

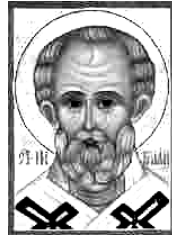
September 28, 2008

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

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

<http://www.stnicholas-oca.org>
info@stnicholas-oca.org

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



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Schedule of Services and Activities

Wednesday, October 1st – 6:30 PM

Wednesday, October 1st – 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 4th – 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Saturday, October 4th – 5:00 PM

Sunday, October 5th – 10:00 AM

Daily Vespers

Bible Study

Church School

Great Vespers

Divine Liturgy

Church School begins Saturday, October 4th! Parents, please support the education of your children! We are also in need of parents to sign up for this month's snacks and to possibly lead the games.

An extraordinary parish meeting will be held next Sunday, October 5th 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 10th to Thursday, November 13th. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for more detailed information.

Today 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.

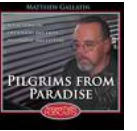
The Weeping Icon of St Anne, mother of the Theotokos (this icon resides in Philadelphia, PA) will be at St Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in McKees Rocks on Friday, October 10th at 7:00 PM, where an Akathist will be served, followed by anointing of the faithful with the tears from the icon. On Saturday 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.



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.

Our collection to benefit the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) for college ministry continues today. If you did not have the opportunity to give, please give generously in the basket after you venerate the cross today.

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! We are hoping that all parishioners will seriously consider attending this important event so that they may grow in their faith.

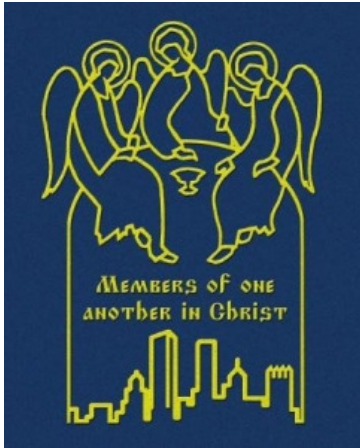


Thank you to all those who made our hoagie sale a big success this month. Profit was \$737.04

Fr Thomas will be speaking at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on Saturday, October 18th 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".

The Washington Symphony Orchestra will be playing a concert entitled "Young at Heart" featuring music inspired by and for children on Saturday, October 11th at 8:00 PM. Our own Rick Porter is a musician in this fine orchestra. Visit <http://www.washsym.org> for ticket information.

Vigil 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 and Ann Hruch; for the health of George, Ruth, Vic, Todd, Aleisha, Jared, Kasnot family, Helen M. Shancey & family, Barsom family, Kowal family, Wasilko 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, Valentina Barsom and David Zeroniski. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of Andy & Olga Kasnot and Valentina Barsom. **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, Frances, Joseph, Ann & John and Joann; for the health of Reader Michael Soroka, Carol, Steve, Georgiann, Thomas, the community of St. Nicholas, the men & women serving our country; special intentions. **From David Namisnak** for the departed servants, Melissa and Richard Shancey; for the health of Marsha, Helen Shancey, Carol Kowalcheck, Leslie Wokutch and Michael Soroka. **From Susan Sipes Stroehlen** for the departed servant, husband, Jon. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servants, V. Rev. Vladimir & Mat. Olga; for the health of the Pravlochak family and Michael Soroka. **From George Porvaznik** for the departed servants, (wife) Johanna and (daughter) Beverly; for the health of Tom & Georgiann Robes. **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, Thomas, Leslie, Marsha & Mark. **From the Robes family** for the departed servants, Johanna & Beverly Porvaznik; for the health of Tom Robes and Michael Soroka. **From Tatiana Sechler** for the departed servants, Bruce, Victor, Polina, Valentina and Marina; for the health of Tatyana, Tatyana, Veronika, Roman and Tatyana.



On Sunday, October 5th, we will have a parish meeting for the sole purpose of electing a lay delegate and alternate to attend the 15th triennial All-American Council of the autocephalous Orthodox Church in America to be held Monday, November 10th through Thursday, November 14th 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.

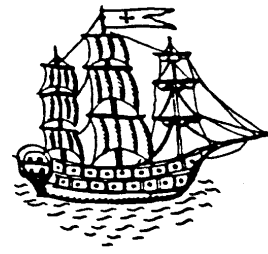
The parish will pay all reasonable expenses for those who are elected as delegates (or in the case that a delegate cannot fulfill their duties, as alternates) including registration and fees for all events, mileage, parking and a *per diem* for food. Hotel expenses will not be paid since this is a local 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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September 28, 2008

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 6 *Troparion of the Resurrection*

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!

Tone 6 *Kontakion of the Resurrection*

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.

Tone 6 *Kontakion of the Theotokos*

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.

Tone 6 *Prokeimenon* (Psalm 27:9)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Epistle (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 (Luke 5:1-11)

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Communion Hymns

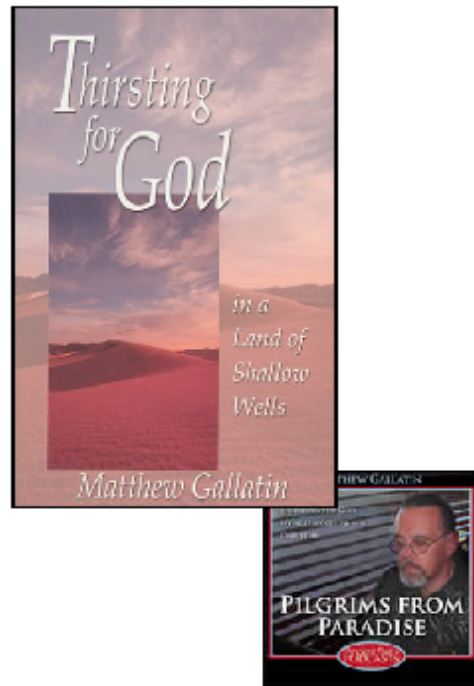
Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

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.

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

Hear Matthew's podcast
"Pilgrims from Paradise" on Ancient Faith Radio
AncientFaith.com

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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.

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