

October 4, 2020  
Eighteenth 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., OCT. 4**            **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**  
**8:30 A.M.**            **DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ Angie Yuhasz, requested by Richard Mudron

**SUN., OCT. 11**        **SUNDAY of the FATHERS of the 7<sup>TH</sup> EUMENICAL COUNCIL**  
**8:30 A.M.**            **DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ Margaret Klacik, requested by Poiarkoff family

**Are You a Son of the Most High?**

“Lend to those from whom you do not hope to receive in return.” “And what sort of a loan is this,” he says, “to which there is no hope of return attached?” Consider the force of the statement, and you will admire the kindness of the Lawmaker. When you have the intention of providing for a poor person for the Lord’s sake, it is as the same time both a gift and a loan. It is a gift because of the expectation of no repayment. It is a loan because of the great gift of the Master who pays in his place and who, receiving trifling things through a poor person, will give great things in return for them. (*St. Basil the Great, Homily on Psalm 14*)



**Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:**

October 4: Gladys Chabala, October 9: Charles Hagan

**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

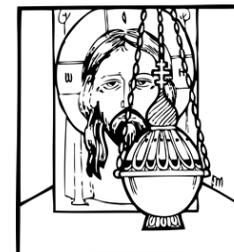
**Hunter’s Care Home** (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

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

**Epistle Readers– Oct. 4: Reaghan Cody – Oct. 11: Jo Ann Hersh**

**Ushers– Oct. 4: R. Mudron/J. Yurosky – Oct. 11: F. Hersh/R. Mudron**

**Troica Holders – Oct. 4: F. Hersh – Oct. 11: R. Dzumba**



**THIS WEEK’S SANCTUARY LAMP**

October 4 - 10, 2020

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

The Parishioners

*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.*

## ***October ECF Reflection*** **The New Testament and the Holy Eucharist**

By Very Rev. Archpriest John M. Fields

During this year of the coronavirus pandemic, for many months, clergy, religious and faithful gathered together on the Lord's Day virtually, participating in the Divine Liturgy through the modern technology of livestreaming. While during these liturgical services, the faithful gave praise, glory and thanksgiving to God and were nourished on the Word through the Gospel and the homily, there was something lacking. Suddenly, except for the limited celebrants at the altar, the parish family was not able to partake of the Body and Blood of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



In the Last Supper account in the Gospel of Matthew, “Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.’” (Mt. 26:28)

During every Divine Liturgy, the humble gifts of bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ during the Anaphora, the Eucharistic Prayer.

“Just as Jesus Christ our Savior was made flesh through the Word of God, and took on flesh and blood for our salvation, so too (we have been taught that) through the word of prayer that comes from him, the food over which the thanksgiving has been spoken becomes the Flesh and Blood of the incarnate Jesus in order to nourish and transform our flesh and blood.” (St. Justin Martyr)

In the Gospel of John, Jesus clearly teaches us: “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.” (Jn. 6:53-55).

In several of our Eastern Catholic churches, we are reminded of this belief as the priest prays as he distributes the Holy Mysteries to the faithful, “The servant of God receives the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and live everlasting. Amen.”

As our churches are now open and our parish families once again gather together on the Lord's Day, let us with fear of God and with faith receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ; let us taste of the Source of Immortality.

## ***Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

*“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”*

To love our enemies in a world like ours seems highly impractical. To love your enemy — some object — is to allow him to take advantage of you. To love your enemy is to let him step all over you.

So we thought, until psychology and psychiatry came along and taught us a few things about hostility and hostile people. Specifically, they told us that a hostile person hates because he fears you will strike him; so, to protect himself, he strikes first. He is hostile because he expects vilification and hatred from you. The last thing he expects is love. So if, instead of hatred, you give him love, you will disarm him. Love is what he craves more than anything else. Love is the only thing that can destroy his hostility.

“Give him the devil!” said someone to a friend who had suffered an injustice at the hands of a third party. The reply he received was truly inspired, “He’s already got the devil. I’d like to give him God.” To love your enemy is to give him God.

But does God expect us to love the sin and the evil people do? Of course not. He expects us to hate the sin but to love the sinner. But isn’t this splitting hairs? How can one distinguish between the sin and the sinner? Yet we make this same distinction every day with ourselves. We do terrible things; we commit egregious errors. We hate the errors we commit, but we continue to love ourselves. Do the same with others, said Jesus. “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Hate the sin; love the sinner. Someone expressed it this way, “To love one’s enemy does not mean to love the mud in which the pearl lies, but to love the pearl that lies in the mud.”

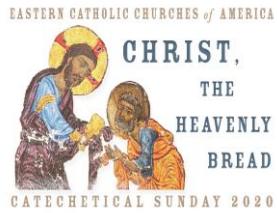


- Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris

*“Conquer men by your gentle kindness, and make zealous men wonder at your goodness. Put the lover of justice to shame by your compassion. With the afflicted be afflicted in mind. Love all men, but keep distant from all men.”*

- St. Isaac the Syrian

## Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha: The Mystery of the Eucharist



**The Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ:** The fact that we receive the actual Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist is the pledge of hope in the resurrection of our bodies: How can [the Gnostic heretics] say that the flesh, which is nourished with the Body of the Lord and with his Blood, goes to corruption, and does not partake of [eternal] life? Let them, therefore, either alter their opinion, or cease from offering the [Gifts] just mentioned. But our opinion is in accordance with the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn establishes our opinion ... Our bodies, when they receive the Eucharist, are no longer corruptible, having the hope of the resurrection to eternity. (#437)

## Saturday Morning of Reflection

Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer will offer a Morning of Reflection on the topic "*Prophetesses of the Old Testament*" on Saturday, October 10 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM with Helenanne Hochendoner. Offering: \$10.00. Registration due: THIS WEEKEND. To register call 724-438-7149 or email [hpmsm@verizon.net](mailto:hpmsm@verizon.net). Mt. St. Macrina is located at 510 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

## Women's Retreat Weekend: "Faith & Religion - Partners in the Dance of Holiness"

The Martina Spiritual Renewal Center (West View, PA), a ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, will host a Women's Retreat Weekend, **October 23-25, 2020**. This weekend will explore the dynamic relationship between Faith, Religion, and Holiness in our lives. It is a time of prayer, reflection, fellowship, and growth - a time to rest and recharge. The retreat begins 8:00 PM Friday and ends with Sunday lunch. The retreat leader is JoAnn Paradise, D.Min., National Catechetical Consultant for *Our Sunday Visitor*. For more information, costs, and to register, visit [www.martinacenter.com](http://www.martinacenter.com)

## October is Respect Life Month

Each October the Church in the United States celebrates **Respect Life Month**, and the **first Sunday of October is observed** as *Respect Life Sunday*. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

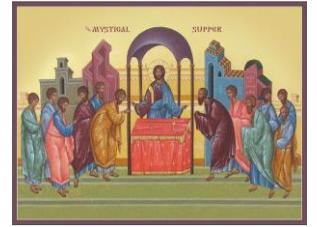
Let us Pray:

- That on this Respect Life Sunday our resolve may be strengthened to uphold the dignity of every human life;

- That during this Respect Life Month our resolve will be strengthened to cherish and protect the gift of every human life; Let us pray to the Lord...

## *Eastern Christian Formation FOR ALL!*

TODAY we are pleased to celebrate an important event in our parish life as we begin our new catechetical year. Special prayers for the Beginning of the ECF year will be included during the Divine Liturgy giving authority to catechists and imploring God's Wisdom upon them, their students, and all parishioners as we embark on our Eastern Christian Formation. Children will meet following Divine Liturgy. Our Sunday reflection and monthly reflection on the Holy Eucharist are published in our bulletin TODAY. Our next First Friday Fellowship will be on November 1, details to follow. And of course our Church Library is available FOR ALL to help in your on-going formation. Please join our youth and enhance your formation this year. More opportunities to come!



## *ECF Reflection*

### *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

#### **GOSPEL: LUKE 6:31-36**

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us with a very personal question about motives. In every moral action of a human being there is a purpose, a motive, which "motivates" us to act. Sadly, in most instances, that motivation is for personal gain. I give someone a loan so as to hope for more in return. I love another because I was first loved by them. I do good to another because the other is doing good to me. I forgive another only if they first ask for forgiveness from me. Such is the world's approach to life - to live my life for personal advancement, and for personal gain.

Today Jesus challenges us to rise above this common approach to our moral actions, by inviting us to become "children of the Most High" and thereby beginning to live and act according to God's way of acting. It is Jesus who is Love Incarnate, and because he is God from all eternity, he needs nothing, he lacks nothing. There is nothing that God's creation can give him that he does not already possess. Hidden within this reality and revelation of the perfect nature of God is a simple but beautifully related truth: that God's love is totally self-less. While the world would like us to believe that we will obtain happiness and fulfillment by the acquisition of things, the Lord challenges this thinking by turning it on its head, and showing us that we—made in the image and likeness of God—will only discover fulfillment and happiness when we learn to give of ourselves for the sake of others. True wealth is not the acquisition of things, but the acquisition of God's way of life.

# 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

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*"We need a revolution of Religious education and formation of our membership to understand their baptismal commitment to be part of the Body of Christ and their role as active evangelizers."*

Bishop Nicholas Samra

