

May 12, 2024

Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

*Christ is Glorified! Exalt Him Forever!
Christos Proslavlennyj! Velicajme Jeho vo v'iki!*

Propers for this Sunday: pp. 196 – 202, opening hymn: Beatitudes for Mothers (on the handout)

Divine Services for the Week:

- SUN., MAY 12**
8:30 A.M. **SUNDAY of the FATHERS of the 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**
DIVINE LITURGY, *Mother's Day breakfast following*
+ For our deceased Mothers, Grandmothers, and Godmothers
God's Blessings for our Mothers, Grandmothers, and Godmothers
- SAT., MAY 18**
9:00 A.M. **FIFTH ALL-SOUL'S SATURDAY**
DIVINE LITURGY, *Panachida, Hramoty*
- SUN., MAY 19**
8:30 A.M. **PENTECOST SUNDAY**
DIVINE LITURGY
+ **John Pinchot**, offered by Ron & Diane Petcash

Mother's Day Breakfast Today

Join us for a nice sit-down breakfast for Mother's Day following the Divine Liturgy TODAY. Our hard-working cooks are preparing this delicious **homemade** breakfast in honor of our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and those who have played a motherly role in our lives. Whether your mother is with you or not, join us in her honor.

Everyone attending today is invited to stay for breakfast.

Happy Birthday Greetings:

May 15: Daniel Zimmerman

Wedding Anniversaries:

May 12: John & Sandra Poiarkoff

Please Pray for Our Sick and Shut-ins

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

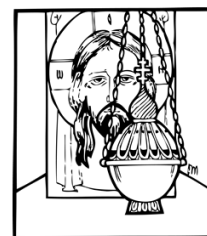
Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

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

Epistle Readers – May 12: Joanne Futato – May 19: Prudy Peya

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – May 12: F. Hersh – May 19: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

May 11 – May 18, 2024

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

**Our Mothers,
Living and Deceased**

Why we need the Catholic Church – In a Nutshell

1. We are made in God's image and likeness, meant for a deep, loving relationship with him. (Genesis 1:27);
2. Due to sin, we have broken this friendship with God. (Romans 6:23);
3. Jesus Christ, God's Son, became man, died on the cross, and rose from the grave for our salvation. (Philippians 2:7-10);
4. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and through Jesus our relationship with God is restored. (Ephesians 2:8);
5. Through the Catholic Church which Jesus established while on earth, we have access to grace by Baptism and are nourished by the Eucharist and other sacraments. (Matthew 16:18-19);
6. Through these sacraments, the Holy Spirit changes us, perfects us, fulfills our every desire, ultimately bringing us to eternal beatitude in heaven. (Matthew 5:48).

God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers.



It's St. George Flea Market Time!

Mark Your Calendar!! Our annual Flea Market, Haluski, and Bake Sale will be on **Friday & Saturday, June 21 & 22**. Plan on volunteering in any capacity from planning, set-up, advertising, or working the sale. Details to follow. We are NOW accepting donations for our annual Flea Market. Any time you have an item to donate, please leave it in the Center. Signs and flyers will be ready soon.

Thank You pirohi workers for all your hard work during our pirohi season. Your dedication enables us to keep up this important tradition at our St. George Church. God Bless our workers and customers. Mno Haja Lita!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- May 12 **Mother's Day Breakfast, following Liturgy**
- May 18 **Fifth and final All-Souls Saturday, 9:00 AM**
- May 19 **Pentecost Sunday, wear green to Church**
- May 27 **Memorial Day**
- May 27 - June 28 **Apostle's Fast**
- June 16 **Father's Day Breakfast, following Liturgy**
- June 21 & 22 **Flea Market, Haluski, and Bake Sale (info in bulletin)**
- June 29 **Saints Peter & Paul Holy Day, Holy Day of obligation**
- August (Date T.B.A.) **Church Picnic**

Church Mice

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***Christ is Glorified! Exalt Him Forever!
Christos Proslavlennyj! Velicajme Jeho vo v'iki!***

A Note from Fr. Christiaan

Dear Parishioners,

It's been a fruitful but exhausting week! First, let's list the unusual happenings at Aliquippa, recently possessed by Gremlins, and I – unfortunately – am not a designated exorcist of the archeparchy... With our parochial factotum leading me by the hand, we have confronted since Lent the following: A costly radiator leak, a subsequent boiler spillage issue, and a subsequent repair of the water system (after archaeologists contacted me by phone to take back to their heating-cooling museum some olden parts, asking me how we had managed to hold onto prehistoric equipment from the Jurassic period of boilers), and I now await the city of Aliquippa confirming that our water leakage issue is a thing of the past. Our back-porch roof, falling down from leaks, has now been repaired. We must now puzzle on what to do with antiquated phone landlines of Aliquippa, which significantly curtailed piroji sales (more on my spelling later). But we managed to have some walk-ins to get their orders (more on that later too!). We've been luckier recently at St. Mary's with only preventative maintenance costs for replacing our lights, for which I thank our handyman there too, who has been keeping me abreast of everything. I've already reported on our roof damage and cutting down our trees. Let's pray that the summer can finally be a harbinger of greener pastures that allow our bank accounts some down time to collect a few pennies of interest.

I knew it would happen, but kind of eagerly awaited it... Until today, I used the standard American English for "pierogi." Unlike my newbie hazing at St. Mary's pierogi-making, whoops, I mean *piroji*-making, a kindly parishioner (at least on this score) wondered how I reckoned my spelling. Well, says I, my spell check uses American Standard English. But, as a dedicated man of the cloth, I went to the oldest and classic Merriam-Webster dictionary of American English. There is an *alternative* spelling: "pirogi." I know, I know, far be it from me to impress anyone by upholding Merriam-Webster as my moral compass in life. It turned out that my suspicions were correct: Pierogi is the Polish spelling. Now, lest you think that I am imposing Pole-customs onto a Ruthenian church of diverse Slavic identity, in my defense I knew that Poles use the Latin (a, b, c) alphabet instead of crazy Russian-looking (a, б, c). My complicated self-defense would have you know that Polish is already spelled in our letters, whereas the Ukrainian and some other languages have try to hunt and peck for English letters to spell the sound *peer-o-hee*. So, now that I've ably defended my literary use of pierogi, I surrender to the common will (*vox populi vox dei*; the people's voice is God speaking) and from henceforth will write: piroji (even though I am already annoyed by the red line of Microsoft Word telling me this is not correct spelling). The final straw was reading all our piroji-info pinned to the walls of the kitchen on Friday and realizing that this was a foregone conclusion, a future battle that would be unwinnable. My pastoral savvy has, hopefully, nipped a brewing controversy in the bud. And how, do you ask, did my last visit to seasonal *piroji*-making go? Well, as per usual, none too impressive: I could not master the unbagging technique to get each pierog (since I can't use the standard English plural, I'll bet you didn't know there was a standard American singular of piroji... So, nobody can get me on this one... I think!). A pierog, like many caged animals, needs to be coaxed out of its unnatural enclosure. To get it to want to jump into a pot of boiling water requires either the carrot or the stick. I knew of neither. I had more luck buttering up the pirojis. As I poured streams of butter on each pierog, I thought of seminary, how we had no course on how to butter up donors, instead relying on elbow grease and other talents. This brought me to rethink my strategy since, what I had avoided as appropriate to a priest in relation to his people, was providentially being assigned to me as my priestly task. Ought I to butter up each of you as if a mere pierog, I thought to myself, but moral theology (ethics) taught at the seminary had me conclude negatively. So, I spent my morning buttering up pirojis only, not parishioners, a fitting work for the parish priest. In the spirit of spreading the butter even farther, however, I would very much like thank our volunteers this year, who once again were first to thank me for being present, whereas – for me – it is I who am impressed with your stewardship and love for your parishes and wished to demonstrate my appreciation by throwing in a (helping?) hand!

Fr. Christiaan

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea

The Church was strengthened into one faith through the preaching of the Apostles and the doctrines of the Fathers. The Church is robed in truth woven of the word of God from above. It teaches truth, and glorifies the great mystery of faith.

Today we celebrate the memory of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council which is annually celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost, following Ascension Thursday. As we witnessed on the Feast of the Ascension, when Christ ascended, He reiterated His promise of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles. The Holy Spirit guided the Church, and this guidance is magnificently made manifest in the history of the Ecumenical Councils, when dogmas were confirmed and heresies were corrected. It was the Holy Spirit who guided the Holy Fathers in the councils and confirmed their pronouncements.

There have been seven Ecumenical Councils, which were convened when there was some heresy that endangered the purity of the true faith. The First Ecumenical council that we celebrate today was held in 325 AD in a small town in Asia Minor called Nicea. According to the historical documents, 318 bishops participated in the council, who are called “holy fathers of Nicea” or just ‘holy 318’. The number 318 has a biblical significance as the bishops are seen like 318 servants of Abraham (Gen 14:14). This First Ecumenical Council produced four important documents: 1. Confession of Faith (Symbol), which Arius and two of his supporters declined to undersign and were thereby excommunicated and exiled to Illiricum. 2. The council decided upon the date of Pascha-Easter and controversies on this issue were settled. 3. Twenty Canons to the question of ecclesiastical discipline. 4. A Synodal letter, which was sent to all sister Churches to explain the proceedings of the council and thereby a call to obey the decisions of the council.

Recognizing the divine Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council as heralds of the Faith after the Holy Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honor, and unto the strengthening of the true Faith.

*Christ is Glorified! Exalt Him Forever!
Christos Proslavlennyj! Velicajme Jeho vo v'iki!*



Christ is Glorified! Exalt Him Forever! ~ Christos Proslavlennyj! Velicajme Jeho vo v'iki!

Eternal Memory

Our Church family offers prayerful condolences to the family of Jane Klacik who fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, May 8. A memorial Divine Liturgy will be held on Saturday, May 25 at 11:00 A.M. In blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to the soul of Your departed servant Jane and remember her forever! *Vičnaja jej pamjat'!*

Christian Greeting During Ascensiontide

Throughout Ascensiontide, we are called upon to proclaim the sublime reality that following the Ascension event with this Christian greeting, “**Christ is glorified!**” As we joyously render the response to this festive greeting, we affirm to all people everywhere that we must “**Exalt Him forever!**”

We Prepare to Celebrate Pentecost

Next Sunday we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday, which is a celebration of the fulfillment of the promises of God. Pentecost Sunday – the Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit is also known as **Green Sunday**. Why? Green is the color of spring and summer, the color of life, and life is an attribute of the Holy Spirit, “the Lord and giver of Life” who animates us all. In commemoration of Pentecost, please **WEAR GREEN** to celebrate this day!



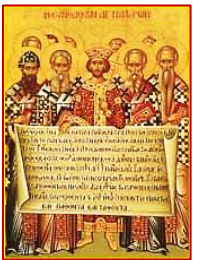
Eternal Life in Christ

In asking to be glorified, Jesus is asking his Father not to give him glory so much as He is seeking to reveal the honor the Father had already given Him. The Son's willing obedience and his glorious deeds reflect back on the Father. They are then passed onto us as the gift of salvation we receive through faith.

The Gospel recounting the High Priestly Prayer is placed on this Sunday after Ascension because today we also celebrate the memory of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council held at Nicea in A.D. 325. It was at this Council when the Church affirmed that Christ was of one essence with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Young Adult Retreat

June 21-23 is the date of the upcoming Young Adult Retreat at Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer, Uniontown. The weekend invites men and women into “Strengthening Discipleship.” The program runs from 7 pm Friday to 12 pm Sunday; the offering is \$115. Scholarships available. Registration due June 14. To register call 724-438-7149 or email hpmsm@verizon.net



ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

PRIEST: FATHER CHRISTIAAN KAPPES

OFFICE PHONE: 724-375-2742

FAX: 724-375-8776

ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652

PARISH EMAIL: stgbyz@gmail.com

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, Dan Pinchot

Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff - Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before Liturgies, or by appointment

Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the priest

Holy Mystery of Anointing Contact the priest 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, October - May

*Be exalted above the heavens O God,
and let Your glory be over all the Earth!*