

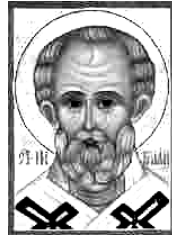
May 24, 2009

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

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

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

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Sunday of the Blind Man (Sixth Sunday of Pascha)

Schedule of Services and Activities

Wednesday, May 27th – 7:00 PM

Ascension of our Lord

Thursday, May 28th – 9:30 AM

Saturday, May 30th – 5:00 PM

Sunday, May 31st – 9:30 AM

Great Vespers with Litiya

Festal Divine Liturgy

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 TODAY, 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 Parish Council will meet today after the Divine Liturgy.

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.

The 2nd Anniversary of the Repose of Archbishop Kyrill will be held on Wednesday, June 17th at Holy Transfiguration Monastery. Divine Liturgy begins at 10:00 AM.

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.

FOCA Pittsburgh District Meeting and Picnic will be held at St Nicholas Church in Weirton on Sunday, July 12th at 3:00 PM.

Thank you to our May donors!

Holy Bread (\$50) from Marsha Wasilko on the occasion of her birthday.

Communion Wine (40) from Paul, Lois, and Katharine Fuller for the health and safety of the soldier Justin who is serving in Iraq.

Altar Candles (\$25) from the Wasilko Family in memory of mother, Mary.

Incense (\$10) from Fr Tom and Matushka Joni for the health of daughter, Jacqueline, on the occasion of her 10th birthday.

FOCA Family Night Out – Wild Things Baseball at Consul Energy Park, Washinton, PA, August 20th. Game begins at 7:05 PM. For more information, contact Patty Lear at pnlear@verizon.net.

The Annual Archdiocesan Family Day will be held on Sunday August 16th beginning at 3:00 PM at the Archdiocesan Center in Cranberry Township.

From Doris Wasilko: "My thanks to everyone for all of their cards, gifts, and well wishes. I appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness."

We are in great need of coffee hour sponsors, now and this Summer! Please see Melissa Graff if you can help!

From Marsha Wasilko for the departed servants, (grandfather) Andrew Wasilko, (uncle) Ed Hollenbach and (aunt) Ann Panik; for the health of Doris and Carol Kowalcheck. **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 departed servants, (grandfather) Andrew Wasilko, (uncle) Ed Hollenbach and (aunt) Ann Panik; for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha and Carol Kowalcheck. **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 David Namisnak** for the departed servants, Richard Shancey, Melissa Torok and Frank & Anna Namisnak; for the health of Marsha, Helen Shancey, Carol Kowalcheck and Doris Wasilko. **From Helen M. Shancey** for the departed servants, her husband, Richard Shancey, Norma Jean Evans, Joyce Duster, Ray Cobb, Joseph Kovacs, 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, Jim & Leslie Wokutch, Helen Cobb, Olga Novak & son, Doris Wasilko & family, the Bittner, Hruch, Wasilko, Kasnot, Namisnak, Barsom, Kovacs and Robes families, Carol Kowalcheck & family, Marion Geysio & 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. **From Carol Kowalcheck** in thanksgiving to God for His blessings & mercy. **From John & Carol Kowalcheck** for the health of Peter on his 23rd birthday (5/17). **From John Kowalcheck** for the health of Carol Ann Kowalcheck. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servants, Fr. Vladimir & Mat. Olga and for the blessed memory of the Veterans; for the health of Carol Kowalcheck and Fr. Tom & Mat. Joni on their 20th Wedding Anniversary. **From Natalya & Charles Tichy** for the departed servants, Aleksandra, Ilya, Anna, Vladimir and Praskovia; for the health of friends, relatives and all parishioners; safe travel. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servants, (mothers) Anna & Mary; for the health of Doris Wasilko (for speedy recovery) and the Pravlochak family.

*****McKees Rocks Bridge Westbound Lane to Close Tuesday, June 2nd*****

The lane from Route 65 (Ohio River Boulevard) going toward Island Avenue will be closed for most of the summer. This includes the Helen Street Exit on that side. The Eastbound lane (heading from Island Avenue to Route 65) will remain open



For those coming to Church from the Route 65 Side: *If you come through downtown, cross the West End Bridge, then turn right and take the exit into McKees Rocks. If you're closer to the*

Sewickley area, you can cross the river by taking I-79 South and exiting at Neville Island, then take Neville Road into McKees Rocks.

Don't let road construction detour your spiritual life this summer!

St Nicholas Orthodox Church

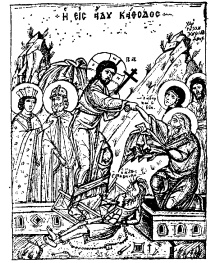
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May 24, 2009

Sunday of the Blind Man (Sixth Sunday of Pascha)

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 4

Kontakion of the Sunday

I come to Thee, O Christ,
blind from my birth in my spiritual eyes
and I call to Thee in repentance:
Thou art the most radiant light
of those in darkness.

Tone 8

Prokeimenon (Psalm 76)

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

Epistle (Acts 16:16-34)

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days.

But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and

commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Gospel (John 9:1-38)

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind[b] said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he."

Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."

Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."

The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

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.*

We are all spiritually blind from time to time, even the most devout of us. For we all have our periods of doubt, the dark times in our life of faith. Jesus Christ, as both God and man - the God-Man, cures us of our spiritual blindness. For what we learn in the Gospels can only be believed through spiritual insight, by means of an inner eye (as it were). Spiritual insight is available only to those who have entered into union with the Holy Trinity. The inner eye is the gift of God, divine grace offered to us by the Holy Spirit, sent to each one of us by the Father through the Son. We enter into union with the Holy Trinity (however partially and intermittently) as members of the Church. Spiritual insight is available only to baptised Christians.

But spiritual insight, the inner eye is necessary to us. What we learn in the Gospels about Jesus Christ cannot be believed by applying human reason. In fact such notions as that Jesus was born of a virgin, that he cured a man born blind and performed other miraculous healings, and that he rose again from the dead after being crucified, are, from the world's point of view, downright unreasonable. They offend against both science and common sense (and we are hearing a lot about common sense during the General Election campaign!). Women who have never known a man do not have children. People do not rise from the dead. But we believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God become man, was born of the Virgin Mary, lived and preached on earth, was crucified, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. And that in due course he will return to this world in glory! Only spiritual insight, an inner eye, could possibly enable us to believe all this.