

June 13, 2021
Third 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 2: pp. 130 - 132

Divine Services for the Week:

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

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

SUN., JUNE 20
8:30 A.M.

FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, Father's Day
DIVINE LITURGY, *Father's Day Breakfast*
Our Living and + Deceased Fathers

Update on COVID and Communion from Fr. Geoff

While the coronavirus continues to make some news, the reported numbers both across the country and in Pennsylvania are continuing to decline, for which we give thanks to Almighty God. Although we, as a parish, never enforced mask wearing, I did encourage folks to be careful and considerate of others. Now, with the new CDC and state health department guidance that came out last month, things are beginning to return to normal. This will mean some changes here in the parish. First, we will return to the traditional method of distributing Communion: one spoon to distribute the Holy Eucharist to all parishioners. Second, we will be removing the ropes which were intended to keep folks socially distanced. We will not be enforcing social distancing. However, please be sensitive to any fellow parishioners who wish to continue to do so. Lastly, I continue to encourage those who are unvaccinated to wear masks. Whatever you decide to do or not to do, let us show Christian charity and consideration to each other. Many thanks for all of your attention to COVID protocols over the past year. May God bless, keep, and preserve us all for his glory!

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

June 13: Dwight Dickey, June 14: Michael Bobanic, June 16: Gretchen David

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

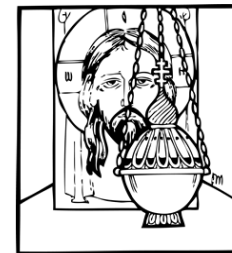
HOME – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

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

Epistle Readers – June 13: Louisa Hersh – June 20: JoAnn Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – June 13: R. Mudron – June 20: M. Bobanic



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

June 13 - 19, 2021

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Philomena Rossi

(In loving memory)

Offered By:

Butch & Judy Dzumba

A great story of lilies in a field and birds in the air. These images come from a big question: What do you serve? God or money?

If you put God first you say things like – A day at a time; things can work out; the glass is always half-full; live for the moment; God never forgets you.

Our meditation, often just sitting there, letting things pass, enjoying the moment leads to prayer. It is relaxing into the mystery of being loved by God. Then the reason for prayer and everything in the gospel is to serve God.

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

Come and help!

St. George Church



Haluski Sale, Bake Sale
(Homemade Potato Dumpling)

June 25 & 26

9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

1001 Clinton Street
Aliquippa, PA 15001

www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org

A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In a famous passage of the Letter to the Galatians, St. Paul writes of the "**Fruit of the Spirit:**" *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."* (Gal. 5.22) These nine virtues are, for St. Paul, evidence that God is alive and active in us.

One of the ways we can do a self-examination is by considering these Fruit. Where in my life do I see the activity of the Holy Spirit that results in love? And in what ways have I fallen short? Am I a joyful Christian? Why or why not? How generous am I with my money, my time, or my attention? Where have I failed to be gentle? And other questions like these.

But the Fruit of the Spirit are not only virtues that we should try to cultivate. Many theologians and preachers will contrast the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5.22) with the "Works of the Flesh" (Galatians 6.19-21). But I think it's important that we understand that "Fruit" is not just something we "bear", but also something we eat!

In order to bear the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives, we must have a steady diet of this Fruit. St. Paul contrasts this feast of fruit with what he calls "biting and devouring" *each other*. (see Galatians 5.13-15) Instead, we should partake of the Fruit of the Spirit!

And to partake of this Fruit is to partake of our Lord himself, who is the embodiment of the love of God (1 John 1.8). He is "our peace" (Ephesians 2.14). His patience is our salvation (2 Peter 3.15). And he is faithful, even when we fall short (2 Timothy 2:13).

Elsewhere, St. Paul writes, *"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think on these things."* (Philippians 4.8) Sisters and brothers, is there anything more commendable and honorable than these nine beautiful virtues we call the Fruit of the Spirit?

Let us pray that the Lord would continue to pour out his Spirit upon our parish - each and every member - that we would bear the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives and draw many others into the saving embrace of our Lord.

To God be the glory!

Fr. Geoff

Our Graduates

Natalia Anne Brocious

Natalia Anne Brocious is the daughter of Matthew and Beth Brocious, the granddaughter of Darlene (Szedny) Harold and the late Bob Harold, and the great granddaughter of the late Walter and Alice Szedny. She graduated from Cape Fear Christian Academy in Erwin, NC with honors on May 21, 2021. During her tenure at CFCA, She was the Student Council Treasurer all 4 years and the Beta Club Vice President. In athletics, Natalia lettered in the Varsity sports: Volleyball as the setter, Basketball, Soccer, Cheerleading, and Softball. She has won numerous Conference Championships in Volleyball and was named MVP her senior year and her team finished 3rd in the state this season. She also won the 1A State Softball Championship. She is the NSHSS Scholar for her Senior class and finished 5th in the her class. She was presented the Eagle Award for service for CFCA and our community. Her future plans in the Fall are attending Central Carolina Community College on a full scholarship in Early Childhood Education.



Nathaniel Hersh



Congratulations to Nathaniel for completing his studies this past year at Point Park University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. While at Point Park University, he was a member of the cross-country team and employed by Sheetz. He is currently employed by Fed-Ex.

Alex Hersh

Alex graduated with a major in English and a minor in Sociology from Duquesne University. Alex toured the country each year as a member of the world famous Tamburitzans during his time at Duquesne. He is currently employed by Fed Ex and helps instruct performers of Jadran Beaver Valley Junior Tamburitzans in Aliquippa. Alex is unable to attend today and will receive a blessing at a later date.



Save the Date

St. George's annual picnic will be on Sunday, August 29. More details to follow.

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.

Help spread the word! Advertise!

Father's Day Breakfast, Next Sunday

Next **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 **THIS WEEK!** **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.

Treasures in Heaven

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Luke 12:34 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 12:32-34 (NIV).



V L S P U R S E S H Q L R A G
E K E P H A R K Z B E Q V G I
S C L D O L I T T L E A G F V
R O L P W O W J T U B C R T E
P G K L F L R I Z H W X H T M
H O E E G K F A T H E R S O M
T E S A O X C A H S A L D B U
H X P S R U N H Y E R G U M E
I H D E E M D O R N N M P K T
E A T D W S R U E I Y A O J E
F U M I V T S V K D K F A T H
O S P A S A A I P C Y R O Y H
Q T P E E E R Z O R E A Y C R
K E D R H T I L I N V I W J H
X D T X M S F V Y K S D A U L

PURSES	DESTROYS	FATHER	POSSESSIONS	HEAVEN
PLEASED	WEAR	KINGDOM	LUKE	FLOCK
EXHAUSTED	MOTH	HEART	AFRAID	SELL
POOR	TREASURE	THIEF	LITTLE	GIVE



Pressley Marie Roush

Pressley graduated from Hopewell High School on June 8. She has been in the gifted program since Elementary school and graduated with a 4.2 grade point average. During her High School years, Pressley participated in four years of German club and basketball. She is currently employed by McDonald’s where she works an average of 25 hours a week. After graduation Pressley plans on attending CCBC to take her General Ed classes, then she will transfer to the University of Pittsburgh to major in psychology. Pressley enjoys hanging out with her brother and going to Starbucks in her free time. Pressley is unable to attend today and will receive a blessing at a later date.

A Prayer for Our Graduates

O Lord, grateful of Your great benefits which You have so richly bestowed upon us in Your loving-kindness, we bless and give thanks to You and we beseech You to look graciously upon us and these graduates, who have completed their courses of study. Grant that they grow in wisdom and understanding. May they prosper in good works for the glorification of Your holy name. Give them health and long life that they may labor for the building up and glory of Your holy Church, this nation, and of all Your people.

May God Bless our graduates Natalia, Alex, Nathaniel, and Pressley as they embark on the next phase of their lives. Mno haja lita!

Life Is a Gift

Today before you say an unkind word - Think of someone who can’t speak. Before you complain about the taste of your food - Think of someone who has nothing to eat. Before you complain about your husband or wife - Think of someone who’s crying out to God for a companion. Today before you complain about life - Think of someone who went too early to heaven. Before whining about the distance you drive Think of someone who walks the same distance with their feet. And when you are tired and complain about your job - Think of the unemployed, the disabled, and those who wish they had your job. And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down - Put a smile on your face and think: you’re alive and still around.

Third Sunday after Pentecost Reflection

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Today's Scripture readings speak of faith, which is "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). The Epistle tells us, "now that we have been justified through faith, let us have peace with God." In today's world we desperately need peace: All over the world, and especially in our country, we see civil unrest, riots, disease, injustice, and death. Yet Saint Paul says that we Christians "exult in tribulations." That's not to say that we are glad these terrible things are happening, but we rejoice because through them God works good: "tribulation produces endurance, and endurance challenge, and challenge hope, and hope does not deceive, for God's love is poured forth in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." By suffering, God makes us stronger, better people. Though the gift of faith, we have hope, we can be sure of God's love for us, and that He has a plan. God is taking care of us, and St Paul explains why we can be sure of this, saying that, though we would be hesitant to give our lives even for righteous men, Jesus gave His life for us, even though we are sinners!

The Gospel reading continues this theme, comparing us to birds and the flowers. Jesus says "But if God so clothes the wild flower of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more you, O you of little faith! Therefore do not be anxious." Jesus is telling us to trust Him completely, not worrying about tomorrow. But this doesn't mean that we should do nothing. We should give ourselves over to God completely. In the last verse of today's gospel, Jesus says, "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." In other words, if we seek God in all things and at all times, and we strive to do His will and follow His commandments, then He will take care of us and make sure that we have what we need. Jesus tells us that, to do this, we must make sure our spiritual eyes are healthy. We need to pray often, and look at God, and not at the chaos and evil in the world around us, lest we forget Him. If we do this, as Saint Paul tells us, we will have peace. (But that doesn't mean we won't have trials and troubles, for trials and tribulations make us stronger!)



Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

1. Have there been times in my life, when I didn't trust God, and I thought everything relied on me? How did that work out?
2. Have there been times where I understood that God made something good and beautiful happen out of a tragedy or other bad situation? Has suffering ever made me stronger or helped me grow?
3. Jesus says "The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light." In what ways can I make sure that my spiritual eyes are healthy?
4. When I am going through rough times, and I am suffering, what can I do to remind myself that God has a plan, this is somehow part of it, and this is somehow good for me?

Trust in the Lord - Jesus teaches us to trust in God our Father at all times and in all circumstances. St John Chrysostom, in his commentary on Matthew, speaks to us about the meaning of the images used in this passage. Just when the lilies of the field are all decked out Jesus no longer calls them lilies but "grass of the field." He then points further to their vulnerable condition by saying "which are here today." Then He does not merely say "and not tomorrow" but rather more callously "cast into the oven". These creatures are not merely "clothed" but "so clothed" in this way as to be later brought to nothing. Do you see how Jesus everywhere abounds in amplifications and intensifications? He does so in order to press home his point. Then He adds, "Will he not much more clothe you?" The force of the emphasis is on "you" to indicate covertly how great is the value set upon your personal existence and the concern God shows for you in particular. It is as though He were saying, "You, to whom He gave a soul, for whom He fashioned a body, for whose sake He made everything in creation, for whose sake He sent prophets, and gave the law, and wrought those innumerable good works, and for whose sake he gave up his only begotten Son." This is a powerful message.

For the Service of Love - All Christian prayer is for the service of love. The biggest gift from God is not the gift of prayer but the gift of love. Of love of those near and far away. Someone said – am I praying right? We know we are praying right if we are growing in love, if we are becoming even a little more like the Lord, more loving, open, and joyful. Then prayer is right and you need not worry.

Prayer brings us close to the reality of Jesus – remembering we are worth more than anything around us, that each of us is created in the image of God. *Look around today at a field of flowers or birds in the air. Let Jesus' words echo: 'you are worth more than these'. Lord God, give me trust in your care for me, now and always.*

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



“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well”