

August 30, 2020  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Post-festive Day of the Beheading of Forerunner and Baptist John



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. 30	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, Post-festive Day of the Beheading of Forerunner and Baptist John DIVINE LITURGY + Bertha Jean Gall, requested by Richard Mudron
8:30 A.M.	
FRI., SEPT. 4	FIRST FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP WHAT IS PRAYER?
6:00 P.M.	
SUN., SEPT. 6	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, DIVINE LITURGY + Pete Yanchik, offered by his wife and family
8:30 A.M.	
TUES., SEPT. 8	NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS HOLY DAY DIVINE LITURGY
6:00 P.M.	



*Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.*

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

None for the week

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

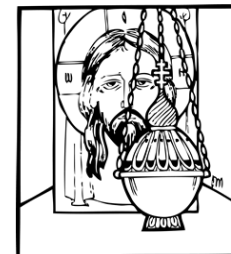
**Hunter's Care Home** (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

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

Epistle Readers – Aug. 30: Prudy Peya – Sept. 6: Reaghan Cody

Ushers – Aug. 30: R. Mudron/J. Yurosky – Sept. 6: F. Hersh/R. Mudron

Troica Holders – Aug. 30: R. Dzumba – Sept. 6: F. Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

August 30 – Sept. 5, 2020

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

+ Husband, Joseph Olack

*(In Loving Memory)*

Offered By:

Wife, Mary Elizabeth



*Your regular attendance and sacrificial offerings benefit the overall welfare of our Parish*

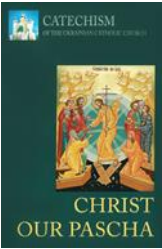


**Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel:**

*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.*

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

**Humankind—the Crown of Creation:** Created good, humankind was supposed to achieve gradually perfection. For this reason Saint Irenaeus compares the condition of the first Adam in Paradise with the innocence of a child: “It was possible for God Himself to have made the human being perfect from the first, but the human being could not receive this perfection, being as yet an infant.” To grow into the second Adam – Christ—is to receive the grace of the Holy Spirit to the point of our permanent abiding in it, “until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ” (Eph 4:13; emphasis added). (#126)



The Parable of the Tenants

Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. Matthew 21:37 (NIV)  
Based on Matthew 21:33-46 (NIV)



H W F K F X X L K S C J J T G  
A F A W F D Q L I E R L I M S  
R R Z L V P A I L R E A V K E  
V U H F L A L R L V J S U I Y  
E I S A Q R A P E A E T I A L  
S T O R F A N N D N C V G D R  
T W N M J B D L S T T H N E N  
T I M E O L O I L S E Z W X T  
M M G R U E W S E O D O U C E  
Z D L S R K N T U C T J E Z D  
B G U T N T E E O H D L Z Q I  
R U W G E Q R N C O L O X N S  
B A I D Y P W T R O Y Y T D E  
I W C L E J A J C V S Z D W N  
S T S S T W V I N E Y A R D T

LISTEN	WATCHTOWER	PARABLE	SON	SERVANTS
SENT	WALL	HARVEST	KILLED	COLLECT
BUILT	LANDOWNER	LAST	TIME	FARMERS
DUG	FRUIT	REJECTED	VINEYARD	JOURNEY

A Note from Fr. Geoff

In the Western (Latin) Church, the liturgical year begins on the 1st Sunday of Advent. There is a certain internal logic to this, since Advent is the time when the cycle of celebrating the life of Christ begins before his birth. For us Byzantines, however, we follow the calendar as it was in Constantinople in late antiquity. At the First Ecumenical Council (AD 325) in Nicaea, the council fathers declared that September 1 would be the beginning of the church's year. The lunar month corresponding to September on the Jewish calendar was the beginning of the civil year (see Exodus 12:2), and it was at this time that our Lord went into the synagogue and read the words, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."* (Luke 4.16-19)

For this liturgical year, I'd like to invite you to join me on a series of **First Friday Fellowship** events. Each month either I, or a guest, will present on some aspect of spirituality or the mission of the Church. The first one will be held on Friday, **September 4 at 6:00 PM**. I will be presenting on the topic of **PRAYER**. What is prayer? How do we do it? Why do we use pre-written prayers and how do we pray *without* words or in our own words? What if I'm "bad" at it? How does one get started praying? These - and other questions - will be answered!

These First Friday Fellowship events will be for *both* St. Mary's and St. George's parishes. This first month, we'll meet in St. George's center in Aliquippa. I hope you'll consider joining us! Future dates and topics will be announced.

Praying for your peace, health, and happiness,  
In Christ,  
*Fr. Geoff*

As we begin the new Church year (Sept. 1) let us offer the following prayer:  
*Creator of the universe, setting times and seasons by Your sole authority, bless the cycle of the year of Your grace, O Lord, guarding our rulers and Your nation in peace, at the intercession of the Theotokos, and save us!*



## ***Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

*The Lord said this parable, "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them..."*

Today's Gospel reading is the parable of the vineyard. An owner built a vineyard, hedged it around, built a winepress and a tower and then let it out to tenants. When he sent servants to take the rent, they were beaten and stoned. He sent others, but they did the same. And when the owner sent his own son, they killed him.

This parable is addressed to each of us today in a personal sense. The vineyard is our own soul. It is hedged around with prayer, our guardian-angel, and our patron-saint. The winepress is where we offer ourselves to Christ. The tower is our inner Church where we pray to God. We are tenants of our God-created souls. The servants sent to us are all those occasions when God speaks to us. He speaks to us in prayer, He speaks to us through the word of His Scriptures, He speaks to us through every opportunity, every meeting, and every event that comes into our lives. He speaks to us through the presence of His Church in the world.

And how do we react? Do we reject everything sent to us, everything allowed to us, as a chance to do better, to make good our weaknesses? Do we fail to heed God? Do we ignore the Church? If so, then we too beat and stone and kill the servants of God. We are warned today that the Heir is coming.

At the end of the parable of the vineyard, Christ says: "The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it was marvelous in our eyes?" The stone rejected is of course the Rock of Faith, Christ Himself, for He was rejected and crucified. And yet He became the head of the corner and it is marvelous in our eyes. Let us too be rocks of faith then, and though the world will reject us, we too shall become heads of the corner, and it will be marvelous in the eyes of God and men. Glory to You, O God, glory to You!



**Light as a Feather** - It is one thing to be broken but something else again to be crushed.



Sizeable pieces of whatever is broken remain, but whatever gets crushed is reduced to dust and utterly eliminated. The stone does not break those who fall upon it, but those who fall on the stone break themselves. Their destruction, therefore, is not attributable to the stone's strength but to the violence with which they fall upon it. How hard do we hit the stone when we fall upon it? That is determined by the weight of our sins. But repentance can make us as light as a feather. Remember Isaiah 53:5 - *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.* (Adapted from the Incomplete Homily on Matthew)

## **Ukrainian Food Festival**

Our brothers and sisters at Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Carnegie are hosting a Ukrainian Food Festival, September 11 & 12 from 11 AM to 7 PM. The festival will include delicious homemade foods, baked goods, and a basket raffle. For menu and full information and for ordering, visit: [www.orthodoxcarnegie.org](http://www.orthodoxcarnegie.org) or call 412-527-5359. The church is located at 220 Mansfield Blvd. in Carnegie.

## **Church Store and Library Available for You**

**Don't forget about our Church Store and Library!** Although we are not having gatherings in the Center following Liturgy at this time, items from the Church store are still available for you. There are some new items and icons you may not have seen. If you need a gift or just something for yourself, just ask JoAnn Hersh or you can email [stgbyz@gmail.com](mailto:stgbyz@gmail.com) with your request. Take a step further in your learning about our faith and God by making use of our parish library. The Church Library list of books is available at <https://www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org/contact/>. Books can be borrowed any time.



## **Coming September 4 !**

WHAT IS PRAYER? How do we do it? Why do we use pre-written prayers and how do we pray without words or in our own words? What if I'm "bad" at it? How does one get started praying? These - and other questions - will be answered!

**First Friday Fellowship, 6:00 P.M.**

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

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PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org](http://www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org)

**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



***Together in the Holy Trinity ... One Faith, One Church, One Future!***