

June 30, 2024
Sixth 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 вѣку!

Proprs for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 5: pp. 146 – 148, & handout for the Synaxis of the Apostles

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JUNE 30	SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles DIVINE LITURGY + Margaret Klacik, offered by JoAnn & Francis Hersh
8:30 A.M.	
THUR., JULY 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY DIVINE LITURGY
9:00 A.M.	
SUN., JULY 7	SEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST DIVINE LITURGY + John Pinchot, offered by Francis & JoAnn Hersh
8:30 A.M.	

Forgiveness is Yours - Jesus' words of healing are worthy of reflection. The paralytic is not told, "Be healed." He is not told, "Rise and walk." But he is told, "Take heart, my son; you sins are forgiven you." The paralytic is a descendant of the original man, Adam. In one man, Christ, all the sins of Adam are forgiven. In this case the man to be healed is brought forward by ministering angels. In this case, too, he is called a son, because he is God's first work. The sins of his soul are forgiven him, and pardon of the first transgression is granted. We do not believe the paralytic committed any sin that resulted in his illness, especially since the Lord said elsewhere that blindness from birth had not been contracted from someone's sin or that of his parents.

(St. Hilary of Poitiers)

Happy Birthday Greetings:

June 30: Leanna Duhanich, July 4: Carson Cushin

Wedding Anniversaries:

None for the week

Please Pray for Our Sick and Shut-ins

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

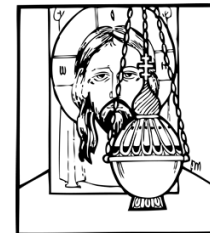
Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

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

Epistle Readers – June 30: Dan Pinchot – July 7: JoAnn Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – June 30: M. Bobanic – July 7: F. Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

June 30 – July 6, 2024

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Margaret Klacik

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Daughter, JoAnn & Francis Hersh

St. Augustine on Saints Peter and Paul

The passion of the most blessed Apostles Peter and Paul has consecrated this day for us. We are not speaking of some obscure martyrs. "Their voice has gone forth into all the earth and their words to the ends of the world." (Ps. 19:4) These martyrs had seen what they preached. They followed the Truth, they professed the Truth, and they died for the Truth . . .

"One day of suffering for the two Apostles. But they, two in spirit were one; even if they had suffered on different days they still would be one. Peter died first. Paul followed."

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!

Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles

Today our Church honors the Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles, the chosen disciples, and friends of the Lord, who became enlighteners of the world and founders of the ecclesiastical edifice. The Twelve Apostles represent the same number of tribes of Israel, which proves the completeness and universality of the evangelical preaching.

The names of the twelve disciples are Andrew and Peter sons of Jonah, James and John sons of Zebedee, Philip and Bartholomew or Nathanael, Matthew and James sons of Alphaeus, Thomas, Judas the Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite or Zealot, who succeeded by lot Judas Iscariot the traitor of Jesus Christ.



The study of their lives and actions shows that, after the day of Pentecost, and especially after the Apostolic Council of Jerusalem that took place in 49 AD, the Holy Apostles were scattered at the extremities of the Earth, to carry out the command of the Lord, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19). In this endeavor, they suffered various persecutions and almost all of them eventually sacrificed their own lives. However, their work took root and became the foundation of our Holy Apostolic Church. Christians, and in fact our clergy, and above all, the Bishops are the next of the Apostles. Altogether, clergy and people, as members of the body of the Church, we are called to keep the flame unquenchable and the legacy of the Apostolic tradition always pure and unadulterated in the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

SYNAXIS: a gathering of people for the purpose of worship or other religious reasons. Synaxis and synagogue are both derived from the same Greek word “synagogē / συναγωγή”. Early Christian writers used “synaxis” in lieu of “synagogue” to prevent confusion between a Christian assembly and a Jewish one.

Stay for Fellowship Hour

We extend a warm welcome to our parishioners, visitors, and friends. We are thankful that you have come to worship with us today. We invite you to join us following the Sunday Divine Liturgy for Fellowship Coffee and doughnuts today and every Sunday!

*We invite **EVERYONE** to **STAY** and join us.*



God Bless America!

As we rightly celebrate Independence Day and give thanks for our many blessings and freedoms, let us remember what true freedom is and from Whom it comes.

A Note from our new Priest

Dear Parishioners,

I am excited to begin my tenure as Administrator of St. George's and St Mary's this Monday, July 1st. So far, everyone I've met has been so kind and welcoming and I am eager to work at both parishes. I have fond memories concelebrating some of my first Divine Liturgies at St. George and at St. Mary's during the time Fr. Geoff was assigned. I will be a full-time priest for both parishes and look forward to devoting my time and energy to serving all of you and hopefully helping our communities draw back those who have fallen away and attract new members. I am most grateful to Fr. Christaan for being so helpful in my transition and helping get me up to speed as I begin my first full time assignment for the Archeparchy.

I grew up in Canonsburg, PA where my parents still reside. I spent over half a dozen years in religious (monastic) life where I served on a Native American Reservation outside of Phoenix, AZ, as well as at a parish in inner city Detroit. I have spent the past year transitioning to full time ministry for the Byzantine Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. I was blessed to get to spend a semester at St. Cyril and Methods Seminary where we train our future priests and provide liturgy coverage for many of our parishes. I feel very at home serving the Byzantine Church.

I am a celibate priest and I love to celebrate liturgy, so I look forward to developing a fuller liturgical schedule at our parishes. Please be patient with me as I get to know names and faces over the next several weeks. I look forward to meeting all of you next Sunday!

Fr. Anthony Constantino

Independence Day Prayer

Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You for the gift and blessing of the freedom we enjoy in our great nation. We praise You, Lord, for inspiring and guiding our founding fathers as they struggled to build our country and create a new way of living with the goal of freedom and justice for all. We thank You, Lord, for the courageous self-sacrifice and generous spirit of countless people who have given their life's blood in the defense of freedom and for the pursuit of justice. Keep us faithful to the tradition and example we have inherited; may we leave for the next generation a better world, prepared for the dawning of the Kingdom of Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Many Christians have great sensitivity of soul. In a daily struggle to lead a good and holy life, they are scrupulously aware of their sinfulness. Some despair that God could ever forgive them their many weaknesses and failings. Other Christians at various times in their lives even fall into a way of life very much at odds with Christian values. They sin, and sin boldly. Sometimes, when they come to their senses, they may feel repentant but doubt that God could ever forgive the enormity of their transgressions.

It's presumptuous, however, to consider God so small as to be unable or unwilling to forgive human offences, no matter their number or seriousness. It's grandiose to presume that one's sins are of such magnitude that Almighty God is incapable of pardoning them. St. Matthew shows Jesus, without any great ado, offering forgiveness to a paralytic with four words: "Your sins are forgiven." The implication in this narrative is that God, quite simply, is always ready to forgive anyone at the drop of a hat.

It's a human tendency to project human personality traits onto God. Depending on our temperament and the way we respond to offences against ourselves, we might picture God as petulant, grudge-holding, vengeful and the like. We fear God as unforgiving because that's what we experience ourselves. It stands to reason, then, that we can come to appreciate God's eagerness to forgive by practicing our own eagerness to be forgiving. And this is exactly what the Gospel encourages.

The Scribes are outraged that Christ would presume to forgive a man's sins with a few simple words. They ask: "Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" The point is, we can!

We all can be quick and eager, for example, to forgive those who sin against us. To err is human, but to forgive is divine. We can prove our own divine qualities, as did Jesus, when we say with fullness of heart, "You're forgiven."

The Gospel cautions us not to make God "small" with misguided ideas that God is cheap with grace and vengeful of human failings. But, by the same token, the Gospel encourages us not to be small ourselves. Big-hearted people are generally admired, and there is no reason we can't be big-hearted ourselves. All that's required is that we have an open heart and not hold on to grievances.

– Fr Augustine McBeth



Christ is among us! He is and shall be!

Who of us is aware of being paralyzed?

And who of us has faith, the calm and yet passionate certainty that no one but God can give us again the freedom of our movements? We find ourselves in life paralyzed by fear, paralyzed by the desire to be seen in the best of lights, paralyzed by our calculations that do not allow us to act freely, to breathe freely, to be fearless? How many of us could dare say that they are not possessed of the desire to be seen better than they are, to be seen as they are not, as God does not see us? How many of us could say, "I want to be seen as I am - not only in all my frailty (this others could accept), but in my deceitfulness, in my ugliness, full of fear, full of vanity", that is, of the desire to be judged on appearances and not on the reality? Our venerable father John of the Ladder says *"that one who is possessed of vanity is arrogant in the face of God while he is a coward in the face of men."*

We are all paralyzed: paralyzed by fear, paralyzed by calculations, paralyzed by the determination not to see because we are afraid of what we may see. We still, all of us, imagine that we can live the life of a paralytic and die whole; that we may live a whole life never having faced the truth, and stand before God Who is the Truth - and be acceptable. Oh, it is not a matter of God rejecting us! It is a matter of suddenly discovering, with horror, that we have no place in the realm of Truth, in the realm of daring Truth, in the realm of beauty, of heroic beauty.

On this Sunday let us reflect on this; let us not think of the man who was paralyzed and whose faith healed his body by the power of God; let us think of our own paralyzed condition. Today we must LOOK at ourselves: we still perhaps have time to become true and real as God has willed us, to be what God dreams we should be, to respond to His love by not betraying ourselves, one another and Him.

Remember that there is hope, there is hope because God has the power to heal, God has the power to break our palsy if we turn to Him with faith, and hope and courage!

True Freedom Comes from God

Jerusalem is beloved of God and is portrayed in Scriptures and the Liturgy as a loving, nursing mother who gives comfort and love to those who love her. As Americans we celebrate that we, too, have been blessed by God in a country that has so many good things. As disciples of Christ who are also faithful citizens, we are called and challenged to help our own country remain free, governed in a spirit of right reasoning, and to be a source of comfort, justice and peace. As we rightly celebrate Independence Day and give thanks for our many blessings and freedoms, let us remember what true freedom is and from Whom it comes.

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!

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



Christ is Among us! He is and Shall be! ~ Christos posred'i nas! Jest' i budet!