

June 6, 2021
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 Viki!

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 1: pp. 125 - 127

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JUNE 6
8:30 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST
DIVINE LITURGY
+ Sr. Rose Elizabeth, requested by James Mudron

SUN., JUNE 13
8:30 A.M.

THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST
DIVINE LITURGY, Blessing of graduates
For our graduates

Some May Wonder



Peter and Andrew scarcely had any possessions. Just how much did they leave behind when the Lord called them to follow him? On this point we should look at their actions rather than at the level of their wealth. A man who has little and gives up everything to follow the Lord leaves behind a lot. Peter and Andrew left behind a lot. Yes, they left behind their meager material possessions (and for them that was a lot). But they also left behind something more – the very desire to own (which can lead to extreme greed, which is called covetousness). **What will you leave behind to follow Christ? Are you attached to Christ or your stuff? Choose one.**

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

June 5: John Dzumba

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

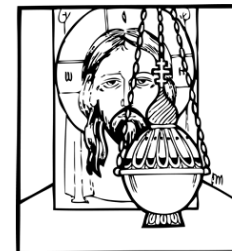
HOME – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

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

Epistle Readers – June 6: Reaghan Cody – June 13: Louisa Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – June 6: Louisa Hersh – June 13: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

June 6 - 12, 2021

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Mother, Mary Polas

(In loving memory)

Offered By:

Daughter, Betty

Remember the words of Our Savior: "I shall be with you all days." It is in Jesus' continuing presence that we find the courage to follow Him. Are we making the daily effort to realize that presence with us?

Sorting and pricing Flea Market items beginning Monday, June 21 and continuing daily until finished. Come anytime you can!

Come and help!

The People of God have different gifts, roles and responsibilities, yet all are under one head, Christ Jesus – sisters and brothers in Him.

St. George Flea Market Fundraiser – June 25 & 26

Our Flea Market, Haluski and Bake Sale is returning here at St. George Church, on June 25 - 26. Thank you for your donations so far and please keep them coming! **We will also need plenty of advertising for this event. We will need signs in the community, ads in the paper, notices on Facebook, flyers on community bulletin boards or at your place of employment, etc. Yard signs are now available, please take some and place them in your neighborhood and at nearby intersections. Any of these you can help with will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!**

Flyers and yard signs are available in the narthex and Center. Please take some to help advertise.

Blessing of Graduates Next Sunday - There will be a blessing of Graduates next **Sunday, June 13**, following Divine Liturgy. If there are any in our Church family who graduated from High School or College this year, please inform the Church at stgbyz@gmail.com so they can be included. Graduates who should have had a blessing last year should also plan on receiving a blessing and contact the Church as well. ***A cake and beverages will be served in the Center following to celebrate. Please stay and join us!***

Father's Day Breakfast, June 20 - On **Sunday, June 20**, following the 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy, the Ladies Guild will be serving a Father's Day Breakfast. We will come together as a Church family in honor of all Fathers, Grandfathers, Great-grandfathers, Godfathers, Spiritual Fathers, and all who portray a fatherly role in our lives. **Everyone is invited!**



Summer Reading - We have many books and resources for you to borrow this summer from our Church Library. We have **NEW TITLES** in! **Check out our many titles and resources and relax with a good book!**

A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE - Although it is still uncertain if the actual celebration can be held this year on September 12th, the Archeparchy is hoping to celebrate and honor those couples who are celebrating significant wedding anniversaries this year. If during 2021 you have or will be celebrating your **10th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, or 50th anniversary (or any anniversary over 50 that are multiples of 5)**, we would like to include you. If you would like your family included, please place your information on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

The Fathers on Scripture: *The Kingdom of Heaven has no price tag on it; it is worth as much as you have. For Zacchaeus, it was worth half of what he owned, because the other half he had unjustly pocketed he promised to restore fourfold. For Peter and Andrew, it was worth the nets and vessel they had left behind; for the widow it was worth two copper coins; for another it was worth a cup of cold water. So as we said, the Kingdom of Heaven is worth as much as you have.*

(St. Gregory the Dialogist, Forty Gospel Homilies 5.2)

A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the Epistle for this morning, St. Paul is writing to the young church gathered in Rome. Although St. Paul was an itinerant Apostle, he had not yet been to the great City of Rome and when he finally would get there (after his Letter was written), it would be to meet his martyrdom.

But although he had not yet visited the Christians in Rome, he knew of them by reputation. Just two verses before our reading this morning starts, he says, *"I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world."* (Rom. 1.8) Then our reading describes St. Paul's great desire to join them and be in fellowship with them.

He writes, *"For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you -- or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine."* (Rom. 1.11-12)

What a beautiful image of Christian faithfulness lived in fellowship. To be mutually encouraged by each other's faith is what we are all called to do. In another of St. Paul's letters, he put it this way: "Encourage one another and build each other up." (1 Thess. 5.11)

And in Philippians he says, *"Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."* (Phil. 2.4) He then links this behavior explicitly to the way that Christ has behaved toward us. (I encourage you to read all of Philippians chapter 2. It is edifying!)

Brothers and sisters, I am gratified to see our parish at its best when we build each other up and seek the good of one another. *"Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell together in unity,"* as the Psalmist put it. (Ps. 132) Let us continue to ask the grace of God to be servants to one another and build each other up.

May the divine humility of Christ so transform our hearts and our minds - and indeed our whole parish - that the world may see us and know that we are truly Christians, truly disciples of Jesus, by our love. (John 13.35)

Yours in Christ's Love,

Fr. Geoff

Second Sunday after Pentecost Reflection

In his letter to the church in Rome, St. Paul teaches that God will bestow His blessings upon the Jews who do good works and fulfill the Law of Moses. For St. Paul, those who do not know the Law and have never heard the Commandments will be rewarded according to how they follow their conscience. The Gentiles fulfill the law according to natural reasoning by following their conscience. God's will is written into the human heart, speaking to us through our conscience and reason. Both Jews and gentiles (the non-Jews) can taste Paradise. For us Christians, who know the Gospel and have heard the Lord's call to turn away from sin, to love God and our neighbor, our burden is twofold. We must be obedient to the word of God as well as to our conscience and reason. Through harmony between our conscience, the Lord's commands, and our words and actions, God will bestow upon us his glory, honor, and peace.



We are not meant to hear the Gospel with our ears only, but to hear with faith and obedience. With faith and obedience, Jesus calls us to follow him with our whole lives. The Gospel presents the faith and obedience of these four Apostles when they are first called. They have a difficult but pleasant life, fishing on the Sea of Galilee with their family and friends. But, Jesus calls them to leave their old life behind, to come and follow Him. They trust that the Lord will lead them to a better life. And so, by faith, they leave everything behind and immediately follow. When they leave their nets and boat, they leave trusting the Lord, but not knowing what lies ahead. They do not know, at the time, that they will be filled with wisdom and the Holy Spirit and that their lives will be an offering for the Salvation of the whole world. If the Lord is calling us to follow Him, to leave behind our old life, we may not see where we will end up. But, through faith today and hope for tomorrow, we too can leave our nets behind and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. If we follow His call, we will have life in abundance, beyond anything we could achieve on our own.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

1. How is God calling you to “come follow” Him in your life?
2. What “nets and vessel” must you leave behind to be obedient to God’s call in your life?
3. What keeps you from following the Lord? Is it worth it?

The Fathers on Scripture: *But note, both their faith and their obedience. For though they were in the midst of their work (and you know how time-consuming a chore fishing is), when they heard his command they did not delay or procrastinate. They did not say, “Let us return home and talk things over with our family.” Instead, they “left everything behind” and followed,” even as Elisha did when he followed Elijah. For Christ seeks this kind of obedience from us, such that we delay not even for a moment, though something absolutely most necessary should vehemently press in on us.*

(St. John Chrysostom, The Gospel of Matthew, Homily 14.2)

Go to Church, say your prayers, remember God.

June Reflection The Domestic Church

By Deacon Thomas A. Moses

The Greek word for “church” is ekklesia meaning “to call out” or “to be called together.” So, the “church” is the assembly of believers “called together,” “called out” of unbelief, darkness, and sin into the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. In particular, the church is “called together” through the Eucharist. The family or the “domestic church,” is called together in the home and is a microcosm of the “church,” a “mini-church.” As Christ is present among us at every Divine Liturgy, so Christ is present among us in our homes every other day of the week.

What signs of the presence of Christ do we have in our homes, in the “domestic church?” First, selfless love, humility, and mutual submission for the good of one another is an essential sign of the Lord’s presence among us. Second, physical signs of the presence of Christ in our homes allow us to remember that Christ is among us. Set aside a particular corner, in a room that the whole family frequently gathers, preferably a corner facing toward the East. Place in the corner a few icons: of Christ, the Theotokos and a patron saint of the family. The icons remind us of the presence of Christ, and all the saints, in our home. A candle, frequently lit for prayer (or if the family is attentive and full of care, an oil lamp often burning or always burning) is a sign of the light of Christ, the light of the commandments, shining within the heart of the family. Keep a Bible and prayer ropes, accessible and frequently used, to allow the family to grow spiritually in the home together. Third, Christ’s presence is safeguarded by developing strict and consistent rules about television, video games, computers, and cell phones, according to the needs and zeal of the family. For example, leave televisions, laptops and cell phones out of bedrooms and limit their use to particular rooms in the house, to be used only at certain times. This will prevent the “domestic church” from fracturing into an assembly of isolated individuals. Finally, Christ is made present in sharing meals together each day, having begun each family meal with the appropriate prayers.

Our homes, our families called together, the Domestic Church, can and should be a mini “Garden of Eden,” a mini Paradise, where our families walk together with God “in the cool of day” (Gen. 3:8), where we frequently remember together that Christ is present and dwelling among us.



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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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

“Every time the Gospel is preached, I see no one else but Peter or Andrew and the whole choir of Apostles spread out the Evangelical Net” (or the Net of the Gospel).

St. John Chrysostom

