

August 9, 2020
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Post-festive Day of the Transfiguration



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

AUG. 10 – 14 *For the Dormition Fast*
9:00 A.M. PARAKLESIS SERVICE (lay service)

(At St. Mary, Fri., August 14, 6:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy for the Dormition, anticipated)

SAT., AUG. 15 THE DORMITION of the THEOTOKOS
9:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY, *Blessing of flowers and herbs*

SUN., AUG. 16 ELEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
Post-festive Day of the Dormition
8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
+ Angie Yuhasz, requested by Prudy Peya

Blessing of Flowers and Herbs - According to our Byzantine Catholic Tradition, flowers and herbs are solemnly blessed on the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15). Tradition speaks of the Apostles returning to the tomb of Mary. Finding it empty, her tomb was filled with a heavenly fragrance and flowers were present where her body once lay. Since Mary could only have been taken up by the Lord, flowers are seen as the presence of His saving Power. As a reminder of this event, flowers are brought to Church and blessed. Blessing of Flowers will take place on the Feastday Divine Liturgy, **Saturday, August 15, 9:00 A.M.**

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

August 14: Gabriel Mackey

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

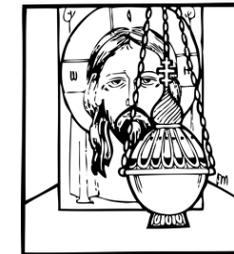
Hunter's Care Home (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

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

Epistle Readers – Aug. 9: Jo Ann Hersh – Aug. 16: Louisa Hersh

Ushers – Aug. 9: J. Yurosky/F. Hersh – Aug. 16: R. Dzumba/R. Mudron

Troica Holders – Aug. 9: R. Mudron – Aug. 16: F. Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

August 9 - 15, 2020

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Mike Zapko

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Wife, Elizabeth Zapko



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.

Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, August 15



Luke 10:38-42 - Now as they went on their way, [Jesus] entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her."

Listen to the Lord - Mary came and sat at his feet. This was as though she were sitting on firm ground at the feet of him who had forgiven the sinful woman her sins (*Luke 7:38*). She had put on a crown in order to enter into the kingdom of the Firstborn. She had chosen the better portion, the Benefactor, the Messiah himself. This will never be taken away from her. Martha's love was more fervent than Mary's, for before He had arrived there, she was ready to serve him. "Do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone?" When He came to raise Lazarus to life, she ran and came out first. (*St. Ephraim the Syrian*)

Why does the Church place this Gospel reading about Martha and Mary (a different Mary than Mary, the Mother of God) before us on the Feast of the Falling-Asleep of the Mother of God? Because it's all about discipleship. Mary, the Mother of God, is the first and foremost disciple of Christ.

Total Faith

When someone has total faith, such that he no longer disbelieves in anything found in holy Scripture and has faith like that of Abraham, who so believed in God to such a degree that his faith was reckoned to him as righteousness, then he has all faith like a grain of a mustard seed. Then such a man will say to this mountain – I mean in this case the deaf and dumb spirit in him who is said to be epileptic – "Move from here to another place." It will move. (*Origen*)

The purer the heart is, the larger it is, and the more able it is to find room within it for a greater number of beloved ones; while the more sinful it is, the more contracted it becomes, and the less number of beloved can it find room for, because it is limited by self-love, and that love is a false one.

-St. John of Kronstadt

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

At that time, a man came up to Him and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me."

In today's Gospel Reading Our Lord said that the disciples who were unable to heal the boy were FAITHLESS. What does it mean to have faith?

Faith is what comes of an encounter with the Lord beyond words and human concepts. It is the result of a face to face, heart to heart encounter with the living God. Faith is a gift given by God to those who have purified their hearts, to those who have learned how to sit at the feet of the Lord in silence and who practice moment by moment, day by day, month by month, and year after year the constant remembrance of His presence. Faith is a return to the truth of who we are as human beings created in His image and likeness. It is the rising within us of the rivers of living water promised by Christ to those who have, as St. Seraphim so beautifully taught, acquired the Holy Spirit. Faith is released in us from the depths of our souls when we have taken out the garbage that obstructs the image and let go of everything that is unhelpful, unloving and unhealthy.

Faith embraces God Himself in an unmediated way, demanding and asking for nothing except to see and experience the wonder of His presence. Even miracles are a distraction from the "one necessary thing" which is to sit at His feet, to feed on His words, to bask silently in His silence. The Holy Fathers say that if you see a vision during prayer, ignore it and return to prayer for there is only one "necessary thing." Faith rests in the God who at all times "is everywhere present, filling all things" and is content to be alone with Him and to love Him. True faith simply knows that the goodness of the Lord overflows at all times to all creation whether times are good or bad or happy or sad. "To live is Christ, to die is Christ," wrote St. Paul. That is all we need. The sign of faith in a person may be miracles or not, but the one sure sign that faith is at work is love and humility. If they are present, then a variety of miracles are already occurring and the eyes of faith can see them. Amen.

·:JESUS EXPELS THE DEMONS·:



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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

God loves us more than a father, mother, friend, or any else could love, and
 even more than we are able to love ourselves. St. John Chrysostom

