish meeting** will be held on Sunday, July 23, 2023, after the Divine Liturgy in the parish hall to propose extensive repairs to the issue of our leaking domes and surrounding structures, as well as other projects to upgrade our facilities. Only parishioners in good standing may participate in any votes at the meeting.

➤ **July's parish schedule will see an occasional reduction** in the number of services, classes, and office hours. The normal schedule will pick up in August. Please consult the online schedule (orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parishcalendar) for the most accurate schedule.

Note: There will be no Matins or Office Hours on Tuesday, July 4.

➤ All students K-8 (from inside and outside the parish) are invited to our yearly **Vacation Church School from July 10-14**, 10a-1p daily. Daily activities include crafts, lessons, games, and music. To register, contact Matushka Joni Soroka or Rachel Hauenschild.

➤ **Looking ahead!**
Vacation Church Schl Mon July 10-Thr July 13
Church Picnic Sunday, Sept 3 at Clever Park
Slavic Food Fest TBD (Saturday Oct 7 or 14)

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:*, Home: John Mahalchak (son). *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka.

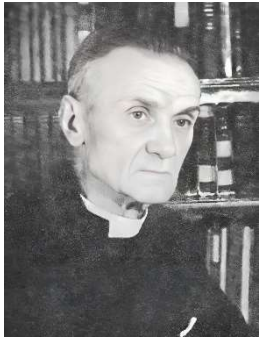
➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, for Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilкова, and Nicholas Kowalcheck on his birthday. From **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Blaha** for the newly departed servants, Kathy, Cirio, and Rodney; in memory of grandfathers, Godfathers and Dad, Pete on Father's Day—Memory Eternal; for the health of father, Leo, Godfather, George, friends, siblings, family, and serving soldiers for special intention, peace, 50th anniversary of cousins, Ed & Irene; newlyweds, Sarah & Leighton-for anniversaries and birthdays. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, husband, George. From **George M. Shaytar** for the departed servant, my dad, George. From **Mildred Yoho** for my dear departed husband, Myron on the 40th year of his passing. From **Alexandria Tirpak** Memory Eternal to all fathers who have passed and to my dear friend, Myron-40 years; for the health of all men/fathers who are still with us; special intentions.

Fr Alexander Varlashkin

June 30 is the 44th anniversary of the falling asleep in the Lord of the **Mitred Archpriest Alexander Varlashkin**, the longest-serving rector in the history of our parish, having served at St Nicholas from 1931-1976.

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.

Fr Alexander was born on September 30, 1889 in Vyshenka, Russia to John and Claudia (Folimonoff) Varlashkin. He immigrated to the USA in 1904 where he was educated at the American Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was from a priestly family; his uncle George Varlashkin was also an Orthodox priest. Fr Alexander married Anna Klemoski in 1914 in Cleveland, Ohio. They had two children, Alexander and Claudia.



He served parishes in several states including South Carolina, Denver, Vermont, Ohio, Illinois, and Pennsylvania. He had briefly been assigned to our parish from 1920-1921 and then returned in 1931 to serve for an incredible 45 years.

During his tenure, his ministry marked both high and difficult points of our parish's history. When he began at St Nicholas, the United States had entered into the Depression Era and the parish was struggling to pay the mortgage. But later he oversaw the swelling of the congregation to 680 parishioners in the post-WWII and Baby Boom era. During that period, he led the renovation of the interior of the church, and with Charles Wasilko Sr as the choir director, he introduced some English into the church services. However, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, as the area went into economic decline, the parish also experienced a significant decline in membership. He retired in 1976.

Fr Alexander died in a car accident in 1979. This tragedy deeply grieved his beloved former parishioners. They set up a scholarship fund at St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in his honor which continues to this day. We are grateful for his significant legacy of dedicated service to our parish. May his memory be eternal!

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, June 25

Tone 2 Troparion (Resurrection)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Tone 4 Troparion of St Nicholas

You appeared to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility, and a teacher of abstinence.
Because of your lowliness heaven was opened to you!
Because of your poverty riches were granted to you!
O holy Bishop Nicholas,
pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

Tone 4 Troparion (Forerunner)

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ,
although we cannot praise thee worthily,
we honor thee in love at thy nativity,
for by it thou hast ended thy father’s silence and thy mother’s barrenness,//
proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

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

Tone 2 Kontakion (Resurrection)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee,//
and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Forerunner)

Today the formerly barren woman gives birth to Christ’s Forerunner,
who is the fulfillment of every prophecy;
for in the Jordan,
when he laid his hand on the One foretold by the Prophets,//
he was revealed as Prophet, Herald, and Forerunner of God the Word.

Tone 2 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (Ps. 117:14)

Epistle of the Sunday (Romans 5:1-10)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 6:22-33)

“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?”

“So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1) The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! (Ps. 111:6) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Virgin Martyr Febronia

The Virgin Martyr Febronia suffered during the reign of Diocletian (284-305). She was raised at a monastery in the city of Sivapolis (Assyria). Diocletian sent a detachment of soldiers to Assyria under the command of Lysimachus, Selinus and Primus for the destruction of Christians.

Primus told Lysimachus about the particular beauty of Saint Febronia and advised him to take her for himself. Lysimachus said that he would not seduce a virgin dedicated to God, and he asked Primus to hide the other nuns somewhere so that they would not fall into the hands of Selinus. One of the soldiers overheard the conversation and told Selinus. They led Saint Febronia off to the military commander with her hands bound and a chain around her neck. Selinus urged her to deny Christ, promising her honors, rewards, and marriage with Lysimachus. The holy virgin firmly and fearlessly answered that she had an Immortal Bridegroom, and she would not exchange Him for any mortal man. Selinus subjected her to fierce torture. The saint prayed, “My Savior, do not abandon me in this terrible hour!”

They beat the martyr for a long time, and blood flowed from her wounds. In order to intensify the suffering of Saint Febronia, they tied her to a tree and set a fire under it. The tortures were so inhuman, that the people began to demand an end to the torture, since there was no confession of guilt by the girl. Selinus continued to mock and jeer at the martyr, but Saint Febronia became silent. Because of weakness she was unable to utter a word. In a rage Selinus gave orders to tear out her tongue, smash her teeth, and finally, to cut off both hands and feet. The people were unable to bear such a horrid spectacle and they left the scene of the torture, cursing Diocletian and his gods. Finally, they beheaded the holy Martyr Febronia. Soon after, Selinus became deranged, bellowed like a bull, struck his head on a column and died.

At her burial, Lysimachus and Primus renounced their idol worship and accepted both Baptism and monasticism.