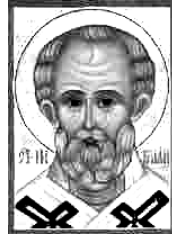


August 23, 2009
St Irenaeus of Lyon

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*

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Leavetaking of the Dormition of the Theotokos
Christ is in our midst! He is and always shall be!

Schedule of Services and Activities

Today after the Divine Liturgy <i>In memory of Dorothy Zyroll (40 days) from the Zyroll and Bevington families</i>	Trisagion for the Departed
Today after the Divine Liturgy <i>In memory of George Lychkoff from mother, Helen Cobb</i>	Panikhida for the Departed
Wednesday, August 26th – 6:30 PM	Daily Vespers
Wednesday, August 26th – 7:00 PM	Bible Study
Saturday, August 29th – 5:00 PM	Great Vespers
Sunday, August 30th – 9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

Our St Nicholas Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2009, at the Rotary Pavilion, Clever Park, Robinson Township. Please look on the bulletin board in the vestibule of the church to see items are needed for the church picnic. The picnic is about a month away. Please see Donya Yewisiak or Michelle Bittner if you would like to donate any of those items.

This week's Bible Study will be the last on Isaiah. Our next Bible Study will be on September 9th and will begin a new series on the Gospel of John. Please join us!

Sisterhood News - The Wal-Mart Bake Sale raised over \$212 for the Sisterhood. Donations are still coming in. We would like to thank everyone who baked, purchased and supported the bake sale with donations.

Many years to Matushka Joni and to the parents and teachers who made the Vacation Church School a rousing success again this year. Pictures will be up on the website in a day or two. Thank you to all for your hard work!

Thank you to John Thompson for organizing the service project for our teens who went to Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City yesterday. It was a wonderful day of service and prayer. Everyone learned much about monastic life and made a valuable contribution to the monastery property.

Vigil Light Donations (Please keep the following people in your prayers) **From Helen Cobb** for the departed servants, son, George, Ray Cobb, Fr. Vladimir & Mat. Olga, Darius Walat; for the health of Ruth, Vic, Todd, Aleisha, Dick, Jared, Helen March Shancey, Stephanie Kowal, the Tichy, Fuller, Kasnot, Speth, Wasilko, Barsom, Soroka and Mell families. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, Amelia & John, Marie & Nicholas, Ann & Frank, Nicholas & Nicholas; for the health of (children) Amelia, Andrea & Richard and their families, Owen, Dayna, David, community of St. Nicholas, men & women serving our country; special intentions. **From John Kowalcheck** for the health of Carol Ann Kowalcheck. **From John & Carol Kowalcheck** for the protection & salvation of our family. **From Carol Kowalcheck** in thanksgiving to God for his mercy. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary; for the health of the Wasilko family and Carol Kowalcheck. **From Daria & Czar** for the health of Mom/Bubba, Dolores Galvin. **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of Natalie on her 8th Birthday (8/22). **From Peter & Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servants, Mat. Olga and Very Rev. Vladimir Soroka; for the health (grandson), Michael Lopez, Reader Michael Soroka, Jack Saban and all St. Nicholas parishioners. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servants, (grandparents), Stephen & Anastasia Micochin; for the health of our grandchildren. **From Paul & Lois Fuller** for the health of Soldier Justin. **From Raisa Burd** for the departed servants, Agrippina, Stepan, Vladimir, Vassili, Lena, Ivan, Anna and Denis; for the health of Vlad, Marina, Roman, Polina, Yevgeniy & all our relatives & friends; safe travel. **From Marina Petrov** for safe travel for Vladimir & Polina. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, (brother) John Kraynak.

On St Irenaeus of Lyon, Heiromartyr (130-202 AD)

When the persecution against Christians quieted down, the saint expounded upon the Orthodox teachings of faith in one of his fundamental works under the title: Detection and Refutation of the Pretended but False Gnosis. It is usually called Five Books against Heresy (Adversus Haereses).

At that time there appeared a series of religious-philosophical gnostic teachings. The Gnostics [from the Greek word "gnosis" meaning "knowledge"] taught that God cannot be incarnate [i.e. born in human flesh], since matter is imperfect and manifests itself as the bearer of evil. They taught also that the Son of God is only an outflowing ("emanation") of Divinity. Together with Him from the Divinity issues forth a hierarchical series of powers ("aeons"), the unity of which comprise the "Pleroma", i.e. "Fullness." The world is not made by God Himself, but by the aeons or the "Demiourgos," which is below the "Pleroma."

In refuting the heresy of Valentinus, St Irenaeus presents the Orthodox teaching of salvation. "The Word of God, Jesus Christ, through His inexplicable blessedness caused it to be, that we also, should be made that which He is ...," taught St Irenaeus. "Jesus Christ the Son of God, through exceedingly great love for His creation, condescended to be born of a Virgin, having united mankind with God in His own Self." Through the Incarnation of God, creation becomes co-imaged and co-bodied to the Son of God. Salvation consists in the "Sonship" and "Theosis" ("Divinization") of mankind.

In the refutation of another heretic, Marcian, who denied the divine origin of the Old Testament, the saint affirms the same divine inspiration of the Old and the New Testaments: "It is one and the same Spirit of God Who proclaimed through the prophets the precise manner of the Lord's coming," wrote the saint. "Through the apostles, He preached that the fulness of time of the filiation had arrived, and that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand."

The successors of the Apostles have received from God the certain gift of truth, which St Irenaeus links to the succession of the episcopate (Adv. Haer. 4, 26, 2). "Anyone who desires to know the truth ought to turn to the Church, since through Her alone did the apostles expound the Divine Truth. She is the door to life."

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August 23, 2009

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Leavetaking of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Tone 2 *Troparion of the Resurrection*

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!

Tone 1 *Troparion of the Feast*

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity.
In failing asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.
You were translated to life, O Mother of Life,
and by your prayers, you deliver our souls from death.

Tone 2 *Prokeimenon* (Psalm 118)

The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation!

Epistle (1 Corinthians 9:2-12)

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?

Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we

have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more?

Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

Gospel (Matthew 18:23-35)

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

The limits of nature are overcome in you, O Pure Virgin:
For birthgiving remains virginal and life is united to death!
A virgin after childbearing and alive after death!
You ever save your inheritance, O Theotokos.

Communion Hymns (Psalm 148)

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.*