



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

Wednesday, October 16

6:30 pm Daily Vespers

7:00 pm Basic Orthodoxy: Session 3 of 5

Saturday, October 19

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, October 20

9:15 am Adult Education

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

After Liturgy Church School



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*

17th Sunday after Pentecost/Fathers of the 7th Ec. Council

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

October 13, 2019

Announcements

➤ **Thank you** to all those who helped with our Slavic Food Fest yesterday! A special thank you to our chairperson, Donya Yewisiak, for all of her dedication and hard work, to Bob Madalinsky and the kitchen crew, the cooks, the servers, the committee chairs and their teams, the set up and clean up crew, all those who donated and everyone who contributed in any way. May God richly bless you!

➤ **The women of our parish** are invited to attend the Ancient Faith Women's Retreat, Thursday, November 14 to Sunday, November 17 at Antiochian Village Conference Center in Bolivar PA. Speakers this year to include: Dr. Jeannie Constantinou, Dr. Roxanne Louh, Molly Maddex Sabourin, and Mother Christophora of Holy Transfiguration Monastery. For more information, visit ancientfaith.com/events or talk to Mat. Ashley Loboda. Registration closes on 10/15/19.

➤ **Our October hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, September 23. 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, October 20. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm October 23 at the church hall.

➤ Remember, our **Sunday morning Adult Education** is held on the first and third Sundays of every month at 9:15 am. All are welcome!

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized* (none). *Home:* Paul Henry, Georgiann Robes Jack Saban *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Olga Bednar, Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **Vigil Light from Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family and Michelle Bittner. **From Doris Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family and Michelle Bittner. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha, Michelle Bittner and Eleanor Kovacs. **From Marsha Wasilko** Happy Birthday & Many Years to Doris & (niece) Christina! **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of Michelle Bittner and (brother) Steve Shaytar. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; special intention. **From Michelle Bittner** for the health of Paul & Helen Henry, Claude and Gregory. **From John & Olga** for the departed servant, Anatoly Vilkov; for the health of Galina Vilkov and Rachel Heuer & son, Philip Nathaniel. **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of (father) John and (daughter) Melanie on her 26th birthday (Oct. 11). **From Robert Robes & Family** for the departed servant, Thomas V. Robes; for the health of Georgiann Robes. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for our departed parents; for the health of Helen & Paul Henry and Michelle Bittner. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servant, Mary (Oct. 2); for the health of (granddaughter) Lindsay (Oct. 8th) and (daughter) Amelia; special intentions.

Thank You

➤ to our October donors! The Robes Family (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40); Donya Yewisiak (Altar Candles \$25) in memory of Matushka Olga Soroka; the Soroka family (Incense \$10) for the health of Melanie.

The World's Promises

“Can you place your hope in the world? Whom has it not deceived? To whom has it not lied? It promises much, but gives very little. Only those who hope in the Lord, according to the words of the Prophet David, do not sin, i.e., they are not deceived in their hope!” + *St. Anthony of Optina*

“Beware of passionate attachments to the world. Although they deceive you with peace and comfort, they are so fleeting that you do not notice how you are deprived of them, and in their place come sorrow, longing, despondency, and no comfort whatsoever.” + *St. Leonid of Optina*

“A fish that is alive swims against the flow of water. One that is dead floats down with the water. A true Christian goes against the current of sinful age. A false one is swept away by its swiftness.” + *St. Philaret of Moscow*

“As Orthodox Christians we must carefully examine every aspect of our involvement in the world, its activities, holidays and festivals, to be certain whether or not these involvements are compatible with our Holy Orthodox Faith.” + *St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

“A man in this world must solve a problem: to be with Christ, or to be against Him. And every man decides this, whether he wants to or not. He will either be a lover of Christ or a fighter of Christ. There is no third option.” + *St. Justin Popovich*

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 Today

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 8

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.

Troparion of the Fathers Tone 8

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God!
Thou 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!

Kontakion of the Resurrection Tone 8

By rising from the tomb Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.
Eve exults in Thy resurrection,
and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One.

Kontakion of the Fathers Tone 6

The Son who shone forth from the Father was ineffably born, two-fold in nature, of a woman.
Having beheld Him, we do not deny the image of His form,
but depict it piously and revere it faithfully.
Thus, keeping the True Faith,//
the Church venerates the icon of Christ Incarnate.

Kontakion of the Theotokos Tone 6

Steadfast protectress of Christians,
constant advocate before the creator,
do not despise the cry of us sinners,
but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith.
Hasten to hear our intercessions and to intercede for us, O Theotokos

For you always protect those who honor you.

Prokeimenon of the Sunday (Psalm 76) Tone 8

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

Prokeimenon of the Fathers Tone 4

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

Epistle of the Sunday (II Cor 6:16-7:1)

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

Therefore, "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 8:5-15)

"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. 8 But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'"

"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."

Communion Hymns of the Sunday

Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest. Alleluia!

The Seventh Ecumenical Council, convoked by the Empress Irene and met at Nicaea from September 24 to October 13, 787. Patriarch Tarasios (commemorated February 25) presided. The council ended almost fifty years of iconoclast persecution and established the veneration of the holy icons as basic to the belief and spirituality of Christ's Church. As the Synaxarion says, "It was not simply the veneration of the holy images that the Fathers defended in these terms but, in fact, the very reality of the Incarnation of the Son of God" It closes the era of the great dogmatic disputes which enabled the Church to describe, in definitions excluding all ambiguity, the bounds of the holy Orthodox Faith. From that time, every heresy that appears can be related to one or other of the errors that the Church, assembled in universal Councils, has anathematized from the first until the seventh Council of Nicaea.

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Verse (younger classes): "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (*Gal 5:22-23*)

Questions to ask/review (younger classes):

- How can our behavior leave a "good or bad taste" with someone?
- Explain each of the behaviors from the verse.
- Why do we know these come from God? How do they affect us and others?

Verse (older classes): "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." (*Gal 6:7*)

Questions to ask/review (older classes):

- What problem was Paul addressing in his letter to the Galatians?
- How can our lives be compared to sowing seeds? What is good seed?
- What is the reward for sowing good seed? Bad seed?
- Have you ever seen someone doing something wrong and seeming to get away with it?
- What consequences exist that we do not see at first? What will they reap?
- Is there right and wrong? How do we know? What does God teach us?
- Some people believe in relative morality. What does this mean? Why is this false?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Make a fruit dish. Discuss the tastes and which fruits of the Spirit you are reminded of.
- When your child makes a poor decision, discuss how their actions reap suffering for themselves.
- Prayer: Lord grant me fruits of the Spirit. Or Lord, strengthen me to sow good seeds in my heart.