



Welcome!

Whether you're searching for a new church home or just visiting, we're 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

Wednesday, September 12

6:30 pm – Daily Vespers
7:00 pm – Bible Study

Thursday, September 13 / Elevation of the Cross

5:00 pm – Vespers (Reader)
6:00 pm – Festal Divine Liturgy

Saturday, September 15

5:00pm – Vespers and Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, September 16

9:15 am – Adult Education
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Church School after Communion



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*
Mat. Janet Mihalick, *Choir Director*

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

September 9, 2018

Announcements

➤ **Congratulations to our teachers and students on this first day of Church School.** May God inspire our students to love God and to seek to deepen their understanding of Christ's teachings and may he guide our teachers to instruct with wisdom and insight.

➤ Our warm welcome is extended to **Peter Georges of the St Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund.** Founded in 2005 by Peter and Sharon Georges, the St. Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund provides for the education, health, and welfare of Ugandan children, teens, and young adults. We support over 250 orphans and vulnerable children in primary & secondary school, vocational & professional training, and university. Peter will be giving a presentation after coffee hour to tell us more about this amazing ministry and how you can participate.



Visit ugandachildrensfund.org to learn more.

➤ **Our September hoagie sale** is being held on Wednesday, September 26. Italian Hoagies and wraps are \$6.50 each and the Turkey hoagies and wraps are \$7.00 each. Orders can be placed by calling 412-974-9912, faxing 724-926-4052 or emailing rjmbmsam1@verizon.net. Orders are due on Sunday evening, September 23. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm September 26 at the church hall.

Slavic Food Fest Saturday, October 13

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm: Known to be Hospitalized; (None).** Home: Georgiann Robes. Alexandra Summers (40 days). Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home: Olga Bednar, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary; for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary and Valentina Barsom; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From John & Olga** for the health of Anatoly & Galina Vilkov and Daniel Kowalcheck on his birthday. **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Bruce, Polina, Slava, Lida, Galina, Marina and Valentina; for health of Andriana, Veronika, Sergei, Tatyana, Cristofer, Daniel and Diana. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servants, (parents) Steve & Anne Herko; for the health of our grandchildren.

Slavic Food Fest 2018

GOT "STUFF"? Our Festival Basket Auction needs it! Good 'STUFF' . new "STUFF" . extra "STUFF". Please bring in items or your filled baskets ASAP. All can be placed on the table by the back door of the Fellowship Hall. Your Basket Committee, Marsha Wasilko, Michelle Bittner and Suzy Polny greatly appreciate your donations. REMEMBER . . . TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE! Thank you!

Thank you

➤ to **Sandi Tirpak** for donating all of the September monthly categories of Bulletin (\$60), Holy Bread (\$50), Communion Wine (\$40); Altar Candles (\$25) and Incense (\$10).

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.

Miracle of the Cross

Every action, therefore, and performance of miracles by Christ are most great and divine and marvelous: but the most marvelous of all is His precious Cross. For no other thing has subdued death, expiated the sin of the first parent, despoiled Hades, bestowed the resurrection, granted the power to us of contemning the present and even death itself, prepared the return to our former blessedness, opened the gates of Paradise, given our nature a seat at the right hand of God, and made us the children and heirs of God, save the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. For by the Cross all things have been made right. So many of us, the apostle says, as were baptized into Christ, were baptized into His death, and as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Further, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. Lo! the death of Christ, that is, the Cross, clothed us with the enhypostatic wisdom and power of God. And the power of God is the Word of the Cross, either because God's might, that is, the victory over death, has been revealed to us by it, or because, just as the four extremities of the Cross are held fast and bound together by the bolt in the middle, so also by God's power the height and the depth, the length and the breadth, that is, every creature visible and invisible, is maintained... The tree of life which was planted by God in Paradise pre-figured this precious Cross. For since death was by a tree, it was fitting that life and resurrection should be bestowed by a tree. (*St John of Damascus, "An Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith", Chapter XI, Concerning the Cross*)



Hymns and Readings for Today

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 6

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!

Troparion of the Nativity Tone 4

Your nativity, O Virgin,
has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!
The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,
has shone from you, O Theotokos.
By annulling the curse,
He bestowed a blessing.
By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Troparion of St Nicholas Tone 4

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.

Troparion of Sts Joachim and Anna Tone 1

Since you were righteous under the law of grace, O Joachim and Anna,
you gave birth to the God-given infant for our sake.
Therefore, the divine Church radiantly keeps feast today,
Joyfully celebrating your honorable memory and giving glory to God, //
Who has raised up a horn of salvation from the house of David.

Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 6

When Christ God the Giver of Life
raised all the dead from the valleys of misery with
His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.
He is the Savior of All, the Resurrection, the Life,
and the God of all.

Kontakion of the Nativity of the Theotokos Tone 4

By your nativity, most pure Virgin,
Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness,
Adam and Eve -- from the corruption of death.
And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin,
celebrate and sing to you:
“The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos,
the nourisher of our Life.”

Prokeimenon of the Sunday Before Elevation (Ps 27:9) Tone 6

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Prokeimenon of the Feast (Lk 1:46-47) Tone 4

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Epistle of the Sunday Before Elevation (Gal 6:11-18)

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

Epistle of the Sunday (II Cor 4:6-15)

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the

life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you.

And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Gospel of the Sunday Before Elevation (Jn 3:13-17)

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Gospel of the Sunday (Matthew 22:35-46)

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?”

They said to Him, “The Son of David.”

He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool’”? If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?” And no one was able to answer Him a

word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Nativity Tone 8

Magnify, O my soul, the most glorious birth of the Mother of God!
Virginity is foreign to mothers;
childbearing is strange for virgins.
But in you, O Theotokos, both were accomplished.
Therefore all we nations of the earth unceasingly magnify you

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: Pentecost, Philip, and the Eunuch

Questions to ask/review:

- Why is Pentecost the beginning of our Church history?
- How many repented, believed, and were baptized on Pentecost? (*about 3000*)
- What is the role of the Holy Spirit throughout Church history?
- How was day of your baptism like your "personal Pentecost"?
- How did the Church receive the Holy Spirit? How did you at your Chrismation?
- When Philip met the Ethiopian Eunuch, what was he doing? Describe their conversation.
- What did the Ethiopian say before Philip would baptized him? (I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God)

Suggested Activities at home:

- Put the icon of Pentecost in your icon corner for prayers this week; point out each character, the flames, and the dove and discuss the meaning of each.
- Sit down with your child and look at pictures of his/her baptism and chrismation. -When your small child is bathing, let him/her feel the cleaning of the water and see the dirt washing away; compare this to the washing away of sin at baptism.
- “Baptize” and “anoint” a baby doll, discussing what is said and why.
- Prayer: Holy Spirit, come and fill the Church and our hearts with Your love and wash us clean from every evil thought.