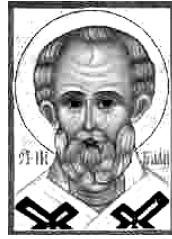


September 21, 2008

## St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

320 Munson Avenue  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
412-331-1053

<http://www.stnicholas-oca.org>  
[info@stnicholas-oca.org](mailto:info@stnicholas-oca.org)



Rev. Thomas Soroka, *Rector*  
(412) 299-3942  
Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell, *Attached*  
Ms. Doris Wasilko, *Choir Director*

**The Leavetaking of the Elevation of the Precious and Life-Creating Cross**  
Christ is in our midst! He is and always shall be!

### Schedule of Services and Activities

**Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 PM**

**Great Vespers**

**Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 AM**

**Divine Liturgy**

**An extraordinary parish meeting** will be held on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> for the sole purpose of electing a lay delegate and alternate to the All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America to be held in Pittsburgh from Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for more detailed information.

**Next Sunday after the Divine Liturgy, everyone is invited to hear and view an inspiring presentation** given by Nathan Graff, about his trip to the center of Orthodox monasticism in the word – Mount Athos, also known as “The Holy Mountain.” This presentation will be given downstairs during coffee hour and everyone is invited to attend.

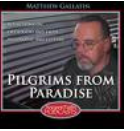
**Our next Hoagie/Wrap Sale** will be this coming Wednesday/Thursday, September 24/25, 2008. Prices remain \$5 each for Italian Hoagies and Wraps and \$5.50 each for Turkey Hoagies and Wraps. Order forms can be located at the candle kiosk in the back of the church. Orders can be placed by calling 412 771-0176, faxing 412 771-2444 or emailing [m.bittner@comcast.net](mailto:m.bittner@comcast.net) by Monday, September 22, by 7 p.m. We are looking for more orders and more assembly help! If you can spare the time, please come to the church hall at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, September 24. Assembly usually takes a couple of hours, and we finish up around noon. Orders can be picked up on Wednesday between noon and 1:30 p.m. in the church hall. Thank you for supporting our Hoagie/Wrap fundraiser!

**The Weeping Icon of St Anne**, mother of the Theotokos (this icon resides in Philadelphia, PA) will be at St Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in McKees Rocks on Friday, October 10th at 7:00 PM, where an Akathist will be served, followed by anointing of the faithful with the tears from the icon. On Saturday morning, October 11th, at 9:00 AM a Divine Liturgy will be served, followed by anointing. At 11 AM, another Akathist will be served, followed by anointing. For further information, please contact Father Tim at 412-331-2362. (Our parish will not have Vespers on that day due to the Archdiocesan Assembly and a wedding.)



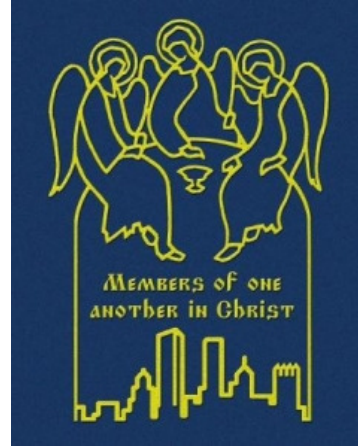
**The \$1,000 Fall Raffle Tickets** are now available. Please see Margie Speth for your tickets. Tickets are \$2 each. The winning number will be based on the daily (evening) PA Lottery Number drawn on Friday, October 17, 2008. Ticket money and completed ticket stubs need to be returned to Margie Speth. 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 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM!** See the flier in today's bulletin for details. Tell your friends and family! We are hoping that all parishioners will seriously consider attending this important event so that they may grow in their faith.



**Fr Thomas will be speaking** at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> on the topic of “Parish Renewal and Growth: An Orthodox Perspective”. In December, he will be leading an Advent Retreat at St Mary's Orthodox Cathedral (OCA) in Minneapolis, MN, which is the largest parish in the OCA. There he will be speaking on “The Goals of Christian Community” and later in the day will present a talk on “Servant Leadership in Parish Life”.

**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, Melissa, Ann and Ann Hruch; for the health of George, Ruth, Vic, Todd, Aleisha, Jared, Kasnot family, Helen M. Shancey & family, Namisnak family, Barsom family, Kowal family, Bittner family, Speth family, Tichy family, Fuller family, Hruch family, Michael Soroka, Fr. Soroka, Dn. Joseph Mell and their families and all parishioners. 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, Tom Robes and David Zeronki. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family; safe travels. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha; safe journey. **From Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servants (parents) Charles & Mary; for the health of the Wasilko family. **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. Vladimir 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, Michael Soroka, Fr. Thomas, Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell and all their families and all parishioners. God bless Jim Gavin. God bless all our service men & women. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, John & Amelia, Nicholas & Marie, Frank & Ann, Nicholas & Nicholas (Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>), Francis & Joseph, Ann & John and Joann; for the health of Reader Michael Soroka, Carol, Steve, Georgiann, Kuck, Vilella & Tempalski families, the community of St. Nicholas, the men & women serving our country; safe travel for son, Richard; special intentions. **From Raisa Burd** for the departed servants, Agrippina, Stepan, Nina, Zinovi, Vassili, Vladimir, Ivan, Lena, Peter and Anna; for the health of Kathy Suchon (in Houston) & her family, all our relatives & friends. **From Susan Sipes Stroehlen** for the departed servant, husband, Jon. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the health of the Pravlochak family, daughter, Karen (on her birthday) and the Robes family. **From Natasha & Charles Tichy** for the departed servants, Aleksandra, Ilya, Anna, Vladimir and Praskovia; for the health of Mikhail and Nadezda; safe travels. **From Carol Kowalcheck** for God's grace & mercy. **From John A. Kowalcheck** for the health of Carol Kowalcheck. **From John & Carol Kowalcheck** for the health of Reader Michael, Valentina, Nancy, Tom, Leslie, Marsha & Mark. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of George Shaytar and John Shaytar (on his birthday).



**On Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, we will have a parish meeting for the sole purpose of electing a lay delegate and alternate to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> triennial All-American Council of the autocephalous Orthodox Church in America** to be held Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh. At this Council, among other items, the assembly will elect a new Metropolitan to lead the church and to be the first among equals of the Holy Synod.

Any lay candidates that wish to be considered for election must be “members in good standing” of the parish (that is, they must have shown themselves to be committed to the faith, attend church, participate in the sacramental life of the church, and participate in the financial stewardship of the parish according to their means).

Article III, Section 6 states of the Statutes of the Orthodox Church in America states:

*The lay delegates and alternates to the All-American Council must meet the following requirements to be validly elected, qualified, and accredited:*

- a. Be elected by a parish meeting;*
- b. Be a voting member of the parish in good standing (Cf. Article X, Section 5), at least eighteen years of age, having received the Sacraments of Confession and Communion at least annually for the past three years at his home parish. (Like holders of all offices in the Church, he may not be a person under ecclesiastical interdict, who is in violation of moral standards, who is married outside the Church, who is a member of anti-Church and/or secret societies.)*
- c. The lay delegate or delegates will personally receive from their parish a uniform document supplied by the Central Church Administration. The parish rector shall forward to the Pre-Conciliar Commission the name and the address of the elected lay delegate or delegates and alternates two months prior to the All-American Council. The document of accreditation must be signed by the parish rector, or Dean in case of a vacancy in the parish, and the parish secretary, and sealed with the parish seal. In case of a vacant parish, the parish is entitled to one lay delegate. The delegates from a theological seminary, if laymen, shall be accredited by a similar letter to the Pre-Conciliar Commission by the dean of the theological seminary, immediately after their appointment.*

Article X, Section 5 states:

- a. *Parishioners are those who, by virtue of their Baptism and Chrismation, are members of the Body of Christ and strive to live in accordance with their high calling (Eph. 4:1) as Orthodox Christians. No one can be a member of the parish if he openly betrays the teaching of the Orthodox Church, or if he leads a life or acts in a manner condemned by the Holy Canons as incompatible with the name of Orthodox Christian.*
- b. *A "voting member" of the parish is a member [as defined in Article X, Section 5(a)] at least eighteen years of age, who partakes of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion in his home parish at least once a year; has belonged to the parish for a period as may be fixed by the parish; and regularly fulfills such financial obligations as may be established by the All-American Councils, Diocesan Assemblies, and parish.*

It should be noted that it is commonly interpreted for the purposes of the All-American Councils that, although commonly considered clergy, Deacons are eligible to be elected as lay delegates for the All-American Council since they are not represented as clergy at the Council.

Additionally, those who are considering election should bear in mind that Tuesday through Thursday's sessions will be held during the day, and will need to make arrangements with their work or obligations to attend important sessions. There may also be some evening sessions.

The parish will pay all reasonable expenses for those who are elected as delegates (or in the case that a delegate cannot fulfill their duties, as alternates) including registration and fees for all events, mileage, parking and a *per diem* for food. Hotel expenses will not be paid since this is a local event.

Information about this Council may be found at <http://www.oca.org/15aac>. The full, detailed schedule has not yet been released as of today.

Questions about qualifications or the election should be directed to Fr Thomas.

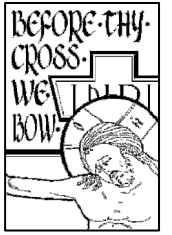
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**The Annual Mother Alexandra Memorial Retreat** entitled "Blossoming Forth: A Seminar on Orthodoxy in America" will be held on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Elwood City, PA. At 1:30 PM a Service of Thanksgiving will be held in the monastery chapel. At 2:00 PM, Fr Thomas Hopko will speak on "The Past Forty Years". At 3:30 PM a panel discussion will be held by young church leaders in America on "The Next Forty Years". Our own Nathan and Melissa Graff will be among those panelists. At 5:00 PM final remarks on "Dreaming the Dream". The retreat will close at 6:00 PM with Great Vespers. All are welcomed to attend.

**Church School begins Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>!** Parents, please support the education of your children!

## St Nicholas Orthodox Church

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McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
A parish of the Orthodox Church in America  
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September 21, 2008

### The Leavetaking of the Elevation of the Precious and Life-Creating Cross

#### **Tone 5**

#### **Troparion of the Resurrection**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,  
Co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born for our salvation from the Virgin.  
For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh  
to endure death  
and to raise the dead,  
by His glorious resurrection.

#### **Tone 1**

#### **Troparion of the Feast**

O Lord, save Thy people,  
and bless Thine inheritance.  
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians  
over their adversaries;  
and by virtue of Thy Cross,  
preserve Thy habitation.

#### **Tone 5**

#### **Kontakion of the Resurrection**

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior,  
shattering its gates as almighty,  
resurrecting the dead as Creator  
and destroying the sting of death.  
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man  
and we all cry to Thee, O Lord, save us!

#### **Tone 4**

#### **Kontakion of the Feast**

As Thou wast voluntarily crucified for our sake,  
grant mercy to those who are called by Thy name.  
Make all Orthodox Christian glad by Thy power,  
granting them victories over their adversaries  
by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace.

#### **Tone 5**

#### **Prokeimenon (Psalm 12)**

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

**Tone 7****Prokeimenon of the Leavetaking (Psalm 99)**

Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy!

**Epistle (Galatians 2:16-20)**

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**Gospel (Mark 8:34- 9:1)**

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

**Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast**

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious cross of the Lord.

You are the mystical paradise, O Theotokos,  
in which Christ blossomed.  
Through Him, the life-bearing wood of the cross was planted on earth.  
Now at its elevation,  
as we bow in worship before it,  
we magnify you.

**Communion Hymns**

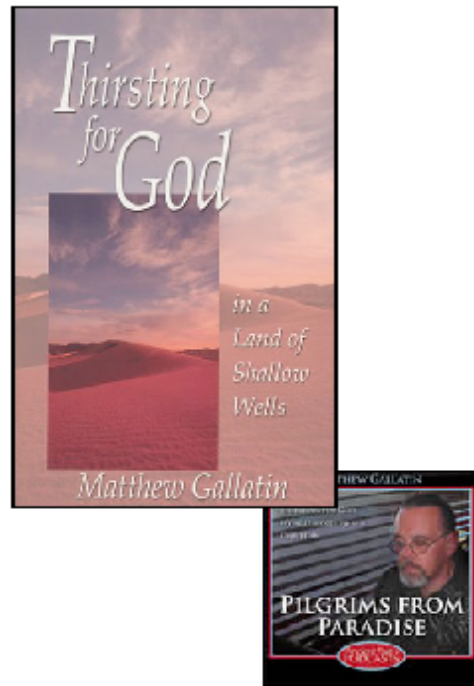
Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!  
The light of Thy countenance has shown on us, O Lord. Alleluia.

*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.*

# Matthew Gallatin

Author of the popular book "Thirsting for God in a Land of Shallow Wells"  
will speak on the subject

## Seeking Truth, Finding Love: My Journey to the Orthodox Church A Pastor's Forum



Wednesday, October 8th, 2008

10:00 AM Prayer Service / Continental Breakfast  
10:30 AM Forum

St Nicholas Orthodox Church  
320 Munson Avenue  
McKees Rocks, PA

*Only three minutes from downtown Pittsburgh!*

*Come and hear the story of an  
Evangelical pastor who embarked upon  
a challenging and life-changing  
journey of discovery.*

This event is free and open to all pastors, teachers,  
and ministry leaders who desire to learn more about  
the ancient Christian faith  
as experienced in the Orthodox Church.

For more information, write  
[info@stnicholas-oca.org](mailto:info@stnicholas-oca.org)

Hear Matthew's podcast  
"Pilgrims from Paradise" on Ancient Faith Radio  
[AncientFaith.com](http://AncientFaith.com)

# Matthew Gallatin

Author of the popular book "Thirsting for God in a Land of Shallow Wells"  
will speak on the subject

## How to Experience God

Wednesday, October 8th, 2008

6:30 PM Vespers  
7:00 PM Presentation

St Nicholas Orthodox Church  
320 Munson Avenue  
McKees Rocks, PA

*Only three minutes from downtown Pittsburgh!*

*Can we really experience God?  
Hear this gifted author and speaker  
reveal the ancient Christian teaching  
for powerfully experiencing God  
in our daily lives.*

This event is free and open to the public.

Hear Matthew's podcast  
"Pilgrims from Paradise" on Ancient Faith Radio  
[AncientFaith.com](http://AncientFaith.com)

For more information, write  
[info@stnicholas-oca.org](mailto:info@stnicholas-oca.org)