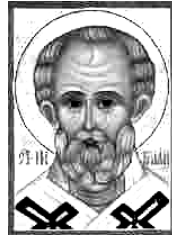


May 17, 2009

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*

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman (Fifth Sunday of Pascha)

Schedule of Services and Activities

Wednesday, May 20th – 6:30 PM

Wednesday, May 20th – 7:00 PM

The Prophecy of the Birth of the Messiah in the Book of Isaiah

Saturday, May 23rd – 5:00 PM

Sunday, May 24th – 10:00 AM

Daily Vespers

Bible Study

Great Vespers

Divine Liturgy

The Episcopal Consecration of Archimandrite Melchisedek (Pleska) to be Bishop of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania will be held on **Saturday, June 27, 2009** at St Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. In conjunction with this event, beyond your prayers and attendance at the consecration, there are two ways you can participate:

- **A Grand Banquet** will be held at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh beginning at 2:00 PM, with a Social Hour at 1:30 PM. Banquet tickets are \$40 per person with a choice of fish (orange roughy) or vegetable lasagna. **Deadline for reservations is Sunday, June 14th.**
- **A Commemorative Booklet** will be published listing names of donors who purchase pages or patronal listings. (Business page - \$100, Business half-page - \$65, Parish and Organizational Page - \$50, and patronal listing - \$15. **Deadline for submissions is Sunday, May 24th.**

The sign up sheet for both will be downstairs. Please make your checks payable to "Archdiocese of Pittsburgh".

Thank you to John Kowalcheck who directed the choir today. Doris Wasilko underwent successful knee surgery and is home recuperating.

The St Nicholas Sisterhood will meet today immediately following the Divine Liturgy. All women of the parish are asked to attend. The annual Father's Day dinner will be discussed.

The Parish Council will meet next Sunday after the Divine Liturgy.

Our next Hoagie/Wrap Sale will be this Wednesday/Thursday, May 20/21. Orders can be placed up through tomorrow, Monday, May 18, by 7 p.m. by calling 412 771-0176, faxing 412 771-2444 or emailing m.bittner@comcast.net. Thank you.

The Pittsburgh District FOCA is again sponsoring at Sunday Night Dinner Cruise on the Gateway Clipper on Sunday, June 14th. Boarding begins at 5:30 PM and the cruise is from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Cost is \$45 for adults (13 and older) and \$15 for children (3 to 12). Reservations are required and must be made **no later than Tuesday, May 19th** with John Schultz (304-748-1223).

Help Stuff a Bus for the Military Serving Overseas! Our parish will be contributing to a larger effort to send needed items to our soldiers serving overseas. Needed items include toiletries such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, chapstick, razors, shaving cream, powder, sunblock lotion, etc; food items such as beef jerky, slim jims, trail mix, granola, breakfast bars, hard candy, pretzels, cheese crackers, gum, etc. Other items are also needed such as batteries, paper and envelopes, white cotton socks, zip lock bags, wash cloths, playing cards, and prepaid phone cards (ATT International preferred). Deadline is Sunday, May 31st. Donya Yewisiak will lead this effort and can answer your questions (412-848-7513). **Note We will also be gathering a special package for Justin Fuller who is serving in Iraq and will send this separately.**

The Slavjane Folk Ensemble will give their annual concert on Saturday, May 30th at 1:00 PM at the Sto-Rox High School Auditorium, Valley Street, in McKees Rocks. Admission is \$7 in advance (\$8 at the door), Students \$4, and children under 5 are free. Come hear and see the music and dance of Eastern Europe. Advance ticket sales at 412-33-3124.

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

Thank you to the men who worked so hard to provide our brunch last Sunday in honor of the women of the parish. May God richly bless all of you!

Yesterday's Church School Picnic was a great success. Thanks to all the parents and kids who attended. News about our annual Vacation Church School coming soon!

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.

A Youth Day Retreat (ages 6-18) will be held at Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Elwood City on Monday, June 29th from 10 AM (Liturgy) to closing prayer at 3:30 PM. Theme will be the Holy Angels. Lunch is included. There is no fee for the retreat but donations may be made to support the work of the Monastery. If you are planning to attend, please call the monastery at (724) 758-4002 or send an email message to omt1@losch.net by Thursday, June 25.

Vigil Light Donations (Please remember the following people in your prayers): **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, (mother) Mary, (grandmothers) Susan Wasilko and Katherine Dyczko; for the health of the Wasilko family; special intention. **From Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servants (parents), Charles & Mary and (grandmothers) Katherine & Susan; for the health of the Wasilko family and Carol Kowalcheck. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha; special intention. **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 Mat. Joni Soroka** for the departed servant, Mat. Olga on Mother's Day; for the health of (mother) Barbara Naiser; Fr. Tom & Jackie on their birthdays! **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, (parents & grandparents) Amelia & John, Marie & Nicholas, Ann & Frank, (brother & nephew) Nicholas & Nicholas, Joann, John ; for the health of children, Amelia, Andrea, Richard & families, Theodore, John, Carol, Nancy, Michael, St. Nicholas Church community; 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, Fr. Vladimir and all deceased members of the Halajcio & Shancey families; for the health of Dr. Chris Baxter & family, Halajcio & Shancey families, Dale Halajcio, Danny Parsons, Jim & Leslie Wokutch, Helen Cobb, Olga Novak & son, the Bittner, Hruch, Wasilko, Kasnot, Namisnak, Barsom, Kovacs and Robes families, Carol Kowalcheck & family, Steve Meno, Reader Michael, Fr. Thomas, Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell and their families and all parishioners. God bless all our service men & women! God bless Marion Geysio & family. **From Peter & Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servant, Mat. Olga Soroka on Mother's Day; for the health grandson, Michael Lopez, Jr., Reader Michael Soroka, David Zeronki, Peter Kerchum and Joe Monce; private intention. **From John A. Tirpak** for the departed servants, John & Anna Tirpak; for the health of Alexandria Tirpak and (sons) Charles & John. **From Carol Kowalcheck** for thanksgiving, health & salvation. **From John & Carol Kowalcheck** for the health of Nora Kowalcheck and baby. **From John Kowalcheck** for the health of Carol Ann Kowalcheck.

*You came to the Temple, O Wisdom of God in the middle of the feast,
to teach and edify the Jews, the Scribes and the Pharisees.*

“Let him who thirsts come to Me and drink the water of life! He will never thirst again!

Whoever believes in Me, streams of living water shall flow from him.”

How great is Your goodness and Your compassion!

Glory to You, O Christ our God!

ON THE SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

In today's Gospel, we see clearly how Our Lord combines within His Person two natures, the human and the divine.

On the one hand, we see that as a human-being, like all of us, He is wearied, thirsty and hungry. The Gospel tells us, for example, that when midday, the sixth hour, had come, His disciples left him to obtain food in the city and that Christ, thirsty, asked the Samaritan Woman for drink.

On the other hand, we see that He is also divine. Living as God in eternity, He knows the present, past and future of all. Thus as God He knows that the Samaritan Woman has already been married five times and that at present she is living in sin with yet another man. Also He tells her that He can give her 'living water' from an Eternal Well, and He tells the disciples that His 'food is to do the will of Him that sent Me'.

As a man, Christ was a Jew, and His disciples are therefore astonished to find Him conversing not only with a woman, but with a Samaritan Woman. A Jew would never even have talked to a Samaritan, let alone a Samaritan Woman, for as the Apostle John says in his Gospel, 'the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans'. As God, however, Christ does not hesitate to talk to one who is able to accept Him as the Messiah, for the vocation of Christ is universal. 'Salvation comes forth from the Jews', but salvation is only for those who accept Christ and few were the Jews who did accept Him.

True, from the Jewish viewpoint, the Samaritans, Jews who had intermarried with pagans, were heretics; they had rejected the importance of Jerusalem and much of the Old Testament, including the Prophets; they had confused pagan idolatry with the Old Testament.

On the other hand, the Jews had rejected Christ. The Jews had turned the truths and revelations of the Old Testament into legalism and territorial racism, an arrogant, nationalistic and racist ideology; they had denied that Christ, as a man a Jew, could, as God, come for the salvation of all peoples. It is that ideology which still to this day insists on the ownership of Jerusalem and has brought even the contemporary world to the brink of war on several occasions. For the Jews had kept the letter of the Law but had rejected the spirit of the Law. And without the Spirit they were unable to recognise Christ.

The Samaritans had rejected the letter of the Law, but some of them, at least, did not stubbornly insist on their errors but were open to its spirit, for they were open to Christ, the Word of God, the Inspirer of the Law. Whereas the Jews had rejected Christ, the Samaritans kept Him with them for two days and many believed in Him. As Our Lord said on His return from Samaria to Judea, 'a prophet has no honour in his own country'.

Why does the Church commemorate the Samaritan Woman today?

Because this is the first Sunday after Mid-Pentecost, the feast that stands half-way between Easter and Pentecost. At Easter the great truths of the Church are revealed - that Christ is both God and man, that He is crucified and risen from the dead. However, these truths, may remain rather abstract until at Pentecost we understand their inner meaning, their implications for our daily life. By the Coming of the Holy Spirit, these truths become living, and we worship Christ in spirit and in truth. Thus the Church reads to us the words that, 'the hour is coming when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth'.

And this is why this world still continues today, why the world has not yet ended. Until the Gospel of Christ has been preached in spirit and in truth, that is, in Orthodox manner, in all lands, throughout the world, the world cannot end. For as long as there are new Samaritans, new peoples, new tribes to hear the Truth, as long as there are people who can still potentially become Orthodox, the world must continue, for there is harvest still to be reaped.

Let us this day pray that we too like the Samaritan Woman may bring others to the Church, testifying like Her to the Divinity of Christ, becoming reapers of that which we have not sown.

Holy Mother Photini, pray to God for us! Amen.

(from orthodoxengland.org.uk)

St Nicholas Orthodox Church

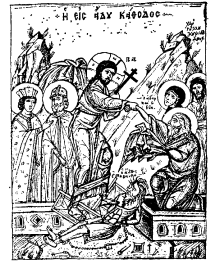
320 Munson Avenue

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A parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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May 17, 2009

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman (Fifth Sunday of Pascha)

Tone 4

Troparion of the Resurrection

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel
the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
Death is overthrown!
Christ our God is risen,
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 8

Troparion of the Midfeast

In the middle of the feast, O Savior,
fill my thirsting soul with the waters of godliness.
As Thou didst cry to all: If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink!
O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to Thee!

Tone 8

Kontakion of the Sunday

The Samaritan woman came to the well in faith;
she saw Thee, the Water of Wisdom, and drank abundantly.
She inherited the Kingdom on High and is ever glorified.

Tone 4

Kontakion of the Midfeast

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all
Cried to all in the midst of the Feast of the law:
Come and draw the water of immortality!
We fall before Thee and faithfully cry:
Grant us Thy bounties, for Thou art the Fountain of our Life.

Tone 3

Prokeimenon (Psalm 46)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Epistle (Acts 11:19-26, 29-30)

Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Gospel (John 4:5-42)

So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

The woman answered and said, "I have no husband."

Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things."

Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."

But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know."

Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."

And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word.

Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

Hymn to the Theotokos of Pascha

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.

When someone comes to know the Truth, Truth takes up its abode in him. He becomes one with the Truth and is no longer half a man but a whole man. Truth heals him and makes him whole, while illusion chops a man up into pieces and grinds him into powder.

- St Nikolai Velimirovic