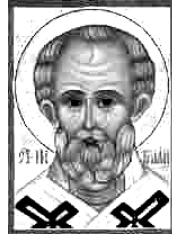


May 16, 2010

## 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*

**Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council**  
Christ is in our midst! He is and always shall be!

### Schedule of Services and Activities

**Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 AM**

**Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM**

**Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM**

**Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 11:00 AM**

Moon Park, Saturn Pavillion

**Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 5:00 PM**

**Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – 10:00 AM**

**Hoagie Preparation**

**Vespers**

**Bible Study**

**Church School Picnic**

**Great Vespers with Litiya**

**Festal Divine Liturgy (Pentecost)**

**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!

**The monthly parish council meeting** will be held in the parish house after the Divine Liturgy today.

**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.

**Our Hoagie/Wrap Sale for May** will be held this Wednesday, 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](mailto: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.

**Our Church School Picnic** will be held this Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 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.

**Thank you to all the men** of the parish who so graciously provided the Mother's Day Brunch last week, and to Paul Parlock for leading the effort. May God bless you for your kindness.

**Congratulations** to Jeff and Juliana Hollowood on the birth of their new son, Rhys Joaquin. He was born Tuesday, May 11 at 5:26 pm. He weighed in at 7 lbs 7 oz. and measured 19.5 inches. Many years to the Hollowood family!

**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, (grandmothers) Katherine & Susan, Uncle Ed Hollenback & Aunt Ann Panik; for the health of the Wasilko family and Carol Kowalcheck. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, (mother) Mary, Aunt Ann Panik and Uncle Ed Hollenbach; special intentions. **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, (grandmothers) Susan and Katherine, (mother) Mary and (godmother) Mary; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servants, (mothers) Mary & Anna; for the health of (daughters) Karen, Rhonda & Gina and Happy Birthday to Marsha Wasilko. **From Susan Sipes Stroehlen** for the departed servant, husband, Jon. **From Tom & GeorgiAnn Robes** for the departed servant, Johanna Porvaznik (Micinko) and Julia Micinko (Yalch); for the health of Rachel Robes and Marion Robes. **From Tommy Robes Jr.** for the departed servant (grandma) Johanna Porvaznik; for the health of (mother) Georgiann Robes and (granny) Marion Robes. **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for the departed servant, Mat. Olga; for the health of Fr. Tom and Jackie on their birthdays and (mother) Barbara Naiser. **From John & Carol Kowalcheck** for the health & salvation for our family. **From John Kowalcheck** for the health of Carol Ann Kowalcheck. **From Carol Ann Kowalcheck** in thanksgiving for all of God's blessings. **For Peter & Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servants, and V. Rev. Fr. Vladimir and Mat. Olga Soroka; for the health of Michael Lopez, Jr., and Peter Kerchum. **From Raisa Burd** for the departed servants, Agrippina, Anna, Nina, Christina and all fallen in the World War II; for the health of all mothers, Marina, Lena, Alexandra, Tatyana, Ludmila and Valentina and all our relatives & friends. **From David Namisnak** for the departed servants, Melissa, Anna Namisnak and Julia Grbach; for the health of Marsha, Helen Shancey and Michele Torok. **From Tatiana Sechler** for the departed servants, Slava, Maxsim, Sergei, Bruce, Maria, Maria, Polina, Valentina, Victor, Tamara, Nicolay, Luda, Rai, Nicolay and Marina; for the health of Tatyana, Dasha, Roman, Veronika, Vivyan, Olga, Sergei, Tatyana, Valentina, Galina, Tamara and Duff. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of Donna Shaytar, Tony Bertram and Carol Lugin; special intention.

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

# St Nicholas Orthodox Church

320 Munson Avenue

McKees Rocks, PA 15136

A parish of the Orthodox Church in America

[www.stnicholas-oca.org](http://www.stnicholas-oca.org)

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May 16, 2010

## Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

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

### **Tone 6** *Troparion of the Resurrection*

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb;

the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body.

Thou didst capture hell,

not being tempted by it.

Thou didst come to the Virgin granting life.

O Lord who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee!

### **Tone 4** *Troparion of the Ascension*

O Christ God, Thou hast ascended in glory,

granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Through the blessing, they were assured

that Thou art the Son of God,

the Redeemer of the world.

### **Tone 8** *Troparion of the Holy Fathers*

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!

Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!

Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!

O greatly Compassionate One, glory to Thee!

### **Tone 8** *Kontakion of the Holy Fathers*

The apostle's preaching and the father's doctrines have established one faith for the Church.

Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology,

it defines and glorifies the great mystery of Orthodoxy.



### **On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.**

The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, "I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior's words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor's sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: St Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), St Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos (December 12), and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius (who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (May 2 and January 18). He is called "the Great," for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today's Feast, he is referred to as "the thirteenth Apostle."

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, "God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous."

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan's knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. St Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word "consubstantial," which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).