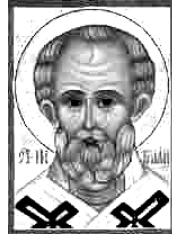


May 23, 2010

## St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

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

<http://www.stnicholas-oca.org>  
[info@stnicholas-oca.org](mailto:info@stnicholas-oca.org)



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

### Great Feast of Pentecost (Descent of the Holy Spirit)

Christ is in our midst! He is and always shall be!

#### Schedule of Services and Activities

**No Great Vespers this Saturday**  
**Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 AM**

**Divine Liturgy**

**Please do not kneel today** until the Kneeling Prayers at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

**Welcome** to those who are visiting with us today! If you would like more information about the Orthodox faith or would like to speak with Fr Tom, please let our ushers know. We invite you to fill out a visitor card and drop it into the offering basket as your offering today. Please join us for coffee hour after the service!

**We are in need** of coffee hour sponsors this Summer! Please see Melissa Graff if you can help!

**Thank you** to John Billak and Helen Billak and their families for decorating the Church this morning for the Great Feast of Pentecost. The greenery which adorns the temple is a sign of the new life that has been given to us in the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Konevets Quartet Concert is being rescheduled for Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.** This concert will be held in St Nicholas Church and will feature the Konevets Quartet.

**Welcome home!** We've experienced several very significant "returns" to our parish community in the past few weeks. Last Sunday, Helen Shancey and Julia Yurkowski both attended church after extended absences due to hospitalizations due to injuries. Today, we also welcome back Steve Pituch from his military service in Iraq who rejoined his his wife April, and children Natalia and Alexander on Wednesday at the Pittsburgh Airport. May God grant all of them Many Years!

**Our parish is sponsoring** a \$1,000 July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday Raffle. Please see Margie Speth if you would like tickets to purchase or to sell.

**Thank you** to everyone who supported the Hoagie/Wrap Sale for May. With your help and support, we sold 245 items and had a profit of \$593.91. Our next Hoagie/Wrap Sale will be June 16.

**Thank you** to everyone who came to help with the St Mark's clean up yesterday. May God richly bless you for your thoughtfulness.

**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 27<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> – the **Equipping the Saints Parish Ministries Conference** and **Orthodox Young Adult Rally**. Registration deadline is June 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 11<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

**St Mark's Update:** At the special parish meeting, a vote to sell the St Mark Church and Rectory to passed. The buyers are currently renting the property until the sale closing. Additionally, they are renting the school for storage for a short period of time. Meanwhile, the Parish Council approved the submission of an application for private and government funds which is being prepared and submitted to create senior housing in the school and a possible future men's monastery in the former convent facility, with the support of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah and His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek.

**Congratulations to David and Jen Beer** on the baptism of their daughter, Milana, who was baptized yesterday. Many years!

**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, Grandfather Andrew Wasilko and Alex Mackanich; for the health of the Wasilko family and Carol Kowalcheck. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, (mother) Mary; sisters, Doris & Marsha and Carol Kowalcheck. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants (parents & grandparents) Amelia & John, Marie & Nicholas, Ann & Frank, (brother & nephew) Nicholas & Nicholas; for the health of John, Theodore, (my children), Amelia, Andrea, Richard & their families, Mildred, Violet, JoAnn; Community of St. Nicholas Parish; men & women serving our country; special intentions. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, Uncle Ed Hollenback, Aunt Ann Panik and Grandfather Andrew Wasilko; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servant, (father) Steve Herko; for the health of Gina Pravlochak and the Pravlochak family. **From Susan Sipes Stroehlen** for the departed servant, husband, Jon. **From Bob & Mary Beth Madalinsky** for the health of our friend, Louis; for our friend, Hannah. **For Peter & Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servants, and V. Rev. Fr. Vladimir and Mat. Olga Soroka; for the health of grandson, Michael Lopez, Jr., Margaret Abbot, Helen Shancey and Peter Kerchum. **From David Namisnak** for the departed servants, Melissa; for the health of Marsha, Helen Shancey and Ed Belifiore.

*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 23, 2010

## Great Feast of Pentecost (Descent of the Holy Spirit)

Christ is in our midst! He is and always shall be!

### Antiphon (Psalm 19)

- v. The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.  
Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!
- v. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.
- v. Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe.
- v. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.  
Amen.

### Second Antiphon (Psalm 20)

- v. The Lord answer you in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob protect you!  
Refrain: O Gracious Comforter, save us who sing to Thee: "Alleluia!"
- v. May He send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!
- v. May He remember all your offerings, and fulfill all your plans!
- v. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.  
Amen.  
(Only-begotten Son...)

### Third Antiphon (Psalm 21)

- v. In Thy strength the king rejoices, O Lord, and exults greatly in Thy salvation.  
Refrain: Troparion
- v. Thou has given him his heart's desire, and has not withheld the request of his lips.
- v. For Thou dost meet him with goodly blessings; Thou dost set a crown of fine gold upon his head.

### Little Entrance

Be exalted, O Lord, in Thy strength! We will sing and praise Thy power!

### Tone 8

### Troparion of Pentecost

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God  
Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise  
by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit;

through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net.  
O Lover of Man, Glory to Thee!

**Tone 8** **Kontakion of Pentecost**

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues  
He divided the nations;  
But when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity.  
Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the All Holy Spirit!

**Instead of Holy God**

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!

**Tone 8** **Prokeimenon** (Psalm 19)

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

**Epistle** (Acts 2:1-11)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

**Gospel** (John 7:37-52; 8:12)

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow



rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ."

But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"

Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?"

They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee."

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

**Hymn to the Theotokos of Pentecost**

Rejoice, O Queen! Glory of mothers and virgins!  
No mouth, however sweet or fluent  
is eloquent enough to praise you worthily!  
Every mind is overawed by your childbearing.  
Therefore with one voice we glorify you!

**Communion Hymn of Pentecost**

Let Thy good Spirit lead me on a level path. Alleluia.

*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.*

***How is this guidance [from the Holy Spirit] provided? Most importantly, how can we be sure of this guidance -- how can we tell what is the voice of the Spirit, from our own wishful thinking, or pre-conceived thoughts?***

The Holy Spirit guides us in various and diverse ways.

First, as professed in the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, the Holy Spirit "spoke by the prophets," indicating that there are those whom the Holy Spirit "uses" to guide, to encourage, to inspire, and to challenge the People of God to repent. There are still prophetic voices at work within the Church today, and we can say that in such cases the Holy Spirit continues to make His presence felt through those whom He chooses.

Second, we continually call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us in discerning His presence. Scripture warns of "other spirits" which can be deceptive and, hence, certainly not of God. The gift of discernment is critical in determining that which is genuine from that which is not - or, as you yourself state, to discern "the voice of the Spirit, from our own wishful thinking or pre-conceived thoughts." On the one hand, the Holy Spirit guides us in discerning God's will from our own will; on the other hand, we need to discern that which is from the Holy Spirit from that which is not. In this, prayer and meditation is critical, as one cannot begin to "discern the spirits" apart from these realities. It is difficult to explain such things in human words, apart from those of of Christ, Who says: "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (Jn 14:26).

Here we discover that the Holy Spirit teaches us all things, enlightens us, and commends to our memory the way to salvation revealed by Jesus Christ in discerning the presence and operation of the Holy Spirit, one must not do so apart from that which Christ revealed

Here we may say that discernment involves finding consistency in the prompting of the Holy Spirit and the revelation of Jesus Christ. In crass terms, we might say that if something seems to be of the Holy Spirit, yet it stands in opposition to all that Christ revealed in His life, actions, and words, then the "something" is probably not of the Holy Spirit.

