

December 10, 2023  
Twenty-Eighth 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 Исусу Христу! Слава на вики!*

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 3, pp. 135 - 137

Divine Services for the Week:

<b>SUN., DEC. 10</b> <b>8:30 A.M.</b>	<b>TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST</b> <b>DIVINE LITURGY</b> + <b>Joseph Klacik</b> , offered by JoAnn & Francis Hersh
<b>MON., DEC. 11</b> <b>6:00 P.M.</b>	<b>THEOTOKOS of GUADALUPE HOLY DAY</b> <b>VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY</b> + <b>Joseph Jn. Baptiste</b> , offered by Sr. Mary Virginia
<b>WED., DEC. 13</b> <b>6:00 P.M.</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b> <b>THE STORY of SCRIPTURE, Part 1</b>
<b>SAT., DEC. 16</b>  <b>4:30 P.M.</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY before the NATIVITY, Anticipated</b> <b>SUNDAY of the FOREFATHERS</b> <b>VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY, Christmas Party Following</b> + <b>Lori Dickey Stevic</b> , offered by Dwight & Mary Dickey family

**Decorating the Church and Hall Today**

As part of our preparation for the Nativity of Christ, we will decorate the Church & Hall **TODAY**, after coffee hour. Please stay to help with putting up the trees and decorations for this sacred time of the year.

**Happy Birthday Greetings:**  
December 16: Serafina Zimmerman

**Wedding Anniversaries:**  
None for the week

**Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins**

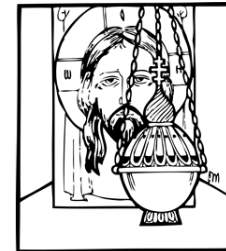
Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan

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 – December 10: Prudy Peya – December 16: Joanne F.**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holder s – December 10: R. Mudron – December 16: M. Bobanic**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**  
**December 10 - 16, 2023**

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

**+ Joseph Klacik**

*(In Loving Memory)*

Offered By:

**JoAnn & Francis Hersh**

**Excerpt from Christ our Pascha: The Incarnation of the Son of God**

**The Nativity of Christ:** The Church celebrates the coming of the Son of God into the world with the feast of the Nativity of Christ. The birth of Christ is announced to the shepherds by the angel of the Lord: "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Christ, the Lord" (Lk 2:11). The Fathers of the Church extolled Christmas night as a day of joy and peace:

Today the Bountiful One became poor for our sake ... Today we receive a gift for which we did not ask ... This present day threw open the heavenly door to our prayers ... Now the Divine Being took upon himself the seal of humanity, in order for humanity to be decorated by the seal of Divinity.

# Christmas Dinner & Celebration

*A Christmas gift to you, our parishioners and friends*

THIS **Saturday, December 16**, we will have our **Christmas Dinner & Celebration** for parishioners and friends of St. George and St. Mary parishes. Fr. Geoff will celebrate a special Saturday evening liturgy (*anticipated Sunday Liturgy*) at **4:30 p.m.** at St. George, followed by the celebration in the church hall. Expect great food, drink, and fellowship as well as music and entertainment, including a white elephant gift exchange game. Dinner is free, but donations will be accepted. Sign-up sheets are now in the narthex and center.



**Plan to participate in our fun white elephant gift exchange by bringing a wrapped gift (\$10-\$15 value). Everyone who brings a gift will leave with a gift and have fun playing a game along the way!**

*Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!*

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## Christmas Market

The “Vintage Christmas Market” is still set up in the Center. If there is anything you like, simply leave a donation for your purchase. *Thank You!*

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***Bible Study: The Story of Scripture Part 1: Meets Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00 PM. (We will continue with Part 2 in 2024)***

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## Emmanuel Moleben Canceled

The Deanery-wide Emmanuel Moleben which was scheduled for this afternoon at St. Michael's Church, Canonsburg has, unfortunately, had to be canceled. The deanery clergy will plan another gathering for our parishes in Lent.

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## Sanctuary Candles for 2024

The 2024 weekly sanctuary candle intentions are available for you to sponsor with your intention in memory of a deceased loved one or friend, or for the health and well-being of a friend or loved one. Please see Joanne Futato at the candle table in the narthex if you wish to sponsor a weekly candle.

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\* Correction for front cover:

Today is the Twenty Eighth Sunday after Pentecost not Thirty Eighth.

## A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are just about two weeks away from the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord. As St. John the Theologian wrote, "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." This *Word* - the *Logos*, or reason, or rational principle) - of God was in the beginning with God and was God himself from all eternity. It is *this* eternal Word that became flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In addition to being the *Logos* - *Word* of God, Christ is also the *Wisom* ("sophia") of God. St. Paul calls Christ "the power of God and the wisdom of God." This Wisdom, the Word, was long-awaited by the people who "walked in darkness" (Isaiah 9:2).

Recently, I've been rereading the poetry of the contemporary British poet, clergyman, and professor Malcolm Guite. Here is one of his sonnets for Advent, which I think captures something of our waiting for God's Wisdom to come down, to be incarnate, and to re-create us.

*I cannot think unless I have been thought,  
Nor can I speak unless I have been spoken;  
I cannot teach except as I am taught,  
Or break the bread except as I am broken.  
O Mind behind the mind through which I seek,  
O Light within the light by which I see,  
O Word beneath the words with which I speak,  
O founding, unfound Wisdom, founding me,  
O sounding Song whose depth is sounding me,  
O Memory of time, reminding me,  
My Ground of Being, always grounding me,  
My Maker's bounding line, defining me:  
Come, hidden Wisdom, come with all you bring,  
Come to me now, disguised as everything.*

As we await the celebration of the first Coming of Christ and look forward to his Second Coming in power and great glory, let us invoke Jesus Christ, the Word and Wisdom of God the Father, that he may enlighten our minds, fill our hearts, and empower our hands to serve him.

Yours in the Wisdom of God,

*Fr. Geoff*

Twenty-Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’s feet, giving Him thanks.

In healing the ten lepers, Jesus revealed his power and glory. Yet only one of the lepers returned to acknowledge Jesus’ glory and to give Him thanks. And that one was a Samaritan, a foreigner. What happened to the other nine? What went wrong with them that went right with the Samaritan? The nine were right with the Samaritan? The nine were blinded to the truth of what Jesus did and who He was. They were so wrapped up in themselves, in their illness and their healing, that they failed to give glory to the One who cleansed them.

Are we so different? We live in an age when the experiences and accomplishments of this world are the only things that are held to be of any value. As we read in St. Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians 4:4: “The god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God”. There is a spiritual battle going on in the world and in us. Satan is out to take away the vision of Jesus as our healer.

The Fathers of the Church see a lesson in today’s Gospel reading for us. The ten lepers signify mankind. We are all leprous, but only one in ten give thanks to God for the salvation He has brought to us. In the same way, only some of the seed sown by God (in the Parable of the Sower) brings forth good fruit. We can all be cleansed by Him, but if we do not return to Him in gratitude and to glorify Him, we cannot be saved.

It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that we can win the battle that is going on inside us. The role of the Holy Spirit is to reveal to us who Jesus is and to convict us of our state. As we see that we are infected with the leprosy of sin, and as we experience the healing that Jesus has performed within us through the shedding of His blood on the cross, we can turn back to Him, fall on our knees at his feet, and thank Him, acknowledging His power and glory.



Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!



Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!

The Theotokos of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas

The Theotokos of Guadalupe, who first appeared on Dec. 9, 1531 in Mexico to St. Juan Diego, bestowing on him an icon “not made with human hands,” requesting that a church be built in her honor on that mountain. Her shrine there is one of the most celebrated places of pilgrimage in the Americas. Pope John Paul II named her the Patroness of the Americas.



The Feast of the Theotokos of Guadalupe is on December 12. In honor of this feast there will be a Vesperal Divine Liturgy on Monday, December 11 at 6:00 P.M.



How do you glorify God?

The Lord expressed love for the one who was thankful, but He was angry with the ungrateful ones because they did not acknowledge their Deliverer. They thought more highly of their cure from leprosy than of He who had healed them. ... The one who returned to give thanks was given much more than the rest. Besides being healed of his leprosy, he was told by the Lord, “Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.” You see, those who give thanks and those who glorify have the same kind of feelings. They bless their helper for the benefits they have received. This is why Paul urged everyone to “glorify God with your body.” (1 Cor 6:20). (Saint Athanasius)



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FOREIGNER										
FAITH										



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 ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each month.

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*O Christ the Savior, source of our Salvation, come to us and save us!*