

November 22, 2020  
Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
Post-Festive Day of the Entrance of the Theotokos



**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. 22**      **TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST,**  
8:30 A.M.      **POST-FESTIVE DAY of the ENTRANCE of the THEOTOKOS**  
                 **DIVINE LITURGY**  
                 + **Stephen Fetkovich**, requested by son, Erik Fetkovich
- SUN., NOV. 29**      **TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**  
8:30 A.M.      **DIVINE LITURGY**  
                 + **Susan Zimmerman**, requested by granddaughters Ella and Serafina

**Eternal Memory**

We offer prayer for parishioner Rose Valiga who fell asleep in the Lord Sunday November 15. In blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to the soul of Your departed servant Rose and remember her forever! *Vičnaja jej pamjat'*

We offer prayerful condolences to parishioners Darlene and John Simunick on the death of Darlene's mother, parishioner Alice Haber who fell asleep in the Lord Tuesday, November 17. In blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to the soul of Your departed servant Alice and remember her forever! *Vičnaja jej pamjat'*

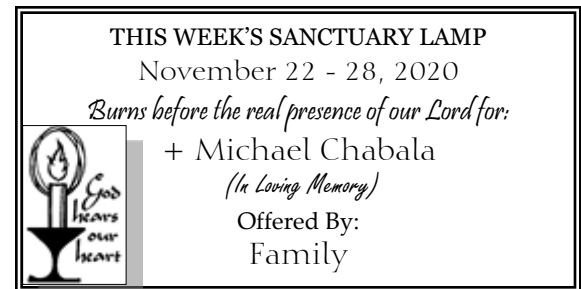
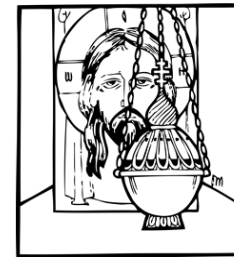
**Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:**  
November 22: Francis Hersh (Jr.), November 26: Bonnie Taylor

**Wedding Anniversaries this Week:**  
None for the week

**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

**Epistle Readers - Nov. 22: JoAnn Hersh – Nov. 29: Prudy Peya**  
**Ushers– Stand in as needed**  
**Troica Holders – Nov. 22: M. Bobanic – Nov. 29: J. Yurosky**

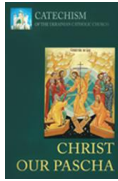


*Your regular attendance and sacrificial offerings benefit the overall welfare of our Parish*



***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: The Mystery of the Eucharist



**The Eucharistic Offering:** In the Eucharist, Christ offers us participation in his life, a life both divine and human (i.e., theandric). He does this out of merciful love, not because of our merits. The highest expression of this love is Christ's sacrifice in blood on Golgotha, the memorial of which is the bloodless sacrifice—the Eucharist. “You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish” (1 Pt 1:18-19). (#442)

**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.

**Christmas Altar Candles** - A sign-up sheet is now available to donate altar candles for Christmas in memory of a deceased loved one or friend or for the health and well-being of a loved one or friend.

**HOLIDAY CASH RAFFLE TO BENEFIT SEMINARY** - Although the annual St. Nicholas Celebration to benefit the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril & Methodius has been canceled this year, several fundraisers have been planned to assist the seminary. One of these is the annual **Holiday Cash Raffle** with a **Cash Prize of \$2,000**. Each parish has received 17 tickets to sell at \$10.00 apiece. Please see Father Geoffrey after the Divine Liturgy if you would like to buy a ticket.

**MATCHING GIFTS FOR SEMINARY** - The Greek Catholic Union Board of Directors has authorized a **Matching Funds Campaign** through December 6, 2020. The GCU will match total donations to the Seminary of Ss. Cyril & Methodius up to \$10,000 during this campaign. Those who wish to donate may do so online at [www.GCUusa.com](http://www.GCUusa.com). If you would prefer to mail in a donation, checks should be made out to: St. Nicholas Charity Dinner and sent to: GCU St. Nicholas Virtualthon, 5400 Tuscarawas Rd., Beaver, PA 15009.

### Nativity Fast Nov.15 - Dec.24

*"But you", He said, "Who do you say that I am?" Then Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Christ," he said, "the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:15-16.*

"Who do you say that I am?" Was there ever such a penetrating question? Our answer to this question reveals not only who we think Christ is, but also who we are. Many of those who first heard Jesus ask this question were men and women of the Law. This is why they thought Jesus only a prophet. But Simon Peter could truly see Jesus for Who He Is. In his answer Peter revealed himself to be a man of God. What of our answers to the question of Jesus? What do our answers say about us? Are we men filled with the Holy Spirit? One of the most ancient titles Christians give themselves was "Christ-bearers." From the very first we have been aware that we are called "to bear the mysteries of God," to bear Christ to the world. As we prepare to greet Christ in His Nativity and His Baptism in the Jordan, we should look to our life. Do we bear Christ in all of our life, or only in those parts of our life we consider "religious" or "spiritual"? May our life during this season bear witness to the reality that "Christ is among us!" May our life answer that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God."



*To worthily meet our Lord and Savior, we should sanctify this pre-Nativity season of the Philippian Fast. Sanctifying means spending our time in faith and in the service of God and in kindness towards our neighbor, especially those who are in need of our assistance. And we should think of what we would have been had Christ not come to our lowliness and poverty. Together with the whole of the Byzantine Church we should try to meet Christ as he deserves to be met and as it will, in His mercy, best serve our spiritual benefit!*

### Parish Almsgiving Collection

The annual Parish Advent Almsgiving collection will be November 15 through December 15. We are collecting non-perishable food for the local food bank. A donation box is in the narthex. *Thank you!*



### **Church mice**

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### Thanksgiving Day, November 26

Since the time of the American Revolution various states, the Continental Congress and later the federal government have declared national days of thanksgiving. Since the time of Abraham Lincoln it has become customary to observe an annual Thanksgiving Day at the end of November. The current date, the fourth Thursday in November, was set in 1941.



The principal reason cited for proclaiming the first national day of thanksgiving was because “it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor” (*Pres. George Washington, 1789*).

Specific blessings mentioned by various Presidents over the years include the “opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness” (1789), the treaty ending the War of 1812, and the maintenance of the Union despite the Civil War (1863).

President Lincoln affirmed in very Biblical language that God is the source of any blessings we enjoy: “No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.”

Lincoln then added two dimensions to the observance: **repentance** and **intercession**. He asked that Americans “...also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.”

~ In the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, let us ask forgiveness for any signs of “our national perverseness and disobedience” which come to mind and pray also for those who have suffered as a result in the past year.

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### Every Divine Liturgy is at Heart a Service of Thanksgiving

This is particularly expressed at the beginning of the anaphora when the priest prays: “Out of nothing You brought us into being, and when we had fallen, raised us up again; and You have left nothing undone until You brought us to Heaven and graciously gave us Your future Kingdom. For all these things, we thank You and Your Only-Begotten Son and Your Holy Spirit: for all these blessings, known and unknown, manifest and hidden, that were lavished upon us. We thank You also for this Liturgy which You are pleased to accept from our hands, though there stand before You thousands of archangels and myriads of angels...”

## *ECF Reflection: Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

**GOSPEL: LUKE 12: 16 - 22**

### “Rich as regards the things of God”

In the church today we hear proclaimed the famous parable of the foolish rich man who concerned himself with earthly wealth while ignoring what true riches really are. While it is easy to divide the concept of “earthly” riches from “heavenly” ones, disparaging the former and elevating the latter, this is ultimately a superficial reading of this text.

In reconciling man to God in himself, he also reconciled all things which God had placed under man’s dominion in the beginning, namely, the entire created order. There is nothing that Jesus has not redeemed in himself, and that includes so-called “earthly” riches. All things have become subject to God in Christ Jesus. No, the problem with the foolish rich man is not that he is wealthy, but that he has chosen to use that wealth for his own aggrandizement and security rather than using it to glorify God.

Ultimately, the problem with the foolish rich man is that he has rejected his calling as a “citizen” of God’s kingdom—rejected his calling to be a “temple holy to the Lord”—and rather than gifting his life to God he has attempted to make a life for himself away from God. He has rejected or forgotten his calling to be, in terms of the Gospel, a holy “barn” for the Lord, opening himself up to be filled with God’s gifts. This foolish man has allowed God’s Word and his Spirit to remain outside of him and instead has busied himself with building “barns” in his heart for his own wealth and glory. Only when a man’s earthly life finds its true purpose and fulfillment in divine life can his earthly life be transformed and become a vehicle to find authentic happiness.

### **PRACTICAL QUESTIONS:**

1. In the Gospel account, what is the rich man’s barn supposed to represent?
2. What kinds of earthly “barns” have we built in our own life?
3. How do we make ourselves into a “temple holy to the Lord” rather than an earthly “barn.”
4. If we choose to be temples of God, what kinds of things do we look to fill our life with and what kinds of things should we avoid filling our life with?

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**What and where is your treasure?** – It is true that a man’s life does not come from his possessions or from have an overabundance of them. He is who is rich toward God is very blessed and has glorious hope. Who is he? Evidently, one who does not love wealth but instead loves virtue, and to whom few things are sufficient (see Luke 10:42). It is one whose hand is open to the needs of those in poverty, according to his means and the utmost of his ability. He gathers in the storehouses that are above and lays up treasures in heaven. Such a man will find the interest of his virtue and the reward of his right and blameless life. (*St. Cyril of Alexandria*)

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



*O Christ the Savior, incarnate Son of the Eternal God, come to us and save us!*