

May 19, 2024
Pentecost Sunday



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: pp. 203 - 208

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., MAY 19 8:30 A.M.	PENTECOST SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY + John Pinchot, offered by Ron & Diane Petcash
SAT., MAY 25 11:00 A.M.	MEMORIAL DIVINE LITURGY For + Jane Klacik
SUN., MAY 26 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY of ALL SAINTS DIVINE LITURGY + Sr. Rose Elizabeth, offered by James Mudron

Pentecost Week - As we commemorate the birthday of the Church on this Great Feast of Pentecost, the entire week is free from fast and abstinence for the faithful. Let us all celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the full revelation of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Spirit.

The Breath of Life - Theodore of Mopsuestia (A.D. 350-428) teaches that after Jesus breathed on them he mentioned the Spirit. Why? So that his disciples would believe that the body was made imperishable through the resurrection because of the power of the Spirit. He said to them, you must truly believe in what has been said to you and must have no doubts about the resurrection. You must not reject the honor of the apostolate because you are scared of being sent as messengers of a new doctrine into the world. You will indeed receive the effect of the Spirit, which, at the right time, will confer on you resurrection and immortality.

Happy Birthday Greetings:

May 22: David Dohanich, May 25: Connie Hersh

Wedding Anniversaries:

May 20: Jonathan & Leanna Dohanich, May 21: Francis & JoAnn Hersh

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

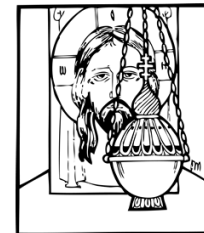
Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

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

Epistle Readers – May 19: Prudy Peya – May 26: JoAnn Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – May 26: R. Mudron – May 26: F. Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

May 19 - 25, 2024

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Phil Rossi

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Daughter, Isabel & Ed

Through the Spirit you will receive - in this life - an amazing, supernatural strength to perform unheard-of-miracles by a mere word. You will be able to face any afflictions that may befall you because of those who oppose your preaching. And even though there were many other things to be accomplished in them through the Spirit, without mentioning them he mentioned the most important argument of all. Here, he says, is what will clearly demonstrate to you the strength of the Spirit. Indeed, as soon as you receive it you will be able to absolve the sins of whomever you want, as well as to pronounce a sentence of condemnation against anyone. If you, a man, after receiving the gift of the Spirit, will be able to do all these things that are of God – indeed, only he has the power to judge – I leave you to consider what the effectiveness of the Spirit is. Once you have received it you must no longer doubt. *(Adapted from Theodore' of Mopsuesita's commentary on John)*

Let Your Good Spirit guide me in ways that are level and smooth.

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 (especially the check-out counter!). We are NOW accepting and NEED donations. Any time you have an item to donate, please leave it in the Center. **We will also need bake sale items, so please consider baking. FLYERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO TAKE AND PASS OUT OR POST IN THE COMMUNITY. Your help with this event will be greatly appreciated. Yard signs will be available soon. Thank you!**



E	T	E	L	P	M	O	C	E	G	ADVOCATE	SPIRIT	WITNESS
V	T	G	R	L	W	H	J	N	N	GLORIFY	FATHER	JESUS
G	N	A	L	E	I	M	I	I	I	MINE	COMPLETE	TELL
L	T	E	C	M	H	K	W	M	H	EVERYTHING	WHY	HIMSELF
O	T	I	S	O	A	T	J	H	T			
R	T	E	R	E	V	L	A	G	Y			
I	L	A	P	I	M	D	L	F	R			
F	F	S	K	J	P	O	A	G	E			
Y	S	U	S	E	J	S	C	T	V			
C	O	S	S	E	N	T	I	W	E			

A Note from Fr. Christiaan

Dear Parishioners,

As I prepare to enter into my fifth month with you all, we enter into Pentecost or the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. Not unlike our small parishes, a limited group of the followers of Jesus received the helps, both natural and supernatural, for gathering about 2,000 new Christians, though they were not many. Their challenges of limited resources and a foggy future were overcome by faith in God and divine intervention. We certainly have the first part of that recipe. We look forward to opportunities to build on our present strengths in the parish to attract others by news of the Gospel in its Byzantine flavor, reflecting New Testament customs that have survived until today.

That said, a number of opportunities have come to the parish and I have discussed those with the archbishop. For St. George Aliquippa, this includes a survey in progress to sell the timber in our parish that will be a great boon for the parish's needs and simultaneously be a great act of stewardship over the property. What is more, I have passed over to the chancery the news of a bequest made to the parish. For now, both of these opportunities will likely go forward in June.

What is more, there has been a generosity and enthusiasm at St. Mary's for finishing the carpeting project. That too will be something that I hope will receive a positive response from the archeparchy in June. I anticipate that several priests will get their assignments this June and, as I mentioned from the get go, it is probable that Saints George's and Mary's will be considered for a new fulltime pastor, which the churches deserve. Please know that my burgeoning affection for our parishes did cause me to speak to the archbishop and let him know my disposition to stay permanently. Nonetheless, I think that I have received a consistent message from the get go when I was first assigned to supply for Fr. Geoff, during his leave of absence, that the administrator role was a stop gap measure. Still, I have entered into learning names and faces, as well as joining you in your work and worship, in hopes that our experience together would lead to parochial successes and, who knows, maybe a permanent assignment since things are always tenuous when it comes to predicting the future.

As of now, I think it is safe to say that we can expect an appointment of our new pastor for our parishes before the fiscal year begins on July 1st. In the meanwhile, I will be maintaining the pattern to which we are all accustomed, in anticipation of our new pastor being named. I'll keep you updated on any written communiques from the archeparchy as they become available.

Fr. Christiaan

Church Mice

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Pentecost – The Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles

When the Most High descended and confused tongues, he scattered nations. When He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. We also, with one voice, glorify the Most Holy Spirit.

The tenth day after the Ascension of Jesus Christ was the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Christ. It was the Jews' great feast of Pentecost, which commemorated the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai.

All the Apostles, the Mother of God, and the other Disciples of Christ and other of the faithful, were all together in one room in Jerusalem. It was the third hour of the day by the Hebrew reckoning of hours, according to our system – nine o'clock in the morning. Suddenly a sound came from heaven, like a rush of a mighty wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. There descended on them tongues that looked like fire, which rested on each one of them. There were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, previously unknown to them. Thus the Holy Spirit, according to the promise of the Savior, descended on the apostles in the form of tongues of fire, as a sign that He gave the apostles the ability and zeal to preach the teachings of Christ to all peoples. He descended in the form of fire as a sign of the power to cleanse sins, to sanctify and warm souls.

From the day of the descent of the Holy Spirit the Christian faith quickly spread with the help of God, and the number of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ multiplied. Instructed by the Holy Spirit, the apostles preached boldly to all about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, about His suffering for us and resurrection from the dead. The Lord helped them with many great miracles which were performed by the apostles in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. At first the apostles preached to the Jews, and then dispersed to various countries to preach to all the people. To perform the sacraments and to preach Christianity the apostles established, by the laying on of hands, bishops, presbyters, and deacons. This grace of the Holy Spirit, which was clearly conferred on the apostles in the form of tongues of fire, is now conferred in our Holy Church invisibly in its sacraments, through the successors to the apostles, the pastors of the Church, its bishops and priests.

Behold, we celebrate today, the Feast of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit, the fulfillment of the promise and the realization of hope. How wonderful and awesome is this great mystery! We therefore cry out, O Lord and Creator of all: Glory to You!

(Great Vespers of Pentecost)

Old & New Law Explanation of the Pentecost Celebration



In the Old Testament, Pentecost was the feast which occurred fifty days after Passover. As the Passover feast celebrated the exodus of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt, so Pentecost celebrated God's gift of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. In the new covenant of the Messiah, the New Passover event takes on its new meaning as the celebration of Christ's Death and Resurrection, the "exodus" of men from this sinful world to the Kingdom of God. And in the New Testament as well, the Pentecostal feast is fulfilled and made new by the coming of the "new law," the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples of Christ. The Divine Liturgy of Pentecost recalls our baptism into Christ with the verse from Galatians again replacing the Thrice-Holy Hymn. Special verses from the Psalms also replace the usual antiphonal psalms of the Divine Liturgy. The Epistle and Gospel proclamation tells of the Spirit's coming to men. The Kontakion sings of the reversal of the Tower of Babel as God unites the nations into the unity of his Spirit. The Troparion proclaims the gathering of the whole universe into God's net through the work of the inspired apostles. The hymns "O Heavenly King" and "We have seen the True Light" are sung for the first time prior to Easter, calling the Holy Spirit to "come and dwell in us", and proclaiming that "we have received the heavenly Spirit." The church is decorated with flowers and the green leaves of the summer to show that God's Divine Breath comes to renew all creation as the "Life-Creating Spirit." In Hebrew the word for Spirit, breath and wind is the same word, ruah. The figure below the icon is called The Cosmos who represents the world holding the good news that the Holy Apostles who were mandated to spread to all inhabitants of the earth.

The Economy of our Salvation is Accomplished!

The operation of all the Persons of the Most Holy Trinity have now come into effect to accomplish it. What God the Father has willed, the Son of God fulfilled in Himself, and the Holy Spirit has now descended in order to impart it to the faithful. For our salvation is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the Blood of Jesus Christ (I Pet. 1:2). For this sake we are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, obliged, to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you (Matt. 28:19–20). Those who do not confess the Most Holy Trinity cannot participate in the saving action of Its Persons and thus receive salvation. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, the Trinity one in essence and undivided, granting us confession of Itself! "O Father Almighty, and Word, and Spirit, one nature united in three Persons, transcendent and extremely divine! Into Thee have we been baptized, and Thee shall we bless throughout all ages."

(St. Theophan the Recluse)

Let Your Good Spirit guide me in ways that are level and smooth. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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 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

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