

September 27, 2020
Seventeenth 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., SEPT. 27 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
+ Margaret Klacik, requested by Matt & Judy Hermes

*(At St. Mary: Thursday, Oct. 1, 6:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy for Protection of the Theotokos Holy Day)
This is their Patronal Feast Day*

(At St. Mary: Friday, Oct. 2, 6:00 P.M. First Friday Fellowship)

SUN., OCT. 4 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
+ Angie Yuhasz, requested by Richard Mudron

Follow Christ and He Will Astonish You with Blessings!

After toiling the whole night Simon and his companions caught nothing. But in the name of Christ they let down the net and immediately it was full of fish. ... Many have taken part with the holy apostles in their labors, and still do, especially those who inquire into the meaning of what is written in the holy Gospels. For the net is still being drawn, while Christ fills it, and calls to conversion those who, according to the Scripture phrase, are in the depths of the sea (that is to say, those who live in the surge and waves of worldly things).

(St. Clement of Alexandria)

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

Sept. 27: Fr. Geoff, Carol Huchko, Sept. 29: Josephine Mackey, Oct. 1: Pamela 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

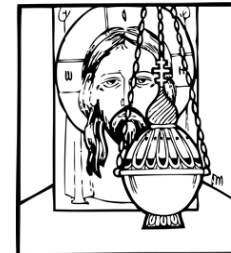
Hunter's Care Home (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

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

Epistle Readers – September 27: Joanne Futato – Oct. 4: Reagan Cody

Ushers – Sept. 27: F. Hersh/R. Mudron – Oct. 4: R. Mudron/J. Yurosky

Troica Holders – Sept. 27: J. Yurosky – Oct. 4: F. Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
September 27 – October 3, 2020

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:



+ Mary Kay Brooks
(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Butch & Judy Dzumba



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.

Reflection

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gospel Reading: Luke 5: 1-11

The place on the “Lake of Gennesaret” (i.e., the Sea of Galilee) where the calling of the first disciples took place is well known to local Christians in the area even to today and pilgrims can visit this Holy site and wade in the waters where Jesus stood. There, near the shore, there is a large spring that waterfalls into the sea. The water of that spring is a little warmer than the waters of the sea and the local fish (tilapia and catfish) come to the spot in massive schools seeking the warm fresh water of the spring. The experience of the place is quite extraordinary and allows us to meditate more deeply upon Jesus’ invitation to Simon in the Gospel which is proclaimed today.

“Do not be afraid; from now on you shall catch men,” Jesus told Simon Peter that day and today he speaks these words to us. Do not be afraid! In the anti-Christian climate in which we live today we are told over and over again that religion is not welcome in public. “Do not speak about your faith” they tell us. And yet, commanded by Christ to “teach all nations,” and to become “fishers of men,” we cannot remain silent about our relationship with the Lord. We cannot remain silent about the gift of Divine Life we have experienced.

The consolation that knowing the geographical context of today’s Gospel grants us is two-fold. First, the “fish” which we are invited to catch desire the Good News. Carved into every heart created by God is a deep desire for truth and for a relationship with our creator. The second consolation is that of knowing that we are not the originators or source of the gift that men desire. It is the Lord himself who is the attraction. It is the Lord himself who is the warm water of the spring which falls into the sea of this world. We are called simply to lend our hands, to lend our mouths, to lend our lives to become the net by which the great Fisherman will catch his fish through us.

PRACTICAL QUESTIONS:

1. In what ways do we tend to shy away from sharing our faith with others?
2. What opportunity/practical ways do we have on a daily basis to share our faith with those around us?
3. Why did Jesus choose simple fisherman for his mission of salvation? What does this teach us about our calling to be evangelizers?
4. What would you have done if you were Simon, Andrew, James, or John and Jesus asked you to “put out your net” after you have not caught anything all night and you had already cleaned your nets?

A Pattern in Making Disciples

1) Christ teaches the Word of God, and the Word of God stirs listeners to initial faith.

2) Christ involves the new believer in a specific challenge, and the new believer personally experiences the grace of God; he or she feels unworthy, yet amazed.

3) Christ calls the new believer to become a permanent disciple and co-worker with God. The new believer freely and totally gives over his or her life to the Lord and has a new sense of mission as Christ’s disciple.

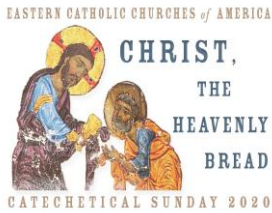


We too, are called to DISCIPLESHIP and to lower our nets for that “great catch”. Consider, for a moment, the state of the world around us. Consider this city we are in, and the cities and towns nearby. Consider the frightful nature of the world, of the overflowing cup of evil all around us. Consider the huge numbers of confused and frightened people, darting this way and that, like frightened fishes in a great dark sea. Some, though perhaps not all, would doubtless find peace and joy if they could but find Christ, in the fullness in which we find Him in our Holy Church. We need only lower our nets, as Christ bids us, and we can catch them for Him. How do we do this?

We can do it by witnessing for Christ through the lives that we lead. If we are kind, patient, and generous towards our neighbors, that in itself is the beginning of our witness. If we are models of Christian piety in our lives, praying, keeping the fasts, attending Liturgy, and remaining close to the Church, that too is a witness and will attract a larger catch. Finally, we must not be ashamed of Christ’s Church by hiding it from those around us. If neighbors or friends or acquaintances have no religious life, or if they are dissatisfied in their current religion, we can invite them to attend Divine Liturgy and introduce them to our Holy Church and our community of faithful. So, let us not be apprehensive in sharing the beauty of our Eastern Church with others. Let each of us strive to follow in the footsteps of the holy apostles Peter, James, and John, by becoming catchers of souls for Christ. Let each of us also put aside all those things that distract us from our real purpose in this life, let us leave those things, as the Gospel says, and, like the apostles, follow Christ. Amen.

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

Eastern Christian Formation FOR ALL!



Beginning October 4, children will meet for ECF classes on Sundays following Divine Liturgy. Sunday reflections for use at home (see last page) and monthly reflections on the Holy Eucharist will be 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.

First Friday Fellowship: October 2 (At St. Mary)

BAPTISM: Baptism is a “rebirth,” the remission of sins, and the sacramental mystery of our entrance into the Church, the Body of Christ. It is the one sacramental mystery that we share with all other Christians, even those from whom we’re separated. Krystal Hustead, a senior theological graduate student at Trinity School for Ministry, will present on the mystery of Baptism. This month we will gather on October 2 at 6:00 PM at St. Mary’s.

“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!

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha: The Mystery of the Eucharist

The Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ: At the Liturgy, Christ offers us, as he did the apostles, a communion not of simple bread and wine but of his true Body and Blood. “The bread and the wine [of the Eucharist] are not merely figures of the body and blood of Christ (God forbid!), but the deified body itself of the Lord.” The Church solemnly confesses and teaches that at the Liturgy we receive the true Body of Christ—a guarantee of the fact that the Church is the Body of Christ.



In order then that we may become this not by love only, but in very deed, let us be blended into that flesh. This is effected by the food which He has freely given us, desiring to show the love which He has for us. On this account He has mixed up Himself with us; He has kneaded up His body with ours, that we might be a certain One Thing, like a body joined to a head. For this belongs to them who love strongly.



The Holy Protection of the Mother of God

October 1

The Feast of the Protection commemorates the appearance of the Most Holy Theotokos in the Church of Blachernae in Constantinople in the early sixth century, as recorded in the life of Saint Andrew the Fool for Christ’s sake. While the multitudes of the faithful were gathered in church, Epiphanius, the friend of Saint Andrew, through the Saint’s prayers, beheld the Virgin Mary above the faithful and spreading out her veil over them, signifying her unceasing protection of all Christians. Because of this we keep a yearly feast of gratitude, imploring our Lady never to cease sheltering us in her mighty prayers.

T	A	S	E	L	T	S	O	P	A	W
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C	H	I	Z	H	D	E	E	I	A	O
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APOSTLES SIMON PETER

ANDREW

JAMES

JOHN

PHILIP

BARTHOLOMEW

THOMAS

MATTHEW

THADDAEUS

JUDAS

ISCARIOT

ZEBEDEE

ALPHEUS

ZEALOT

Mary, the Mother of God, is the first and foremost disciple of Christ

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



“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”
(Matthew 7:7, 8)