

September 7, 2008

Forefeast of the Nativity
of the Mother of God

Rev. Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
(412) 299-3942

Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell, *Attached*

Ms. Doris Wasilko, *Choir Director*

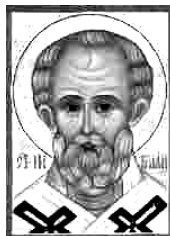
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

320 Munson Avenue
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

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Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross

Christ is in our midst! He is and always shall be!

Schedule of Services and Activities

Sunday, September 7th – 7:00 PM

Monday, September 8th – 9:30 AM

Great Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

Wednesday, September 10th – 6:30 PM

Wednesday, September 10th – 7:00 PM

Saturday, September 13th – 5:00 PM

Sunday, September 14th – 10:00 AM

Great Feast of the Elevation of the Precious and Life-Creating Cross

Great Vespers with Litiya

Festal Divine Liturgy

Daily Vespers

Bible Study

Great Vespers with Litiya

Festal Divine Liturgy

Important News from the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America:

On September 4, 2008, The Holy Synod of Bishops received a letter from His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN. In this letter, His Beatitude asks for Retirement, effective immediately, 'in the best interests of The Orthodox Church in America, and taking into consideration the current condition of my health.'

The Holy Synod of Bishops grants His Beatitude's request to retire from the Office of Metropolitan of All America and Canada of the Orthodox Church in America.

The Holy Synod of Bishops resolves that **His Eminence, DMITRI, Archbishop of Dallas and the South, be *Locum Tenens* of The Orthodox Church in America.**

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America resolved that His Eminence, SERAPHIM, Archbishop of Ottawa and Canada be the Administrator of the Metropolitan See to assist the *Locum Tenens*, effective September 4, 2008.

Important Church School Meeting: Teachers and parents will meet after the Divine Liturgy on today to discuss the 2008-2009 Church School year. Please attend and support your children!

Church School is right around the corner and we need your help! Do you have a desire to see the children of the parish grow in the faith? You can make it happen, and we can't do it without your help. **Teachers are needed for our monthly Church School sessions** who are willing to commit four hours a month, plus preparation time. Church School is usually held on the first Saturday of every month, but is sometimes changed due to other events. What makes a good Church School teacher? Someone who has a love for children, who can engage them and can present material in an enjoyable and yet challenging matter. See Fr Tom if you're interested! **Church School begins on Saturday, October 4th!**

Next Sunday, everyone is invited to hear and view an exciting presentation given by Helen Billak Henry, her daughter Sasha, and her niece Rachel Billak, concerning their trip to Mexico and their work with the Project Mexico Orthodox ministry. This presentation will be given downstairs during coffee hour.

The next monthly parish council meeting will be held on Sunday, September 14, 2008 following Divine Liturgy.

Next Sunday is the Great Feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross, a strict fast day (however, because it is Sunday, wine and oil are permitted). Please prepare yourselves for this spiritually rich feast.

The \$1,000 Fall Raffle Tickets are now available. Please see Margie Speth for your tickets. Tickets are \$2 each. The winning number will be based on the daily (evening) PA Lottery Number drawn on Friday, October 17, 2008. Ticket money and completed ticket stubs need to be returned to Margie Speth. Thanks for your help with this major fundraiser for our parish.

Orthodox author and speaker, Matthew Gallatin, author of "Thirsting for God in a Land of Shallow Wells" and Ancient Faith Radio podcaster ***will be speaking at our parish on Wednesday, October 8th at 7 PM!*** See the flier in today's bulletin for details. Tell your friends and family!



Vigil Light Donations (Please remember the following people in your prayers): **From Helen Cobb** for the departed servants, Ray Cobb, Mat. Olga, Richard Shancey, Darius, Joseph Kovacs, Ann Tovcimak and Ann Hruch; for the health of George, Ruth, Vic, Todd, Aleisha, Jared, Kasnot family, Helen M. Shancey & family, Dr. Chris Baxter & family, Barsom family, Kowal family, Speth family, Kovacs family, Tichy family, Fuller family, Kowalcheck family, Robes Family, Steve Meno, Michael Soroka, Fr. Soroka, Dn. Joseph Mell and their families and all parishioners. God bless all our service men & women and God bless America! **From Peter Kerchum** for the health of Garnette. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants (parents) Charles & Mary; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of the Andrew & Olga Kasnot on their 61st Wedding Anniversary. **From Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servants (parents) Charles & Mary; for the health of the Wasilko family; Many Years to Andy & Olga Kasnot on their 61st Wedding Anniversary **From Helen M. Shancey** for the departed servants, her beloved husband, Richard Shancey, Norma Jean Evans, Joyce Duster, Ray Cobb, Ann Hruch, Steve Gulewicz, Mat. Olga, Fr. Soroka and all deceased members of the Halajcio & Shancey families; for the health of Dr. Chris Baxter & family, Shancey & Halajcio families, Jim & Leslie Wokutch, Helen Cobb, Olga Novak & son, Bittner family, Hruch family, Wasilko family, Kasnot family, Namisnak family, Barsom family, Kovacs family, Kowalcheck family, Robes family, Steve Meno, Fr. Thomas, Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell and all their families and all parishioners. God bless Michael Soroka. God bless all our service men & women. **From Peter & Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servant, Mat. Olga Soroka; for the health of Grandson, Michael Lopez, Jr., Reader Michael Soroka, David Zeronki, Valentina Barsom and Tom Robes. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, John, Amelia, Nicholas, Marie, Frank, Ann, Nicholas & Nicholas; for the health of Reader Michael Soroka, Carol, Mildred, Kuck, Villella & Tempalski families; special intentions. **From Susan Sipes Stroehlen** for the departed servant, husband, Jon. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Reader Michael Soroka, Carol Kowalcheck, Tom and Georgiann Robes. **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Bruce, Polina, Victor and Valentina; for the health of Dasha, Tatyana, Tatyana and Slava. **From Michelle Bittner** for the health of Ron and Chuck Z. **From Carol Kowalcheck** for God's grace & mercy. **From John A. Kowalcheck** for the health of Carol Ann Kowalcheck. **From John & Carol Kowalcheck** for the health of son, Daniel (30th Birthday 9/5/08); health & safety of son, Peter during his travels.

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Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross

Tone 3

Troparion of the 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 3

Kontakion of the Resurrection

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb,
O Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
with the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise
the divine majesty of Thy power!

Tone 4

Kontakion of the Forefeast (Nativity of the Theotokos)

Today from the stem of Jesse and from the loins of David,
the handmaid of God Mary is being born for us.
Therefore all creation is renewed and rejoices.
Heaven and earth rejoice together.
Praise her, you families of nations,
for Joachim rejoices and Anna celebrates crying out:
"The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos the Nourisher of our life!"

Tone 6

Prokeimenon of the Sunday (Psalm 27:9)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Epistle (Galatians 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.

And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Gospel (John 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.

Communion Hymns (Psalm 148)

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

*While 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.
Please join us downstairs for coffee hour following the Divine Liturgy.*

On the Nativity of Mary, the Ever-Virgin Mother of God

Now Adam offers from us and for us elements unto God, the most worthy fruit of mankind: Mary, in Whom the new Adam is rendered Bread for the restoration of the human race. Now is opened the great bosom of virginity, and the Church, in the matrimonial manner, places upon it a pure, truly spotless pearl.

Now human worthiness accepts the gift of the first creation and returns to its former condition; the majesty darkened by formless sin, through the conjoining by His Mother by birth "of Him Beauteous by Goodness," man receives beauty in a most excellent and God-seemly visage. And this creating is done truly by the creation, and recreation by theosis, and theosis by a return to the original perfection!

Now a barren one has become a mother beyond expectation, and the Theotokos has given birth without knowing man, and She sanctifies natural birth. Now the majestic color of the Divine purple is readied and impoverished human nature is clothed in royal worthiness. Now, according to prophecy, sprouts forth the Offshoot of David, Who, having eternally become the green-sprouting Staff of Aaron, has blossomed forth for us with the Staff of Power: Christ.