

September 20, 2020
Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



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., SEPT. 20 **SUNDAY after the EXALTATION of the HOLY CROSS**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**

+ Margaret Klacik, requested by Erik Fetkovich

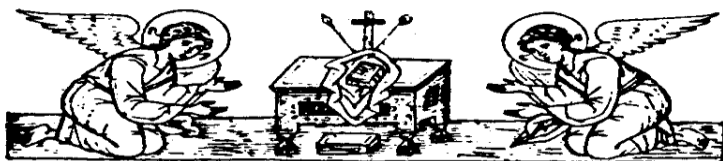
SUN., SEPT. 27 **SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**

+ Margaret Klacik, requested by Judy Hermes

Are You Ashamed of Christ?

One who claims to live in Christ ought to walk as He walked. Would you follow Christ? Then be humble as He was humble. Do not scorn His lowliness if you want to reach His exaltation. Human sin made the road rough. Christ's resurrection leveled it. By passing over it Himself He transformed the narrowest of tracks into a royal highway. Two feet are needed to run along this highway; they are humility and charity. Everyone wants to get to the top – well, the first step to take is humility. Why take strides that are too big for you – do you want to fall instead of going up? Start with the first step, humility, and you will already be climbing.

(Saint Caesarius of Arles)



Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

September 25: Sandra Poiarkoff

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

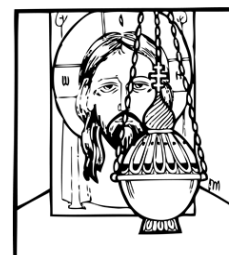
Hunter's Care Home (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

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

Epistle Readers – Sept. 20: Louisa Hersh - September 27: Joanne Futato

Ushers– Sept. 20: R. Mudron/J. Yurosky – Sept. 27: F. Hersh/R. Mudron

Troica Holders– Sept. 20: R. Dzumba – Sept. 27: J. Yurosky



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

September 20 -26, 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.

Take Up Your Cross

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Mark 8:34b (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



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

1. 10-16-25-19
2. 20-16-13-18-13
3. 13-21-22-16
4. 4-23-3-2-10
5. 13-18-26-26-16-3
6. 2-17-26-16
7. 13-23-18-2
8. 11-21-17-25
9. 1-21-9-16
10. 7-17-6-13-16-2-26
11. 1-16-21-5-7
12. 5-3-23-13-13
13. 26-23-2-2-23-4
14. 2-23-13-16
15. 26-23-3-26-16-17-1

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|---------|-------|--------|-------|---------|
| SAVE | TAKE | SOUL | DENY | HIMSELF |
| WORLD | CROSS | FOLLOW | JESUS | LOSE |
| FORFEIT | GAIN | TEACH | LIFE | SUFFER |

Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross



On the day we remember the Cross, we must pay particular attention to what Divine Love is. God so loved the world that He gave His Only-Begotten Son unto death, so that no-one, no-one should be forgotten and left aside.

But if that is true, how should we look at one another and treat one another? If each of us is so meaningful to God, if He loves him to such an extent that His life is given, His death is accepted - how should we treat our neighbor?! There are people whom we love in a natural way, who are akin to us in mind, in emotion, in so many

ways - but is that love? Does that mean that we love this person as the most precious person in the eyes of God and the most precious person in my eyes, because I want to be with God, share His thoughts, His attitude to life?

And how many there are whom we treat with indifference: we wish them no evil - they don't exist for us! Let us look around, here, in this congregation, now and week after week, and ask ourselves, "What does this person mean to me?" - Nothing; just someone who attends the same church, who believes in the same God, who receives the same communion - and we forget that those who have received this same communion have become part of the body of Christ, that God Himself lives in them, and that we should turn to them, look at them and see in them the temples of the Holy Spirit, an extension of the Incarnation.

Let us ask ourselves severe, pertinent questions about the way in which we treat our neighbor and we see our neighbor. Let us devote a whole week perhaps to thinking of one person after the other and ask ourselves, 'Is there any love in me for this person?' Not a sentimental love, but the kind of love which in the light of God makes this person precious, - precious to the point that I should be prepared, ultimately, yes, to give my life for this person. This is not asked day after day, but what is asked is that we should give some warmth, some compassion, some understanding, and some recognition to the existence of this person. And when we come to confession next week, let us bring that, among other things, to God: does my neighbor exist for me? Who is he to me? To God he is everything; if he is nothing to me, where do I stand before God? Amen.

- Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom)

COMPLETE THE TEXT MAZE

“God did not send the Son to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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“Tradition ... Tradition ... Yes, the religious traditions of our people have very deep spiritual meaning, but we **MUST** be acquainted with them and try to preserve them!”

ECF Reflection

Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross

Epistle: Galatians 2:16 – 21:

The Epistle which is proclaimed in the Church today is one that has been misused by many non-Apostolic Christians who would look to reject the Church’s teaching on salvation. “Faith” in our understanding is the union of our entire self to Christ. This union which entrusts my intellect, spirit, soul and body to the Savior joins me to Christ in such an intimate way that my life is transformed into his life. This is the process of Theosis or divinization. As Saint Paul says “it is now no longer I who live, but Christ is living in me.”

Faith, then, is an aspect of love by which I give my life to the one that I love. In this act of total self-gift we can discern two important truths. The one who loves first must die to himself in as much as the lover’s life is no longer about himself but totally about the one whom he loves and whom he sustains through the gift of his life. The second truth that results from the first is that the lover, having died to himself, comes to life or is “resurrected from the dead” in the life of the beloved.

Gospel: Mark 8:34 - 9:1:

The Gospel which is proclaimed today confirms and makes explicit for us the above explanation of loving faith. “If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For anyone who would save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will save it.” The cross, the exaltation of which we just celebrated, is the sign of the Lord’s total self-giving love. The cross reveals to us the breadth and depth of God’s love. What remains is our response to that gift and our union with that love.

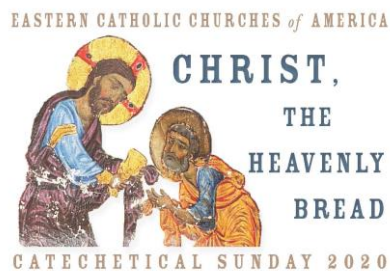
PRACTICAL QUESTIONS:

1. How can we understand Saint Paul’s teaching that he is “nailed to the cross” with Christ?
2. How can we unite ourselves to the cross of Christ and why would Jesus want us to do so?
3. How do we save our life by losing it?
4. What kind of life are we called to give up and what kind of life do we gain?

Eastern Christian Formation FOR ALL!

In the tradition of our Church, children and youth receive the Holy Eucharist along with Baptism and Chrismation. What a treasure! In the new 2020 *Directory for Catechesis* published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) we are reminded, “*The Catholic Church holds in high esteem the institutions, liturgical rites, ecclesiastical traditions and the established standards of the Christian Life of the Eastern Churches, for in them, distinguished as they are for their venerable antiquity, there remains conspicuous the tradition that has been handed down from the Apostles through the Fathers and that forms part of the divinely revealed and undivided heritage of the universal Church. These treasures have always contributed to evangelization. The Catholic Church affirms repeatedly that the members of the Eastern Churches have the **right** and the **duty** to preserve them, to **know** them, and to **live** them, doing all they can to avoid losing their identity.*”

(2. The Eastern Churches #290)



Eastern Christian Formation is for EVERYONE!

Children will meet on Sundays following Divine Liturgy for ECF classes. There will be monthly reflections on the Holy Eucharist published in our Victory Bearer bulletin. Our Church Library is available FOR ALL to help in your on-going formation. And there will be First Friday Fellowship events each month. Youth ECF classes will begin on October 4.

Let us take time to meditate on the **monthly reflections**, attend **First Friday Fellowship**, and have our children attend **ECF** classes so we may all grow in our love and gratitude for the gift of the Holy Eucharist and the knowledge and love of our Lord. May we ALL **Faithfully** navigate through these times knowing and trusting that God is With Us.

New!

Our ECF program is so excited to share with you our many **CATECHETICAL RESOURCES** for the renewal of our Eastern Churches! Each week we will also be offering you **reflections for use at home** (see next page) to go along with the all of our other resources offered for your personal formation. Be sure to take advantage of all that is being offered to you!

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha: The Mystery of the Eucharist

The Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ: The Divine Liturgy is the memorial, the continuance, of the Mystical Supper: “Accept me this day, O Son of God, as a partaker of your Mystical Supper.” Just as Christ offered the apostles Communion in his Body and Blood at the Mystical Supper, so at the Liturgy he offers us Communion: “When, therefore, you see the priest delivering [the supper] unto you, account not that it is the priest that does so, but that it is Christ’s hand that is stretched out.” *The Communion of the Apostles* icon, as also the icon of the Mystical Supper, depicts that which takes place at the Liturgy: Christ is offering the Communion of his Body and Blood to his apostles, who represent all the faithful. At the Liturgy, before Communion the priest prays: “Deign to give to us with your mighty hand your most pure Body and precious Blood, and through us to all the people.” (#435)



Recognize in this bread what hung on the cross, and in this chalice what flowed from His side...

(St. Augustine of Hippo)



“When you make the sign of the cross on the forehead, arm yourself with a saintly boldness; for you are not ignorant that the cross is a prize beyond all price. Consider what is the price given for your ransom, and you will never more be slave to any man on earth. This reward and ransom is the cross. You should not then, carelessly make the sign on the forehead, but you should impress it on your heart with the love of a fervent faith. Nothing impure will dare to molest you on seeing the weapon, which overcomes all things.”

(Saint John Chrysostom)

“The Cross, is wood which lifts us up and makes us great ... The Cross uprooted us from the depths of evil and elevated us to the summit of virtue”

(St John Chrysostom)

Save your people, O Lord, and bless your inheritance. Grant victory to your Church over evil, and protect your people by your cross.



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

Each of us has a role and responsibility to share the faith with others!

