

June 4, 2023
Sunday of All Saints



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!
Слава Иисусу Христу! Слава на вѣку!*

Propers for this Sunday: pp. 211 - 213

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JUNE 4 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY of ALL SAINTS DIVINE LITURGY + Hazel & Harrison Hersh, offered by Francis & Connie Hersh
2:00 P.M.	BLESSING of GRAVES at Mt. Olivet Cemetery
SUN., JUNE 11 8:30 A.M.	SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST DIVINE LITURGY + Roberta Dzumba, 20 th year after passing, offered by husband, John Dzumba

Today: Sunday of All Saints

The first Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pentecost is observed by the Eastern Church as the Sunday of All Saints. This day has been designated as a commemoration of all of the Saints, all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives.

Blessing of Graves at Mt. Olivet Cemetery TODAY at 2:00 P.M.

Happy Birthday Greetings:

June 5: John Dzumba

Wedding Anniversaries:

None for the week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, Marian Yurosky

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

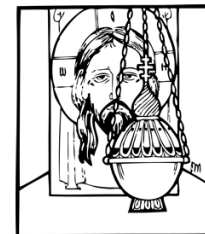
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

Epistle Readers – June 4: Joanne Futato – June 11: JoAnn Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – June 4: R. Mudron – June 11: F. Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

June 4 - 10, 2023

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Stephen & Elizabeth Hodovanich

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Daughter, Joanne Futato

*Flea Market flyers and yard signs are
available in the narthex and Center.
Please take some to help advertise.*



St. George Church

**FLEA
MARKET**

Haluski Sale, Bake Sale

June 23 & 24

9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Apostles Fast - The Apostles Fast this year begins June 5 and lasts until Wednesday, June 28. The Typikon prescribes strict abstinence on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with mitigated abstinence (Wine and Oil) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Ruthenian Metropolia has identified this period as a penitential season, a time when Eastern Christians traditionally celebrate the Mystery of Holy Confession. This period of fasting assists us in preparing for the great Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, the prime apostles to our Lord. The feast of Saints Peter and Paul is a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION for us. This is a voluntary fast.



Father’s Day Breakfast

Join us for a nice sit-down breakfast for Father’s Day following the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, June 18**. Our hard-working cooks will prepare this delicious **homemade** breakfast in honor of our fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and those who play a fatherly role in our lives. Whether your father is with you or not, join us in their honor. ***Everyone is invited!***

Flea Market Fast Approaching!

Our Flea Market, Haluski, and Bake Sale is coming up **Friday & Saturday, June 23 & 24**. We will need plenty of advertising for this event. We will need signs in the community, ads in the paper, notices on Facebook, flyers on community bulletin boards or at your place of employment, etc. Yard signs are now available, please take some and place them in your neighborhood and at nearby intersections. Any of these you can help with will be greatly appreciated. *Thank you!* Don’t forget we will also need Bake Sale items, so please consider baking. Your help will be greatly appreciated. **Setting up of the Flea Market will begin on Monday, June 19.** *Thank you!*



Help spread the word! Advertise!

Donations for the Flea Market are still very welcome. Consider donating items.

Flyers and yard signs are available in the narthex and Center. Please take some to help advertise.

Teachings of Christ the Savior

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”
(John 3:16-18)

“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”
(Matthew 6:33)

A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On this Sunday of All Saints we call to mind all those "who have been pleasing to God since time began." We remember them, of course, in every Divine Liturgy, as the priest says, *"We offer you this spiritual sacrifice for those departed in faith: the forefathers, fathers, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, preachers, evangelists, martyrs, confessors, ascetics, and for every just spirit brought to perfection in faith."*

When we hear a list like that, it may be a little difficult for us to find our own places within it. We are not patriarchs or prophets; we are not apostles; most of us are not preachers; it is unlikely that any of us will be martyrs. And yet, we are all destined to be "brought to perfection in faith." Notice that the prayer does not say, "who have *achieved* perfection." Rather, the saints of the Lord are brought to perfection.

Holiness is not something just for a select few. It is not something special for clergy and monastics. It is not only for spiritual giants or ascetical extremists. Rather, holiness is something that God holds out for *all* of us. God, in Christ, is always inviting us further up and further into the divine life of the Holy Trinity. In other words: holiness is what makes a saint; and holiness is what God offers us by giving us his Holy Spirit.

St. Peter wrote, *"His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them we may escape the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become partakers of the divine nature."* (2 Pet.1.3-4)

Far from holiness being something for an elite class of "pious" or extreme people, God has given us **everything needed** for life and godliness! We have been made partakers of God's own nature, by virtue of our union with Christ in our baptism. Notice, however, the primary actor in this scripture: it is *God* who makes saints. He is the one who has given us what we need to become holy. He has given us his precious and great promises. And through them we have been made partakers of the divine nature.

So what remains for us to do? What ought we do, if our goal and purpose is sainthood? St. Peter goes on: *"Therefore, make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and brotherly affection with love."* (2 Pet. 1.5-7)

Thanks be to God who, by giving us all we need and joining us to himself, has provided the means for us to grow in holiness, which is the grace of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Geoff

The Sunday of All Saints

The first Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pentecost is observed by our Holy Church as the Sunday of All Saints. This day has been designated as a commemoration of all the Saints, all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown.

In every generation God raises up Saints in the Church in order to encourage the fainthearted, invigorate the slothful, educate the ignorant, and to prove that no matter what life a person once led, and what sort of sins one participated in the past, through repentance holiness is attainable. The Church is full of Saints who were people that were once thieves, murderers and harlots, people who were once self-serving and dishonest, full of passions, such as greed, envy and lust. It is not without purpose that the lowliest and often despised of society became the greatest soldiers in God's army. This is to show that with God there is no favoritism.

Both rich and poor have become saints. Both men and women have become saints and perhaps nearly every ethnic group in the world can boast of at least one person in their culture who has become a saint. One does not need to have a certain amount of money, or to be of a particular ethnic group, or to be connected with a certain individual in order to pursue and attain holiness. What is required and what the Saints exemplified is an undying love for and devotion to God and to the following of His Holy Commandments.

The Saints also teach us that in order to be truly identified as a Christian, we must be willing to let go of the world because we cannot be attached to the things of this life and at the same time pursue a life in Christ. This is clearly stated in 1 John 2:15-16 where we read, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world."

Our Lord is calling us to Himself, to live as He lived when He was on earth. So in essence He calls us to be holy, and yet at the same time He says, and I will help you attain this state, but, you must want this too. You must believe that it is possible through Me.

Truth to Live by

"Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold."

(Proverbs 3:13,14)



So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven.

About Byzantine Catholics...

The Byzantine Catholic Church shares in the inheritance of the Byzantine Religious Culture of the Christian East.

A landmark event in the history of the Church, and particularly the Eastern Church, was the decision in 325 by the Roman Emperor Constantine to move the Imperial capital from Rome to Byzantium, a small town on the Bosphorus strait which he renamed Constantinople (and which is presently Istanbul, Turkey). This shift in the secular political balance had a dramatic impact on the Eastern Church, for a new secular and religious center – Constantinople – was created in the heart of the Christian East. The Eastern Roman, or "Byzantine", Empire centered on Constantinople was a Christian Empire that flourished for over 1,000 years, and which engendered a new and unique culture infused with Christianity. Naturally, the Church based in the capital city of Constantinople gradually came to have a pre-eminent influence in the Christian East, spreading a religious culture that was both a synthesis and dynamic restatement of the existing strands of Eastern Christian culture that had been cultivated in the Greek-speaking world – the "Byzantine" religious culture. Byzantine Catholics in America are the spiritual descendants of Christians in Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East who are the heirs of this Byzantine religious culture, and who therefore trace their spiritual heritage to the Great Church of Constantinople, known as Hagia Sophia (The Church of Holy Wisdom).

The spiritual heritage of the Byzantine Catholic Church is the same given to us by the Apostles and which matured in the Christian East, during the period of the Byzantine Empire. This heritage includes the doctrines, liturgical practices and underlying theology and spirituality which come to us from the Christian Church of the Byzantine Empire. This heritage is shared among all of the Christian peoples, regardless of ethnicity or nationality, who trace their spiritual roots to the Great Church of Constantinople, and the Byzantine religious culture which grew from that Church. From the First Millennium, Christians of the Byzantine tradition have referred to themselves as "Orthodox Christians". Byzantine Catholics are Orthodox Christians who embrace full communion with the Church of Rome and its primate, Pope Francis, the successor of St. Peter, the first among the Apostles. Sadly, however, the break in communion between the Orthodox East and the Catholic West of 1054 still affects us today, as our communion with Rome means we are not in full communion with our mother Orthodox Church. We pray for the day when the Churches will again be one.

*As we read in today's letter from Saint Paul: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, **and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us**, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith. Amen.*



ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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PARISH WEBSITE: www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org

Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238



Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff

Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies, or by appointment

Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the pastor

Holy Mystery of Anointing Contact the pastor prior to surgery or in the event of illness

Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

Pirohi Sales 2nd Friday of each month

St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club Everyone welcome to participate

Opportunities for StewardshipChurch and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month.

The Holy Spirit reminds us " not to reject the traditions of our elders, which they have learned from their fathers" (Sirach 8:9)