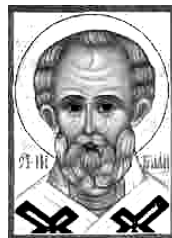


May 3, 2009

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*

The Holy Myrrhbearers (Third Sunday of Pascha)

Schedule of Services and Activities

Wednesday, May 6th – 6:30 PM

Daily Vespers

Wednesday, May 6th – 7:00 PM

Bible Study

The prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament. Everyone is welcomed!

Saturday, May 9th – 5:00 PM

Great Vespers

Sunday, May 10th – 10:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday, Mother's Day, Everyone is invited to join us downstairs after the Divine Liturgy for a special brunch served by the men of the parish in honor of all of the women of the parish!

Young Adult Group – Please check for an email from Melissa Graff about a possible Spring service project. We need your input ASAP!

The annual Church School Picnic will be held at Moon Park, Saturn pavilion, on Saturday, May 16th beginning at 11:00 AM. All children and parents are invited! More details coming via email!

The Three Hierarchs Eastern Orthodox School (THEOS), our local Orthodox Christian K-8 school, will be having an Open House on Wednesday, May 6th from 9:30 AM to Noon. A presentation on the importance of Orthodox education and a question and answer session with the director will be held, as well as a tour of the school. RSVP to 412-278-1494 by May 4th to attend.

Rachmaninoff's Vigil, his most enduring choral work of the Russian Orthodox Church, will be performed by the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh on Sunday, May 17th at 3:30 PM at St Paul's Catholic Cathedral in Oakland. Tickets are \$20. We are purchasing the tickets as a group, so you must place your order with Helene Krenitsky as soon as possible. There are only a few tickets left!

Our Summer Schedule will begin on Sunday, May 31st. Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30 AM.

Our Hoagie/Wrap Sale profit for April was \$574.14. Thank you to everyone who supported and helped to make it a success.

Send your children to an Orthodox camp this summer! There are many wonderful Orthodox Christian camping programs for children from elementary school through high school. Popular camps include Antiochian Village near Ligoneer, PA (<http://antiochianvillage.org>), St Andrew's Camp near Syracuse, NY (<http://standrewscamp.com>), Camp Nazareth near Mercer, PA (<http://campnazareth.org>), and St Seraphim Russian Orthodox Camp in the Pocono Mountains, PA (<http://stseraphimcamp.com>). Camping provides an essential formative experience for Orthodox children and is strongly encouraged. For more information, contact Fr Tom.

Charity Opportunity - This spring, Jim Crivelli Chevrolet in McKees Rocks is opening its doors in some unexpected ways. Community members are being encouraged to donate items as part of the local car dealer's spring open house. From now through May 6th, non-perishable food items, diapers and wipes, clothes, toys and books are being accepted at the dealership located at the Shoppes at Chartiers Crossing (formerly known as the McKees Rocks Shopping Plaza). Selected vehicles will be used to hold the donated items, which will be given to Focus on Renewal, a non-profit social service organization that has served McKees Rocks for 40 years. Please visit www.JimCrivelli.com or call 412-331-0120 for further information and times of operation.

Vigil Light Donations (Please remember the following people in your prayers): **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family, Carol Kowalcheck, Pete Kerchum, Tom Robes and Anita Wasilko. **From Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servants (parents), Charles (4/20/01) & Mary and Aunt Anne Wasilko; for the health of the Wasilko family, Carol Kowalcheck and Anita Wasilko. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sister, Marsha on her 60th Birthday! **From Helen Cobb** for the departed servants, Ray Cobb, Fr. Vladimir & Mat. Olga, Darius Walat; for the health of George, Ruth, Vic, Todd, Aleisha, Dick, Jared, Helen March Shancey, Stephanie Kowal, the Tichy, Fuller, Kasnot, Speth, Wasilko, Barsom, Soroka and Mell families. **From Chuck Conrad** for the health of Eva, Ward, Mike & Barb~for their health. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, (parents & grandparents) Amelia & John, Marie & Nicholas, Ann & Frank, (brother & nephew) Nicholas & Nicholas and Ann & John; for the health of children, Amelia, Andrea, Richard & families, Reader Michael, Carol, Nancy, St. Nicholas Church community; Congratulations Mary & Frank on their wedding(April 25th); men & women serving our country; special intentions. **From Helen M. Shancey** for the departed servants, her husband, Richard Shancey, Norma Jean Evans, Joyce Duster, Ray Cobb, Ann Hruch, Mat. Olga and all deceased members of the Halajcio & Shancey families; for the health of Dr. Chris Baxter & family, Halajcio & Shancey families, Jim & Leslie Wokutch, Helen Cobb, Olga Novak & son, the Bittner, Hruch, Wasilko, Kasnot, Namisnak, Barsom, Kovacs and Robes families, Carol Kowalcheck, Steve Meno, Reader Michael, Fr. Thomas, Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell and their families and all parishioners. God Bless America. **From Peter & Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servant, Mat. Olga Soroka; for the health grandson, Michael Lopez, Jr., Reader Michael Soroka, David Zeronki, Peter Kerchum and Diane Zeronki. **From John A. Tirpak** for the departed servants, Ann & John Tirpak; for the health of Alexandria Tirpak, John Alexander, Charles Alexander; family of John Tirpak.

St Nicholas Orthodox Church

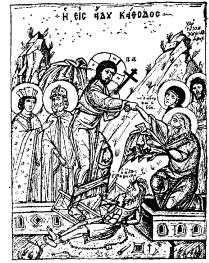
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A parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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May 3, 2009

Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers (Third Sunday of Pascha)

Paschal Greeting

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

Christos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese! (*Russian*)

Christos anesti! Alithos anesti! (*Greek*)

Paschal Troparion

Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Tone 2

Troparia of the Sunday

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead!
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out:
O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

The Noble Joseph,
when he had taken down Thy most pure body from the tree,
wrapped it in fine linen and annointed it with spices
and placed it in a new tomb.
But Thou didst rise on the third day, O Lord,
granting the world great mercy.

The angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said:
Myrrh is meet for the dead,
But Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption!
So proclaim: The Lord is risen; granting the world mercy!

Tone 2**Kontakion of the Sunday**

Thou didst command the myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ!
 By Thy resurrection, Thou didst stop the lamentation of Eve, O God!
 Thou didst command Thy apostles to preach:
 The Savior is risen!

Tone 6**Prokeimenon (Psalm 28)**

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine in heritance!

Epistle (Acts 6:1-7)

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Gospel (Mark 15:43-16:8)

Then Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus observed where He was laid.

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:
 "Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: 'Rejoice,
 your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
 With Himself He has raised all the dead.'"
 Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!
 The glory of the Lord has shone on you.
 Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!
 Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
 in the Resurrection of your Son!

Communion Hymn of the Sunday

Receive the Body of Christ! Taste the Fountain of Immortality!
 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.*

The second Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers. The day commemorates when the women disciples of our Lord came to the tomb to anoint his body with myrrh-oils but found the tomb empty. As the woman wondered what this meant, angels appeared proclaiming that Christ had risen from the dead.

About the beginning of His thirty-second year, when the Lord Jesus was going throughout Galilee, preaching and working miracles, many women who had received of His beneficence left their own homeland and from then on followed after Him. They ministered unto Him out of their own possessions, even until His crucifixion and entombment; and afterwards, neither losing faith in Him after His death, nor fearing the wrath of the Jewish rulers, they came to His sepulcher, bearing the myrrh-oils they had prepared to anoint His body. It is because of the myrrh-oils that these God-loving women brought to the tomb of Jesus that they are called Myrrh-bearers.

Of those whose names are known are the following: first of all, the most holy Virgin Mary, who in Matthew 27:56 and Mark 15:40 is called “the mother of James and Joses” (these are the sons of Joseph by a previous marriage, and she was therefore their step-mother); Mary Magdalene (celebrated July 22); Mary, the wife of Clopas; Joanna, wife of Chouza, a steward of Herod Antipas; Salome, the mother of the sons of Zebedee; Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus; and Susanna. As for the names of the rest of them, the evangelists have kept silence (Matthew 27:55-56; 28:1-10. Mark 15:40-41.

Luke 8:1-3; 23:55-24:11, 22-24. John 19:25; 20:11-18. Acts 1:14.) Together with them we celebrate also the secret disciples of the Savior, Joseph and Nicodemus. Of these, Nicodemus was probably a Jerusalemite, a prominent leader among the Jews and of the order of the Pharisees, learned in the Law and instructed in the Holy Scriptures. He had believed in Christ when, at the beginning of our Savior’s preaching of salvation, he came to Him by night. Furthermore, he brought some one hundred pounds of myrrh-oils and an aromatic mixture of aloes and spices out of reverence for the divine Teacher (John 19:39). Joseph, who was from the city of Arimathea, was a wealthy and noble man, and one of the counselors who were in Jerusalem. He went boldly unto Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and together with Nicodemus he gave Him burial. Since time did not permit the preparation of another tomb, he placed the Lord’s body in his own tomb which was hewn out of rock, as the Evangelist says (Matthew 27:60).



Holy Transfiguration Monastery – Brookline, MA