



**St. Nicholas**

MAIN STREET  
JACOBS CREEK, PA.

**Orthodox Church**

SIXTH STREET  
MONONGAHELA, PA.

WWW. ORTHODOXMON.ORG

VERY REV. EDWARD PEHANICH

724-863-3741

FREDPEH@VERIZON.NET 412-651-2587 c

**October 29, 2017**

*21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*Commemoration of the Holy Martyr Longinus the Centurion,  
who stood at the Cross of the Lord*

-----

***Someone emailed me to ask:*** When did people start to expect worship to be something that would benefit them? Something that will inspire them, resonate with them, give them strength for the week ahead, etc? When did it stop being something we render to God for his own sake, to express our gratitude and awe? He notes that all the things he loves about Orthodox worship, the music, solemnity, the processions, even the architecture, though they move him deeply, the friends he brings to church just shrug them off.

***I replied:***

I understand what you're talking about. Worship has become one more thing like "*eat right and exercise*" that people do to benefit themselves, or at least that is how it is being sold; I don't know that the appeal

lasts, long-term. It certainly is easier to sleep in on Sunday morning than to attend feel-good worship.

I don't know much about how this happened, but I suspect it began in the 60's, when there was sudden interest in the church being "relevant." I can remember people warning at the time that this was a bad idea. I think a major factor is advertising, which surrounds and catechizes us all day, and trains us to think of ourselves first and our needs. It teaches us to consider our own needs and desires as extremely important, and something we should diligently fulfill. So today, when people think about going to church, the appeal has to be that it will benefit themselves.

Try to picture what it was in prior centuries, when worship was the most elaborate and beautiful thing people would experience all week. Now the greatest singers in the world are contained on their phones, ready to perform at the press of a button. They see special effects in movies that are overwhelming. Worship can't compete.



I agree of course that worship is what we owe to God, because of His glory and goodness. And, in a way, it **is** good for us to worship him. It is what we are made for, so worship is uniquely fulfilling, when rightly understood. But how do you ever communicate that today—!

It seems to me that some people "get it" and are readily moved to render true worship; but for those who don't get it, words completely fail. I don't think there's any way to express it that could be understood by those who don't get it. We who do get it, affirm it full-heartedly. Interesting question! Thanks!

*Frederica Matthews-Green*

**Father Ed will be away** next weekend visiting family. No services in Jacobs Creek. Deacon Atremius Steinstra will lead worship in Monongahela. Holy Communion will be distributed.

**Christmas candy** order forms are now available in the vestibule. Deadline is November 12.

**ACRY Annual** Deadline to be listed as a booster (\$3) or a memorial listing (\$6) Deadline is next Sunday. See the bulletin board.

**Lots o' Luck Calendar** for 2018-2019 stubs and money are due. See Dan Timko or Becky Bobich.

**Darr Mine Disaster** The Rostraver Historical Society will hold a special presentation on Thursday Nov. 9 on the Darr Mine Disaster. The WQED documentary will be shown along with a panel discussion.

It will be held at the Old Fells Methodist Church / Old Rostraver Municipal Building – 800 Fells Road, Rostraver.

