

October 22, 2023
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost



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 вики!*

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 4, pp. 141 - 142

Divine Services for the Week:

- SUN., OCT. 22** **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ **Raymond Ozimok**, offered by wife Phyllis Ozimok
- WED., OCT. 25** **BIBLE STUDY**
6:00 P.M. **THE STORY of SCRIPTURE, Part 1**
- SUN., OCT. 29** **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ **Basil Bobanic**, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba

Are you alive in Christ?

The Lord compared the priests of the people with him who was clothed in purple. Nothing is more honored than purple clothing. He compared the disciples of the cross with Lazarus. There were none more lowly than Lazarus was. He revealed the names of his beloved ones through Lazarus, his beloved one. He also wished to reveal the name of his enemies through the words, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets." It is not the case that all those living are alive, or that all those buried are dead.

(St. Ephrem the Syrian)

Happy Birthday Greetings:

October 26: Alexander Hersh

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)

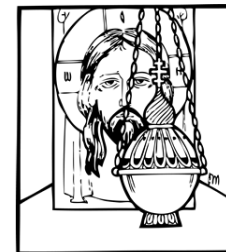
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers – October 22: Louisa Hersh – October 29: Prudy Peya

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holder s – October 22: F. Hersh – October 29: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

October 22 - 28, 2023

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ **George & Mary Peya Families**

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Daughter, Prudy

Take time to read a portion of God's word each day; it will affect you for good even if you don't consciously retain much of what you have read.

(See Ephesians 3:1-4; Ephesians 5:17; II Timothy 2:15; II Timothy 3:14-17)

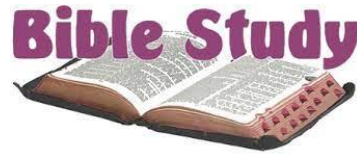
*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!
Слава Иисусу Христу! Слава на вики!*

Bible Study continues Wednesday, Oct. 25

The Story of Scripture, Part 1

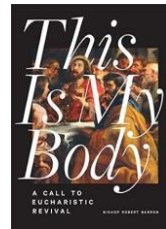
Beginning with Genesis, we are walking through 100+ of the most significant portions of Holy Scripture, which will give us an overarching view of the *whole, consistent story* of God's interaction with humankind in the Scriptures. The remaining dates are **October 25, November 22, December 13**. We are meeting at **6:00 PM**. Feel free to join even if you missed the first session. Let's dig into the sources of our theology and tradition together and see the mighty works of God! (We will continue with Part 2 in 2024)

Please bring your Bible. Bibles will also be provided if needed.



Book Study at St. Mary's in October & November

In June of 2022, the United States Catholic Bishops launched a three-year Eucharistic Revival which will culminate in a National Eucharistic Congress in 2024. Recently, Bishop Robert Barron, a well-known theologian, author, evangelist, and apologist, published **This Is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival**. On three consecutive Sunday afternoons, we will have a book study on this small but powerful and informative book. On **October 29, November 5, and November 12**, we will gather at **3:00 PM** at St. Mary's. Each week we will discuss one chapter of the book, which is available for \$2.00. You may also wish to purchase a book even if you cannot attend the book study.



Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration

St. John the Baptist Parish (201 E. Main St., Uniontown) will hold its **41st Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration** on **Sunday, October 29** from **noon - 5:00 PM**. A Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 AM concelebrated by Fr. Vasyl Symyon, with guest homilist, Fr. Mitch Pacwa. Ethnic foods for sale will include holubki, halushki, pirohi, pagach, kolbasi, and kraut. There will also be baked goods. Entertainment will include the Rusyn folk group "Rusynsky Betjare" throughout the afternoon. The celebration will also include a presentation on Rusyn culture & customs, a church tour, displays, craft sales, raffles, parish cookbooks, folk art demonstrations and children's activities. Admission is free.

20th Annual St. Matrona Cookie Walk

Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie) will be holding their 20th annual St. Matrona Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 9 from 10 AM - 2 PM (or until sold out). A variety of Eastern European holiday cookies, traditional favorites, homemade nut rolls & gluten free cookies will be available. Most cookies sold by the pound. For questions, email: smladiessociety@gmail.com.

A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This past Sunday, Pope Francis issued his latest Apostolic Exhortation, *C'est la Confiance*, which takes its French title from one of the Letters of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the "Little Flower of Jesus." In it, she writes, **"It is confidence and nothing but confidence that must lead us to love."**

In this writing, the holy father exhorts us to have a strong and certain confidence in the love and mercy of God our loving Father. Speaking of St. Thérèse, he writes, "her boundless confidence encourages all who feel frail, limited and sinful to let themselves be elevated and transformed in order to reach greater heights." St. Thérèse is, of course, known for her **"little way,"** her spirituality of simplicity, confidence, and trust in the love of God. She writes, **"Jesus does not demand great actions from us, but simply surrender and gratitude."**

I wonder how many of us would describe our spiritual life as stemming from confidence, surrender, and gratitude. Do we have confidence in Jesus, who loved us and gave himself as a sacrifice for our salvation and restoration? Do we trust his words when he says, **"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out"** (John 6.37)? Do we surrender ourselves to his will, believing that all that comes to us is, by divine Providence, for our good? For Jesus said, **"Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest"** (Matt. 11.28). Are we aware of God's great goodness to us? Do we live our spiritual lives and drudgery and obligation - or do we live out of a sense of gratitude for the many ways that he shows us his loving-kindness, his patience, and his care?

C'est la Confiance speaks of this spiritual posture in the words of St. Thérèse, as an "invitation to a holy abandonment." It is an "abandonment in love" which "sets us free from obsessive calculations, constant worry about the future and fears that take away our peace."

Brothers and Sisters, let us abandon ourselves, more and more, to love - the Love of Christ which, St. Paul tells us, has been poured into our hearts (Romans 5.5). And let us take Jesus at his word when he says that he loves the *whole* world (John 3.16) and that those who believe in him will not be cast out (John 6.37). Realizing this great gift of grace, we can be at peace with our Lord and with each other. And we can trust God for our good both now and into the future. Let us trust his words:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives do I give you.

Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

(John 14.27)

Yours in His Peace,

Fr. Geoff

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Some people ask if it is not unjust and cruel to doom the rich man for eternal damnation when his physical delights were only temporal. To answer this question, we need to understand that future bliss or punishment cannot be viewed as abode in paradise or hell. Paradise and hell are in the first place the state of the soul! For if, according to Christ's word, the Kingdom of God is "within us," then hell is also within the soul of a sinner. When the grace of God rests within a man, then he has paradise in his soul. But when passions and the pangs of conscience come thick upon him, he does not suffer less than sinners in hell. The agony of sinners will be especially unbearable in the other world because they will neither have a chance to gratify their appetites, nor to repent and unburden the reproach of their conscience. That is the reason why the agonies of sinners will be eternal.



The parable of the rich man and Lazarus uncovers a little the veil over the world to come and gives us an opportunity to understand worldly existence with eternity in view. In the light of this parable, we see that earthly goods are not so much happiness as they are a test of our ability to love and help our neighbors. "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon," says the Lord in the conclusion of the previous parable, "who will commit to your trust the true riches?" This means that if we do not know how to manage the illusory riches we have today, then we will not be worthy to receive the real treasure from God, the treasure which was intended for us in the future life. Thus, let us remind ourselves that our worldly goods in fact belong to God. He uses them to test us.

- Archpriest Victor Potapov

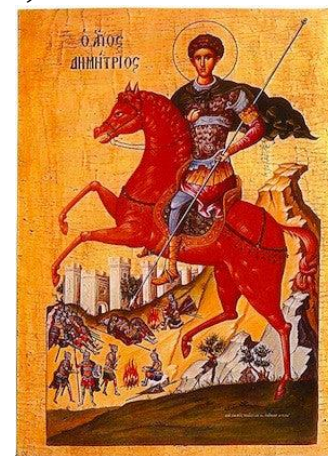
If you want to attain salvation, learn, and keep in your heart all that the holy Church teaches and, receiving heavenly power from the mysteries of the Church, walk the path of Christ's commandments, under the direction of lawful pastors, and you will undoubtedly attain the Heavenly Kingdom and be saved. All of this is naturally necessary in the matter of salvation, necessary in its entirety and for all. Whoever rejects or neglects any part of it has no salvation.

- Venerable Theophan the Recluse

"If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not believe even if someone rises from the dead."

The Holy & Glorious Demetrius of Thessalonica, October 26

The Holy Great Martyr Demetrius of Thessalonica was the son of a Roman proconsul in Thessalonica. Three centuries had elapsed and Roman paganism, spiritually shattered and defeated by the multitude of martyrs and confessors of the Savior, intensified its persecutions. The parents of St Demetrius were secretly Christians, and he was baptized and raised in the Christian Faith in a secret church in his father's home.



By the time Demetrius had reached maturity and his father had died, the emperor Galerius Maximian had ascended the throne (305). Maximian, confidant in Demetrius' education as well as his administrative and military abilities, appointed him to his father's position as proconsul of the Thessalonica district. The main tasks of this young commander were to defend the city from barbarians and to eradicate Christianity. The emperor's policy regarding Christians was expressed simply, "Put to death anyone who calls on the name of Christ." The emperor did not suspect that by appointing Demetrius he had provided a way for him to lead many people to Christ. Accepting the appointment, Demetrius returned to Thessalonica and immediately confessed and glorified our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of persecuting and executing Christians, he began to teach the Christian Faith openly to the inhabitants of the city and to overthrow pagan customs and idolatry.

The compiler of his Life, St Simeon Metaphrastes, says that because of his teaching zeal he became "a second Apostle Paul" for Thessalonica, particularly since "the Apostle to the Gentiles" once founded at this city the first community of believers (1 Thess. and 2 Thess.).

The Lord also destined St Demetrius to follow the holy Apostle Paul as a martyr..." He began to pray and fast, preparing himself for martyrdom. When the emperor came into the city, he summoned Demetrius, who boldly confessed himself a Christian and denounced the falsehood and futility of Roman polytheism. Maximian gave orders to lock up the confessor in prison. At dawn on October 26, 306, soldiers appeared in the saint's underground prison and ran him through with lances. The body of the holy Great Martyr Demetrius was cast out for wild animals to devour, but the Christians took it and secretly buried it in the earth.

Did you Know?

October 26 is **Carpatho-Rusyn Day** in North America (*Our heritage*). The Carpatho-Rusyn Consortium of North America, a coalition of six cultural organizations representing the Rusyn people, designated October 26 as Carpatho-Rusyn Day in the United States and Canada.

October 26 was chosen to commemorate a gathering at Independence Hall in Philadelphia in 1918, at which Carpatho-Rusyns were recognized for the first time as a distinct nationality by the members of the Mid-European Union as well as the U.S. government.

ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

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



Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik, Dan Pinchot

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 Stewardship Church and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month.

“Do not turn your face away from any poor man, and the face of God will not be turned away from you.”