

May 9, 2021
Sunday of the Man Born Blind, Mother's Day



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

Proprs for this Sunday: pp. 189 - 191

Divine Services for the Week:

- SUN., MAY 9
8:30 A.M.
SUNDAY of the MAN BORN BLIND, Mother's Day
DIVINE LITURGY, Mother's Day Breakfast
+ For our deceased Mothers, Grandmothers, and Godmothers
- WED., MAY 12
6:00 P.M.
THE ASCENSION of our LORD GOD and SAVIOR, Anticipated
VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY
- SUN., MAY 16
8:30 A.M.
SUNDAY of the FATHERS of the FIRST NICAEAN COUNCIL
DIVINE LITURGY
+ Gordon Jn Baptiste, requested by Cathy Parch



Mother's Day Breakfast Today

The Men's Club will be serving a Mother's Day Breakfast following today's Divine Liturgy in honor of all mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, spiritual mothers, and all who portray a motherly role. **Everyone attending today is invited to stay for the breakfast.**

Christ is Risen! ~ Indeed He is Risen!

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

May 10: Marion Yurosky, May 11: Mary Ann Jugan.
May 13: Marge Raychevich, May 15: Daniel Zimmerman

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

May 12: John & Sandra Poiarkoff

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, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

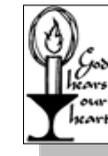
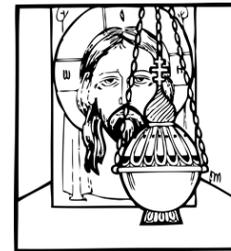
Hunter's Care Home (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

Beaver Elder Care (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Josephine Maruhnich

Epistle Readers – May 9: Louisa Hersh – May 16: Prudy Peya

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – May 9: R. Mudron – May16: J. Yurosky



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

May 9 - 15, 2021

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:
+ Michael & Mary Chapes
(In loving memory)
Offered By:
Son, Michael Chapes

A Blessing for Mother's Day

Father, we give you thanks for the many gifts you have given us; the gift of life, the gift of those who love us. We thank you today for the gift of our Mothers. We give thanks for our Mothers who have died and for the unique way they have revealed for us your love. We ask that you bless them and keep them in your care until the time comes for us to join them in your Kingdom. We ask your Blessing upon the Mothers who are unable to be with us here today. May they know how much we love and care for them. We pray for birth mothers who have loved their children so much they have shared the gift of their child with those who could better care for them and their needs, and give them a secure home. And we pray for adoptive mothers, that they may always know their special role of being a true mother, a revelation of God's love for their children. We ask your blessing upon Mothers who have lost children through stillbirth, crib death, accident and tragedy, war and violence that they may have your continuing strength and courage. We ask your blessing too, upon those who would very much like to be Mothers but who are having trouble having a child. We ask your Blessing upon the Mothers standing before us here. Give them the strength to live the faithful and loving lives you call them to live. Protect and guide them. Keep them in your care.

We ask this Blessing in the name of Jesus, our Lord. AMEN.

It's St. George Flea Market Time!



Our Flea Market, Haluski and Bake Sale will return this summer here at St. George Church, tentative dates: June 26 - 27. We are in need of new donations. Consider donating items you no longer need to our Flea Market, no clothing please. Items can be brought to the Center every Saturday from 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. or any time you are here. Ask family and friends to consider donating items to our Flea Market. Your help with this event will be greatly appreciated. *Thank you!*

Donations Needed:
Ask family, friends, and Facebook friends if they can donate to our Flea Market!

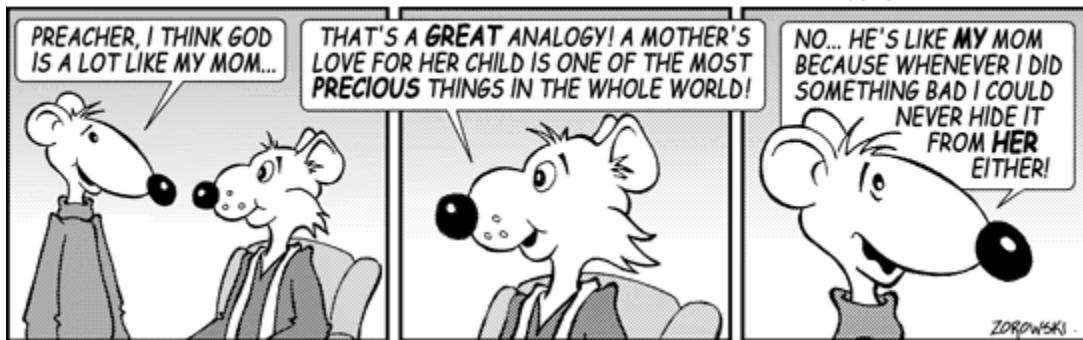
Holy Rosary to be Recited - The Holy Rosary will be recited at the "Grotto" of Our Lady of Lourdes located at the St. Anthony Center in West Aliquippa on **Sunday, May 16 at 3:00 P.M.**, led by Deacon Tony Giordano. Everyone is welcome to join the St. Anthony Congregation in honoring the Blessed Mother. Everyone is welcome to join the St. Anthony congregation in honoring our Blessed Mother. For further information please call 724-622-8445.

Blessing of Graves - We will have the Blessing of Graves at Mt. Olivet Cemetery on **Sunday May 30**, time to be determined. We will gather at the Cross at the main entrance of the cemetery for a Panachida Service then proceed to bless the graves of our deceased loved ones. Come and pray for your deceased family members.

The Holy Spirit reminds us" not to reject the traditions of our elders, which they have learned from their fathers" (Sirach 8:9).

Church Mice

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God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers

A Note from Father Geoff

Christ is risen!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, in the secular calendar, we celebrate Mother's Day. With great honor and love, we remember all of the ways that the mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and spiritual mothers in our lives have guided, influenced, and sacrificed for us. We remember those who have died, and pray that God's will for them would be fulfilled. And we pray for those who are still with us, that God would grant them life, health, salvation, and many blessed years! We would also do well to remember in prayer those who grew up without a mother, and those who have complicated or difficult relationships with their mothers.

Of course, as Catholic Christians, we have that great example of motherhood which is provided in the Theotokos. She, without stain, bore God the Word in her womb and her whole life was directed toward the Lord.

I am reminded, too, of Eunice and Lois. In St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy, he writes, *"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you."* (2 Tim. 2.5) Here we see how the faith and devotion of two generations of women resulted in the faith and vocation of St. Timothy as a bishop and pastor of the early Church.

One other very touching passage of Scripture I would encourage you to read is from the beginning of the Book of Ruth. When Naomi's husband and two sons have passed away and one daughter-in-law has gone home to her own people, Naomi's daughter-in-law Ruth movingly clings to her with the words, *"Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people; and your God my God."* (The whole story of Ruth is only four short chapters.)

Even our Lord Jesus himself used a maternal image to explain his own deep love and care for his people: *"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing."* (Matthew 23.37)

So today, as we celebrate motherhood, we give thanks for the women in our lives who have been our mothers and grandmothers and those who have been *like* mothers to us. May God bless them with his grace and mercy; may they be given strength and wisdom; and by their loving words and deeds, may we all be brought closer to our God, who longs to gather us up under the shelter of his wings.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Geoff

Sunday of the Man Born Blind

Today the Church celebrates the Sunday of the Healing of the Blind Man. This man, who had been “born blind,” encountered Jesus when the Lord was leaving the Temple in Jerusalem. The man was, apparently, begging for money or food at the gate of the Temple and when Jesus spoke to him he listened and was obedient to the Lord’s command. Unlike the other figures in the Gospel account, this man alone had never seen the miraculous works of Christ, and yet, trusted in his word. We too, who have “not seen and yet believe” trust in the word of the Lord and follow in his ways. In this way, we, who were formerly blinded by sin, have begun to see through faith.



But, how do we trust in the Lord and follow in his ways? In the Epistle today, we are reminded on the conversion of Saul who, blinded by anger and his persecution of the Church, discovers that he is persecuting Christ himself and is called to join in the healing ministry of the Lord. We too, those who have been baptized into Christ and have received the vision of faith, are called to do “work[s] befitting [our] repentance.”

And what are those works which we are called to do if not to follow in the ways of Christ and Saint Paul, to bring healing to those who are spiritually blind through ignorance of Christ? To help those to whom God has called us to minister “to open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the dominion of Satan to God; that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by faith in me.”

Touched by Divine Light

St. Ambrose of Milan teaches that the blind man touched by Jesus received more than just his sight. In one instant we see both the power of his divinity and the strength of his holiness. As the divine light, he touched this man and enlightened him. As priest, by an action symbolizing baptism he wrought in him his work of redemption. The only reason for his mixing clay with the saliva and smearing it on the eyes of the blind man was to remind you that he who restored the man to health by anointing his eyes with clay is the very one who fashioned the first man out of clay, and that this clay that is our flesh can receive the light of eternal life through the sacrament of baptism.

You, too, should come to Siloam, that is, to him who was sent by the Father, as he says in the Gospel: “*My teaching is not my own; it comes from him who sent me.*” Let Christ wash you, and then you will see.

Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese Voistinu Voskrese!

The Ascension of Our Lord

On the fortieth day after His Passover, Jesus ascended into heaven to be glorified with God the Father, Who had sent Him into the world to accomplish the work the Father gave Him to do. In the Ascension resides the meaning and fullness of Christ’s Resurrection.

Having destroyed the power of death, the Lord now leaves us in order to glorify us with Himself, to “prepare a place” for us and to take us into the blessedness of God’s presence in the “heavenly sanctuary ... the Holy Place not made by hands”. He goes in order to send the Holy Spirit to bear witness to Him and His gospel in the world, making Him powerfully present in the lives of disciples.



Feast of the Ascension

This Thursday, May 13, is the feast of the Glorious Ascension into Heaven of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ. **It is a holy day of precept (obligation) for all Byzantine Catholics.** To commemorate this Feast we will have a Vespertal Divine Liturgy on **Wednesday, May 12 at 6:00 PM.**

Be Lifted Up!

The Ascension of Christ is our elevation. Hope for the body is also invited where the glory of the Head precedes us. Let us exult, dearly beloved, with worthy joy and be glad with a holy thanksgiving. Today we not only are established as possessors of paradise, but we have even penetrated the heights of the heavens in Christ. (*St Leo the Great, Sermon 73*)

The Leave-taking of Pascha

Wednesday is the last day of Pascha for Christians of the Byzantine tradition. After Wednesday's end, we cease chanting the Paschal hymns. The canon, the stichera, even the ubiquitous tropar: Christ is Risen... all come to an end. It is the last day to rejoice in the pure Paschal joy in the presence of the Risen Lord before his Ascension. For the next nine days there is a kind of silence hovering over the Church's liturgy. There is still a certain Paschal joy and expectation for Pentecost; for example we still do not kneel...but there is an air of waiting, of not quite full Paschal joy... **But for today, sing your heart out! It is the last chance till next year.**

**Christ is Risen! ~ Indeed He is Risen!
Christos Voskrese! ~ Voistinu Voskrese!**

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

PASTOR: FATHER GEOFFREY MACKEY

Fr. Geoffrey's Direct Line: (412) 356-3698

Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238

OFFICE PHONE: 724-375-2742

FAX: 724-375-8776

ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652

PARISH EMAIL: stgbyz@gmail.com

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org



Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik 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

You are a shining light to those in darkness!