

November 23, 2008  
Great Prince Alexander Nevsky

## St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

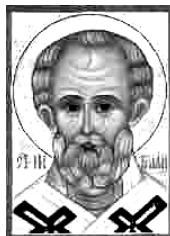
320 Munson Avenue  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

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

Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell, *Attached*

Ms. Doris Wasilko, *Choir Director*

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### Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

#### Schedule of Services and Activities

**Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 PM**                      **Great Vespers**

**Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 AM**                      **Divine Liturgy**

**The Sisterhood will be hosting** the annual St. Nicholas Day Dinner on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> immediately following Liturgy. The Lenten meal will be catered by Janice's and ticket prices are as follows: Adults are \$12.00; Children ages 3-12 are \$6.00 and children 2 and under are free! See Melissa Westling or Matushka Joni after Liturgy in the vestibule or during coffee hour. Please support our Parish and purchase tickets in advance! Remember to invite family and friends to join us!

**Christmas Card Project:** Once again we are hoping everyone will participate in our parish's Christmas Card Project. Please see Marsha Wasilko to sign up your/your family's name to be listed on the card for a \$10 donation. We are asking all church organizations to also sponsor their club's name on the card. Sign-up deadline is November 30.

**St. Nick's Corner News:** Our showcase is overflowing with new merchandise! Please stop by and check out the dozens of beautiful ornaments, glass tealight holders and assorted wooden boxes, dolls, eggs, icons, and much more. Also available are several boxes of Christmas cards. See Michelle Bittner or Marsha Wasilko for assistance.

#### Thanks to all of our November donors!

**Altar Candles (\$65)** from the Hanich-Tirpak families in memory of Nicholas and Nicholas and for the health of Amelia, Andrea, Richard and their families.

**Holy Bread (\$50)** from John and Carol Kowalcheck in Thanksgiving to God.

**Communion Wine (\$40)** from the Namisnak family in memory of Richard Shancey and for the health of Helen Shancey.

**Incense (\$10)** from the Porvaznik and Robes family in memory of Beverly Hrabak and for the health of George Porvaznik on the occasion of his birthday.

**Vigil Light Donations** (Please remember the following people in your prayers): **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, (grandfather) Theodore Dyczko and (godmother) Mary Hollenbach; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, (aunt) Mary Hollenbach; for the health of Doris & Marsha, Carol Kowalcheck and Tom Robes. **From Doris M.**

**Wasilko** for the departed servants (parents), Charles & Mary and (aunt) Mary Hollenbach; 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 & wife, Mat. Olga, Melissa Torok, Aleksandra Koroleva 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, Pravlochak family, Kowal family, Marion Geysler & family, Reader Michael Soroka, Fr. Thomas, Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell and all their families and all parishioners. God bless Garnett & Peter Kerchum. God bless all our service men & women. God bless America. **From Mat. Nancy Mell** for the departed servant, John Daniluck. **From Susan Sipes Stroehlen** for her departed husband, Jon. **From Carol Kowalcheck** in Thanksgiving for God's mercy. **From John A. Kowalcheck** for the health of Carol Ann Kowalcheck. **From Helen Cobb** for the departed servants, Ray Cobb, Mat. Olga, Richard Shancey, Darius, Joseph Kovacs, Ann Hruch and Aleksandra Koroleva; for the health of George, Ruth, Vic, Todd, Aleisha, Dick, Jared, Kowal family, Tichy family, Fuller family, Kasnot family, Wasilko family, , Barsom family, Speth family, Helen M. Shancey & family, Reader Michael Soroka, Peter & Garnette Kerchum, Carol Kowalcheck & family, Fr. Soroka, Dn. Joseph Mell and their families and all parishioners. God bless all our Veterans & God bless America. **From Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Victor, Valentina, Polina, Bruce, Marina and Maria; for the health of Veronica, Dasha, Tatyana and Roman. **From Chuck Conrad** for the health of Barb Fitzgerald-cure her from the cancer that is so painful. **From the Fullers** for the health of Justin Fuller. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, (parents & grandparents) Amelia & John, Marie & Nicholas, Ann & Frank, (brother & nephew) Nicholas & Nicholas and Annie & John; for the health of (children) Amelia, Andrea and Richard & their families; parish community of St. Nicholas, John and the men & women serving our country-fighting for our freedom; special intentions. **From Peter & Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servant, Mat. Olga Soroka; for the health of Grandson, Michael Lopez, Jr., Reader Michael Soroka, David Zeronki and Linda McKittrick.

This is the root and the foundation of our whole life as a Christian, this awareness of the presence of God. It's what the Fathers called the "remembrance of God", and it doesn't mean that you're remembering it in your head that God is present, it's that God's presence is a fundamental part of your own awareness. You know that He is present, and when we can bring that awareness of His presence by stilling our minds and stilling our hearts, then His love overflows through us. And transforms us. And that experience of sanctity isn't just limited to when we walk into or church. It isn't just limited to when we venerate the icons or go before the relics of the saints. That experience of sanctity is with us everywhere, all the time. We have to do the one without forgetting the other.

We need to have spiritual discipline. And the disciplines are not in ends in themselves, but are facilitating the spiritual awareness and transformation and conversion of our souls, in order to do the act of ministries. Otherwise what are we doing with the act of ministries, they become some kind of projection of our own egos. And that's not going to help much, if anybody, least of all myself.

- His Beatitude Metropolitan Jonah  
Speech given at the 15<sup>th</sup> AAC Formal Dinner



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A parish of the Orthodox Church in America  
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## Twenty-third 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 4

### Troparion of the Feast

Today is the preview of the good will of God,  
of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.  
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God in anticipation, proclaiming Christ to all.  
Let us rejoice and sing to her:  
Rejoice, O Divine Fulfillment  
of the Creator's dispensation!

### 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 Feast

The most pure Temple of the Savior;  
the precious Chamber and Virgin;  
the sacred Treasure of the Glory of God  
is presented today to the House of the Lord.  
She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,  
which the angels of God do praise.  
Truly this woman is the abode of heaven!

### Tone 6

### Prokeimenon (Psalm 27:9)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

### Tone 3

### Prokeimenon of the Theotokos (Luke 1:46-47)

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

### Epistle (Ephesians 2:4-10)

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

### Gospel (Luke 12:16-20)

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

"So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

### Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure one and were amazed!  
How has the Virgin entered into the holy of holies?  
As you are a living Temple of God,  
let no impure hand touch you, O Theotokos.  
But let the lips of all believers sing,  
constantly magnifying you in joy with the angelic salutation:  
Truly you are above all creatures, O Pure One!

### Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!  
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the 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.*