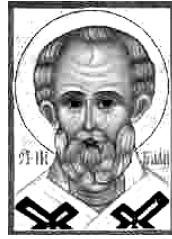


May 9, 2010

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 Blind Man (Sixth Sunday of Pascha)

Schedule of Services and Activities

Wednesday, May 12th – 6:00 PM Great Feast of the Ascension of Christ	Evening Divine Liturgy
Saturday, May 15th – 5:00 PM	Great Vespers
Sunday, May 16th – 10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy

Everyone is invited to our annual Mother's Day Brunch immediately after the Divine Liturgy today, in honor of the women of the parish, presented by the men of the parish. There is no cost for brunch, but all men should read the announcement below...

Calling all men! All men of the parish are asked to participate (financially and/or working) to prepare and serve our annual Mother's Day Brunch today to be held after the Divine Liturgy. Please see Paul Parlock today to see how you can help!

A special parish meeting will be held today (after the Mother's Day Brunch) to discuss and unsolicited offer to purchase all or part of the St Mark's properties. The meeting will be to present the current offer and to vote on it. Only members in good standing (those who participate sacramentally in the Church and financially support the Church) may vote in the meeting.

Konevets Quartet Concert is being rescheduled for Saturday, June 5th. More information will be released this week as to the specific venue and time.

Our Hoagie/Wrap Sale for May will be held on May 19. Prices remain the same: \$5 for an Italian Hoagie or Wrap and \$5.50 for a Turkey Hoagie or Wrap. Orders can be called to 412 771-0176, faxed to 412 771-2111 or emailed to mbittner109@verizon.net by 7 p.m. on Monday, May 17. Thank you.

Our church has opened up an account at GFS. When shopping at GFS, please mention that you would like your purchase amount to go towards supporting St. Nicholas Orthodox Church. All purchases are recorded and at the end of the year, our church can earn rewards either in a form of a gift card or a rebate check. If you have any questions, please see Michelle Bittner. Thank you.

The next Bible Study will be held on Wednesday, May 19th (not the 12th). Everyone is welcome to join in!

Our Church School Picnic will be held on Saturday, May 22nd beginning at 11:00 AM at Moon Park (Saturn Pavillion). Everyone is welcome to join the Church School children, their families and their teachers for this wonderful annual outing! Please see Matushka Joni to sign up for things to bring to the picnic!

Sign up for a Standing Committee! Can you help in the areas of finance, maintenance, membership and long-range planning? There is a sign up sheet on the Bulletin Board in the Church Hall for Standing Committee volunteers. Please sign up to use your God-given talents and help our Church community grow!

The OCA will sponsor two concurrent events at Baldwin Wallace College near Cleveland, OH from Sunday, June 27th to Wednesday, June 30th – the **Equipping the Saints Parish Ministries Conference** and **Orthodox Young Adult Rally**. Registration deadline is June 11th. Go to <http://oca.org> and click on the link for details.

An Pan-Orthodox Men's Retreat will be held at the Antiochian Village June 11th through 13th on the theme, "Exploring the Passions that Drive Us and the Virtues that Save Us." The retreat master will be Paul Karos of Minneapolis, MN. Call 724.238.3677 x425 for more details.

Thank you to our May donors! **Altar Candles (\$25)** from Doris M Wasilko in memory of her parents, Charles and Mary. **Holy Bread (\$50)** from Marsha Wasilko for all deceased relatives. **Communion Wine (\$40)** from Marsha Wasilko on the occasion of her birthday. **Incense (\$10)** from Fr Tom and Matushka Joni Soroka for the health of their daughter, Jacqueline, on the occasion of her 11th birthday.

Vigil Light Donations (*Please remember the following people in your prayers*) **From Helen Cobb** for the departed servants, 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 Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary, Ann Polny (5/4/05) and Susan Lynn Wasilko; for the health of the Wasilko family, Carol Kowalcheck and Nick & Mary Gotch. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, Ann Polny and cousin, Susie Wasilko; for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants (parents & grandparents) Amelia & John, Marie & Nicholas, Ann & Frank, (brother & nephew) Nicholas & Nicholas and (cousin) JoAnn; for the health of John, Theodore, (my children), Amelia, Andrea, Richard & their families, Carol, Nancy, JoAnn; Community of St. Nicholas Parish; men & women serving our country; special intentions. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, Ann Polny (5/4/05) and cousin, Susan Wasilko; for the health of the Wasilko family; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Fr. Tom! special intention. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the health of Gina Pravlochak, Julie Yurkowski and Helen Shancey. **From Susan Sipes Stroehlen** for the departed servant, husband, Jon. **From Tom Robes** for the departed servant, Johanna Porvaznik; for the health of Granny Robes, Georgiann, Teresa, Jackie Robes and Baby Rachel-she continues to get stronger; Happy Mother's Day to ALL the women of our parish. **From Daria Tarr** for the departed servants, Memory Eternal ~ Dolores Galvin & Xenia Michigan. **From Bob & Tammy Yakovac** for the departed servants, Matushka Pauline White and George Lychkoff; for the health of Auntie, Ruth Helenic and Eric. **From Carolyn Simkovich** for the health of children and grandchildren. **From Mary Beth & Bob Madalinsky** for the health of our friend, Louis.

This bulletin is offered by Marsha Wasilko in memory of all deceased family members.

St Nicholas Orthodox Church

320 Munson Avenue

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A parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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May 9, 2010

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 the Mother’s Day Brunch 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.