

November 1, 2020  
Twenty Second 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., NOV. 1**      **TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST,**  
**8:30 A.M.**      **DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ **Joseph Jn Baptiste**, requested by Sr. Mary Virginia
- FRI., NOV. 6**      **FIRST FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP, 6:00 P.M.**
- SUN., NOV. 8**      **TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST,**  
**8:30 A.M.**      **ST. MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL and ALL ANGELS HOLY DAY**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
Health & Welfare of Fr. Geoff, requested by Prudy Peya

**Don't be a Swine!**

If there is anyone among us who is wanton, swinish, filth-loving, impure, and willingly contaminated with the abominations of sin, God will permit him to fall into their power and sink into the abyss of damnation. It will never happen that those who love Christ will become subject to them. It will never happen to us as long as we walk in his footsteps, avoid negligence in the performance of what is right, desire those things which are honorable, and belong to that virtuous and praiseworthy lifestyle that Christ has marked out for us by the precepts of the Gospel.

*(St. Cyril of Alexandria)*

**Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:**  
None for the week

**Wedding Anniversaries this Week:**  
November 2: John & Anne Gural

**Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins**

**HOME** – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Josephine Maruhnich, Mary Salamon, John Simunick, Bonnie Taylor

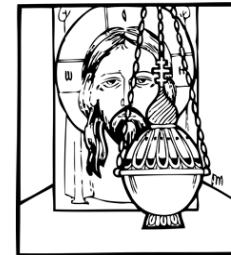
**Hunter's Care Home** (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

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

**Epistle Readers– Nov. 1: Jo Ann Hersh – Nov. 8: Reaghan Cody**

**Ushers– Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders– Nov. 1: F. Hersh – Nov. 8: R. Dzumba**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**

November 1 - 7, 2020

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

+ Natalie Jugan

*(In Loving Memory)*

Offered By:

Isabel & Ed Maruhnich

*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.*

## *November Reflection*

### The Early Church Fathers on the Holy Eucharist

By Fr. Vasyl Chepelskyy

Christ nourishes us with His Body and Blood in the Holy Mystery of the Eucharist, helping us to mature in His image and grow in His likeness (cf. John, 6:51-58, Luke, 22:19-20, Mark, 14:22-25, Matthew, 26:26-29). The Greek word *eucharistia* means “thanksgiving.” There are countless references of the Early Church Fathers to this Sacrament.



“It is called Mystery, because what we believe is not the same as what we see; one thing we see and another we believe. For such is the nature of mysteries.” – *St. John Chrysostom*

“I have no taste for corruptible food nor for the pleasures of this life. I desire the bread of God, which is the flesh of Jesus Christ, who was of the seed of David; and for drink I desire His blood, which is love incorruptible.” – *St. Ignatius of Antioch*

“What seems bread is not bread, though by bread taste; but the Body of Christ. What seems wine is not wine, though the taste will have it so; but the blood of Christ.”

– *St. Cyril of Jerusalem*

“In this very Sacrament, our people are shown to be one. Just as many grains, collected and ground and mixed together, make one bread, so in Christ, who is heavenly bread, we may know that there is one body, with which our number is joined and united.”

– *St. Cyprian of Carthage*

“In our fragmented lives, the Lord comes to meet us with a loving ‘fragility,’ which is the Eucharist,” says Pope Francis, calling it “the memorial of God’s love.” “The Eucharist encourages us, even on the roughest road, we are not alone; the Lord does not forget us and whenever we turn to him, he restores us with his love,” – states the Holy Father.

The Eucharist is the source of Christian life. It is the real presence of Christ, who comes to our hearts and lives and dwells within us each time we receive this Holy Mystery. Eucharist brings wholeness to our fragmented lives, it heals and restores us. It connects us with God in a very intimate and profound way.

In today’s society where we are always in a rush and have so much going on and where it is hard to stop and reflect let us find moments to be thankful to God for His gifts and love for us. Let us especially be thankful to Him for His gift of Himself in this Holy Mystery. May our whole lives become thanksgiving and may God continue to guide us on the way of our lives.

## *Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so He got into the boat and returned.*



In today’s Gospel reading we heard how the Lord cleansed a man possessed by a legion of demons, casting the evil spirits into a herd of swine, which ran violently down a steep place into the sea and drowned. Today let’s focus our attention on the strange and almost puzzling reaction of the Gadarene people: for they were overcome with great fear and asked Our Lord to depart from their region even though He had worked such a great wonder.

The Gadarenes were a Gentile people, they were pagans, and they lived a lifestyle in accordance with their beliefs. They were a people enslaved to the devil, bound not so much by direct possession, as in the case of the man who dwelt in the tombs, no, instead they were bound indirectly through the passions, as one’s who passed their lives in hedonism and worldly cares. And what is more they were used to this lifestyle, it had become habitual, addictive, and it even enslaved them. They saw in Jesus of Nazareth a threat. They saw that He was a person of great power, a Man of God, and that He had come to cast out their demons and to change their lives. The only problem was that they didn’t want change, they were quite happy with their lives just the way they were. And because of this, they asked Jesus to depart from them. They preferred slavery to freedom, sin to godliness, earth to heaven, and death to life.

Now it’s easy to point the finger and to say how foolish they were, but if we think about it, don’t we often resemble the Gadarenes ourselves? How often do we refuse to allow Christ to exorcise our demons and cleanse us from our passions because we’re afraid to lose those things which we care about, those things which make us happy, and those things which we’ve become used to, whether they are good, bad, or neutral? Let us not be unwise, like the Gadarenes. But instead let us live a life of repentance, setting our minds and hearts on God rather than the perishable things of this world. Let us ask Christ to cleanse us from our passions and to cast out our demons through prayer, fasting, and the Mystery-Sacrament of Holy Confession.

### First Friday Fellowship

#### **PREPARING FOR THE NATIVITY FAST**

Lead by Father Geoff

**First Friday Fellowship**

**Friday, November 6**

**6:00 P.M.**



## *ECF Reflection:*

### *Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost*

Around 2,400 years ago an elderly and respected man stood trial for his life. When he was about to be condemned to death, he said something that has remained with us even today. That man was the Greek philosopher Socrates and in that most important moment he stated before his judges, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” In other words, one who goes about life without considering what he does, why he does it, where his life is heading, and how he might improve himself, is not really living.

In this we are reminded that there are two types of “life” that we can speak about – bodily life and spiritual life. It is very possible to be alive in the body and dead in the spirit. It is also possible to die in the body and be alive in the spirit.

In the Gospel text today we learn of Jesus’ journeys “to the other side of the sea” where He meets one who is in every way like the “living” dead. There Jesus confronts “life” apart from God – which is described in the most horrific terms, the “life” of the demons – and drives it out of the man and into the sea.

While the story of the demoniac may seem to be an extreme example, it helps us see what life apart from God looks like in its ultimate end.

Jesus, who is God, comes to us in our sin (the demoniac), under the dominion of the devil and “living in the tombs.” Notice that Jesus does not wait for us to come to Him, but in the Mystery of the Incarnation, He takes on our human nature, and He Himself enters into our life as He entered the land of the Gerasenes – and there He comes to heal us, and “raise us up” that we may no longer be under the dominion of death but under the dominion of life.

Just like the demoniac, we who have received this gift of new life in Christ Jesus are called to live accordingly.

Does the demoniac go back to live in the tombs? No! His life has changed! He is no longer living in death but in the light of Christ.

The Gospel concludes by telling us that the man from whom the demons had gone **begged that he might be with Jesus**; but Jesus sent him away, saying “return to your home, and declare what God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city everything that Jesus had done for him.

The story of this healing should remind us that our heart must be centered upon Christ. He has given us newness of life and this new life must be shared with others.

When was the last time we “proclaimed throughout the whole city how much Jesus has done for us?” (*Continued on next page*)

When is the last time we intentionally brought Christ into a conversation in our homes and with our friends? When is the last time we invited someone to come to Church with us?

We have received a new life in baptism – but are we living it? Or are we still living in the tombs? Do we prefer the friendship of the devil over the friendship of Christ?

“The unexamined life is not worth living.”

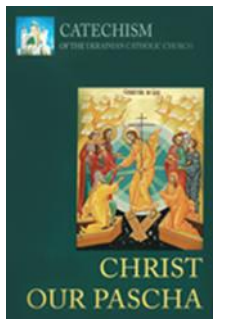
#### **PRACTICAL QUESTIONS:**

1. What are some characteristics of “life” apart from God?
2. What are some things you can point to that make your life different as a Christian?
3. What are some things Jesus has “done for you”?
4. What are some ways that we can “proclaim” to the world what Jesus has done for us?
5. What are some good ways that we can “examine” our lives?

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

***Consecration of the Gifts:*** Christ institutes the Eucharist, making bread and wine to be his Body and Blood, in order to transfigure—by the Holy Spirit—those who communicate. They become “of one body and blood with Him.” Saint John Chrysostom comments on the following words of the apostle Paul: “Because there is one bread [of which we partake], we who are many are one body” (1 Cor 10:17). He juxtaposes the consecration of the Gifts with the transformation of those who communicate in them: “For what is the bread?—the Body of Christ. And what do they become who partake of it? The Body of Christ: not many bodies, but one body.” (#439)



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*In this world, a man must solve a problem: to be with Christ, or to be against Him. And every man decides this, whether he wants to or not. He will either be a lover of Christ or a fighter of Christ. There is no third option.*

- St. Justin Popovic

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#### **Sanctuary Candles for 2021**

The 2021 weekly sanctuary candle intentions sign-up is available in the Narthex for you to sponsor with your intention in memory of a deceased loved one or for the health and well-being of a friend or loved one.

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

# 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  
 St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club ..... Everyone welcome to participate



*Our Byzantine Catholic Faith is Life Itself*