

August 2, 2020  
Ninth 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 V'iki!*

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., AUG. 2  
8:30 A.M. NINTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST  
DIVINE LITURGY, requested by Prudy Peya  
+ Margaret Klacik

AUG. 3 – 7  
9:00 A.M. *For the Dormition Fast*  
PARAKLESIS SERVICE (lay service)

WED., AUG. 5  
6:00 P.M. THE TRANFIGURATION of our LORD HOLY DAY  
VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY, *Blessing of fruit*  
Each family is encouraged to bring a basket of fruit to Church for the Holy Day Liturgy

(At St. Mary, Thurs., August 6, 6:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy for the Transfiguration)

SAT., AUG. 8  
9:00 A.M. *For the Dormition Fast*  
PARAKLESIS SERVICE

SUN., AUG. 9  
8:30 A.M. TENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST  
Post-festive Day of the Transfiguration  
DIVINE LITURGY, *Panachida*, requested by JoAnn & Francis Hersh family  
+ Margaret Klacik, (40<sup>th</sup> day of passing 8/4)

We are in a penitential season, a time when Eastern Christians traditionally celebrate the Mystery of Holy Confession. Father Geoff is available for confessions following the Sunday Divine Liturgies.

**Paraklesis for the Dormition Fast** - Need a quiet time for prayer? **Every day this week, Monday through Saturday at 9:00 A.M.**, come for the celebration of the **Paraklesis**, as we offer our prayerful supplications to our Holy Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary. The **Paraklesis**, or **Office of Supplication to the Theotokos** is probably the most ancient service of supplication. Come and be part of this prayerful event.

**Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:**

Aug. 3: Elesia Hagan-Day, August 4: Kathy Kapaldo

**Wedding Anniversaries this Week:**

None for the week

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

**HOME** – Eileen Batcha, Natalie Jugan-Diaz, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Josephine Maruhnich, Mary Salamon, John Simunick, Bonnie Taylor

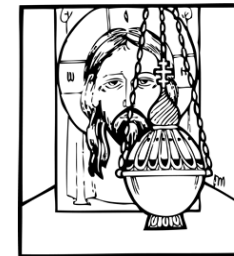
**Hunter's Care Home** (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

**West Hills Health & Rehab Center** (951 Brodhead Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108) – Alice Haber

**Epistle Readers – Aug. 2: Reagan Cody – Aug. 9: Jo Ann Hersh**

**Ushers – Aug 2: R. Dzumba/R. Mudron – Aug. 9: J. Yurosky/F. Hersh**

**Troica Holders – Aug. 2: F. Hersh – Aug. 9: R. Mudron**



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

August 2 - 8, 2020

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

The Parishioners

**Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel:**

*Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the malice and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.*

## ***Ninth Sunday after Pentecost***

*You are also God's building. Using the gift that God gave me, I did the work of an expert builder and laid the foundation...Some will use gold or silver or precious stones in building on the foundation...And the quality of each person's work will be seen when the Day of Christ exposes it.*

*1 Corinthians 3:9-17*

In today's Epistle reading, St. Paul speaks of various foundations on which people build their lives; gold, silver, wood, hay... Some foundations will survive, he says; others will not.

Every one of us is building a house called life. It is a lifetime job. Everything we think, do, and say goes into the structure to become part of our life house. One day – says Our Lord – this life house will be tested to see of what material it is made. The storm will come. And whether the house stands or falls will be due not to the weather but to the material that went into it, to the foundation underneath.

A story is told of a little boy who fell out of a boat and climbed upon a rock during a storm. After he was rescued, he was asked if he had been afraid. "Sure, I was afraid," he replied, "I trembled all over, but never once did the rock ever tremble."

In Psalm 18: 2 we read the following" "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." Today let us ask ourselves: Are you building your life on this rock? Even though the Apostle Peter was drowning today we witness later on in Matthew 17:17-19 how Our Lord called Peter a Rock. It is on such believing, fully surrendered persons that Christ Our Savior has built His Church through the centuries. "You are Peter – a rock, and upon this rock I will build My Church." The Apostle Peter's faith made him a rock.

What is important for us is a foundation that holds; a foundation that does not shake; a foundation that affords security in time of need, that solid foundation is none other than Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

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**Matthew 14:25-27** - *Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."*

**"It is a ghost! And they cried out for fear."** This is the way the Lord constantly deals with our fears. He does not hesitate to bring on worse things, even more alarming than before. They were troubled here not only by the storm but also by the distance from the land. Note that He did not too easily remove the darkness. He did not come quickly to their rescue. He was training them, as I said, by the continuance of these fears and instructing them to be ready to endure. (*St. John Chrysostom*)

## ***The Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ***



During each 'Liturgical Year' the last feast of Our Lord we celebrate is that of His Transfiguration, a feast of great beauty and richness. (Mt 16: 1-8., Mk 9: 2-8., Lk 9: 28-36.) This feast is a source of endless writing and meditation, and is best approached in a spirit of prayer, and profound awe. Among many topics we might consider, we can reflect on this as a feast incarnation; the wonder of Jesus, true God and true man.

We see Him as God, wonderfully "wrapped in light as in a robe". The event on the mountain of Tabor is a window into the divinity of

Jesus Christ, surrounded with the glory, intensely white. No earthly fuller could produce such brilliance. Jesus is God, and in His presence we worship in silence. Once before, Moses and Elias worshipped God on the mount, and in silence fell on their faces before God. Here, now however, they are speaking with Jesus. "...and they were talking with Jesus".

What were they discussing, what were they speaking about? Scripture is silent, but we may wonder. Perhaps were they speaking about the coming passion of Christ, the suffering, the trial, the cross, and the tomb? The Church celebrates the transfiguration 40 days before the feast of the Cross, as if to show the inherent link between the feasts of the glory, and the cross. If Jesus, Moses, and Elias were speaking about the coming passion, perhaps Christ is also showing something of his human nature, even as he reveals his divine nature? For a man lives in relation with others, and he has a need to put into words the events and mysteries of the past, the present, and the future. Before any important moment, do not we turn to our spouse, our family, and our friends and together seek to understand the presence of God and his will? In this way, perhaps Moses and Elias ministered unto Christ? Each had spoken to God intimately and with boldness before. Is it surprising that Christ would call upon them now as 'friends of God', friends of His, to speak of the coming Passover? The Lord acts naturally as a man, and humbly converses with his friends about the coming trial, even as his divinity is wondrously revealed to the disciples.

The union of Christ's humanity and divinity is complete and full, and as we meditate upon the feasts of the Lord's life we always benefit by focusing on this wonderfully unity in his person. Let us, as disciples might, bask in the brightness of this mystery, begging our Savior God to reveal Himself more fully to us. For what we see is beautiful and alluring. The tropar proclaims that Christ reveals His glory to his disciples. But the glory is not the divinity, nor is it the humanity, both are glorious in Him! Let the light shine upon us sinners (for the glory of humanity is marred in us by sin), that enlightened and purified through this feast, we too may shine through His generous gift of mercy.

# SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, David Klacik,  
Louisa Hersh**

**E.C.F. coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh  
Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff**

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation ..... Before and after Liturgies  
 Holy Mysteries of Initiation ..... Contact the church office  
 Holy Mystery of Anointing ..... Ask prior to surgery or serious illness  
 Holy Mystery of Marriage ..... Contact the church office eight months prior to wedding  
 Religious Education Classes ..... September through May, following Sunday Divine Liturgy  
 Pirohi Sales ..... 2nd Friday of each month, Sept. through May  
 St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club ..... Everyone welcome to participate



*"Acquire the Spirit of Peace and a thousand souls around you will be saved."*

- Venerable father Seraphim of Sarov