

June 20, 2021
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Father's Day



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 3: pp. 135 - 137

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JUNE 20 8:30 A.M.	FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, Father's Day DIVINE LITURGY , <i>Father's Day Breakfast</i> Our Living and +Deceased Fathers
WED., JUNE 23 6:00 P.M.	NATIVITY of JOHN the BAPTIST HOLY DAY , <i>Anticipated</i> VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY
SUN., JUNE 27 8:30 A.M.	FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST DIVINE LITURGY + Margaret Klacik, 1 year anniversary of passing, offered by JoAnn & Francis Hersh
MON., JUNE 28 6:00 P.M.	SAINTS PETER and PAUL HOLY DAY , <i>Anticipated</i> VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY

(At St. Mary: Tuesday, June 29, 6:00 PM, Divine Liturgy for Sts. Peter and Paul Holy day)

*Father's Day
Breakfast*



Father's Day Breakfast Today

The Ladies Guild will be serving a Father's Day Breakfast following today's Divine Liturgy in honor of all fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers, spiritual fathers, and all who portray a fatherly role. **Everyone attending today is invited to stay for the breakfast.**

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:
June 22: Dante Gural, June 23: Dakota Gural

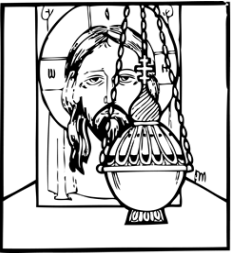
Wedding Anniversaries this Week:
None for the week

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 20: – Louisa Hersh – June 27: Jo Ann Hersh
Ushers – Stand in as needed
Troica Holders – June 20: M. Bobanic – June 27: F. Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

June 20 - 26, 2021

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Michael & Mary Popovich

(In loving memory)

Offered By:

Daughters, Diane & Mary Ann



“Look today to John the Baptist, an enduring model of fidelity to God and his Law. John prepared the way for Christ by the testimony of his word and his life. Imitate him with docile and trusting generosity.”

-St. John Paul II

Sorting and pricing Flea Market items beginning Monday, June 21, 10:00 AM and on and continuing daily until finished. Come anytime you can!
Come and help!

The Faith of the Centurion

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well. Luke 7:9-10 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 7:1-10



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

AMAZED	CENTURION	SOLDIER	CROWD	WORTHY
DESERVE	HEALED	SERVANT	SICK	FAITH
AUTHORITY	DIE	GREAT	FRIENDS	HOUSE



Save the Date

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

A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, in the secular calendar, we celebrate Father's Day. It's a day to honor all the ways that our fathers, godfathers, and spiritual fathers have influenced our lives. Let us remember those who have died, and pray that God would receive them graciously into his arms. And let us pray for those still with us, asking that our Lord would grant them life, health, salvation, and many blessed years! Let us also remember in our prayers those who are fatherless and those who have difficult relationships with their fathers.

Jesus Christ, in his teachings, revealed to us the Fatherhood of God. Jesus called God "Abba," which is a tender, intimate word for a father, akin to "daddy." And the fatherhood of God is so much greater than even the best of earthly fathers. He not only protects and defends his children, but he perfectly cares for us and tenderly nurtures and provides for us.

Last week we heard these words from St. Matthew's Gospel: *"Therefore, do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things."* (Mt. 6.31-32)

And St. Paul informs us that God is the Father of all of humanity, when he says, *"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name."* (Ephesians 3.14-15) St. James tells us that *"every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights,"* which we also pray in the Ambon Prayer in most liturgies (see James 1.17).

So let us give thanks to those fathers - biological or otherwise - in our lives, those who have invested in us and sacrificed for us. And let's especially give thanks to our Father who is in heaven, who provides us our daily bread and whose kingdom is coming now on earth as it is in heaven. To him be glory and worship forever and ever!

Yours in God the Father,
Fr. Geoff

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Reflection

There is a tendency in our culture to separate the mind from the body, as if the mind is who we really are, while the body is merely a machine that we move wherever we want. Even some Christians would go so far as to say that as long as a man believes that Jesus is Lord, he is saved, regardless of what he does with his body. But, this is not the vision of the human person found in Sacred Scripture or the tradition of the Church. Instead, the human person is a union of spiritual and physical realities, mind and body, soul and flesh. So, what a man does with his body can be a physical sign of the state of his heart and his progress in the spiritual life. Writing to the Church in Rome, St. Paul says that before faith in Christ, before grace and Baptism, the Roman Christians were slaves to sin. St. Paul calls them, and now us as well, to be slaves of God instead, to serve righteousness and holiness with our whole life, our whole person, with both our body and our soul.



The Gospel speaks of the Centurion's faith. A spiritual interpretation of the passage could suggest that when a man turns his heart, and all of its thoughts, over to the Lord, he will hand himself over to become a servant of holiness and righteousness and be spiritually healed. If he turns to the Lord often with prayer, and embraces the good thoughts and ignores the evil thoughts, he will easily be able to take command of his unruly body with its passions. Just as the Lord performs miracles by the command of His Word, and the Centurion commands his soldiers and servants with his word, likewise, we can offer our bodies and our whole life to bear the fruit of sanctification and holiness. We have two choices: we can be slaves to sin and receive the wages of sin, which is death, hell, and spiritual suffering, or we can repent and become slaves to righteousness, be made right before God, and this will lead us into life everlasting.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

1. What parts of your life are unruly or serve sin? Anger, jealousy, greed, lust, etc.
2. If you were to take control of those parts of your life and offer them over to serve holiness, what would it look like? Gentleness, gratitude, generosity, humility, self-control, etc.
3. Name three practical actions you can do, starting today, that will lead you to become a slave to righteousness instead of a slave to sin.

Religious Freedom Week 2021: Solidarity in Freedom

"Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community" (Fratelli tutti, 116).

Beginning June 22 through June 29, the USCCB invites Catholics to pray, reflect, and act to promote religious freedom.



Religious freedom allows the Church, and all religious communities, to live out their faith in public and to serve the good of all. The dates chosen for the week include Church commemorations of several saints who stood up in one way or another for religious freedom: Thomas More and John Fisher on June 22; St. John the Baptist on June 24, and Sts. Peter and Paul on June 29.

The USCCB has prepared resources to "Pray – Reflect – Act," which may be found at: www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek. Each day focuses on different religious liberty topics of concern for the bishops. These materials were prepared to help people understand religious liberty from a Catholic perspective, pray about particular issues, and act on what they learn by advocating for policies that promote religious freedom.

- June 22: Pray that children waiting to be placed in a loving home and the caregivers who serve those children will find strength and support from the Church.
- June 23: Pray that God would continue to grant Catholic institutions the wisdom and courage to serve a world suffering the effects of the COVID pandemic.
- June 24: Pray that the dignity of all people will be respected in our country.
- June 25: Pray that Christian witness in the face of attacks on our churches will convert hearts to faith in Jesus Christ.
- June 26: Pray for our Catholic sisters and brothers who are suffering in Nicaragua.
- June 27: Pray that governments would respect the consciences of all people who care for the sick and vulnerable.
- June 28: Pray for Christians in Iraq, and that people of all faiths in the land of Abraham may live in peace.
- June 29: Pray that Christians will have the courage to speak the truth with kindness and clarity, even in the face of adversity.

Happy Father's Day

O Eternal and Almighty God, the Heavenly Father of us all: we pray to You on this festive day for all of our fathers. We commend them to Your paternal protection, and we beseech You to always look favorably upon them in order that they may always behold the joy of their children

and their children's children. Fill them with that same paternal love that You, our Eternal Father, show toward your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. And, grant that all of our fathers may ever be sustained in those same paternal qualities that You, as the Father of the human race, show toward all of us, Your children. We implore You, O Heavenly Father, on this special day honoring all of our fathers, to graciously hear us and have mercy on them.

Don't Blackmail God

We shouldn't blackmail God with our prayers. We shouldn't ask God to release us from something, from an illness, for example, or to solve our problems, but we should ask for strength and support from Him to bear what we have to bear. Just as He knocks discreetly at the door of our soul, so we should ask discreetly for what we desire, and if the Lord does not respond, we should cease to ask. When God does not give us something that we ask for insistently, then He has His reasons. God, too, has His "secrets." Since we believe in His good providence, since we believe that He knows everything about our lives, and that He always desires what is good, why should we not trust Him?

Let us pray naturally and gently, without forcing our self and without passion. We know that past, present and future are all known, "open and laid bare" before God. As St. Paul says, "Before Him no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to His eyes." We should not insist; such persistence does harm instead of good. We shouldn't continue relentlessly in order to acquire what we want; rather, we should leave things to the will of God. Because the more we pursue something, the more it runs away from us. So what is required is patience, faith and composure. And if we forget it, the Lord never forgets; and if it is for our good, He will give us what we need, when we need it.

"Venerable Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia"



The Fathers on Scripture

Some argue that the Centurion, by his description, implied the reason why he had not brought his servant to Jesus saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress," as though he was at his last gasp, or even as Luke said, he was "at the point of death." In my opinion, however, the reason he had not brought him in was itself a sign of his great faith, even much greater than those who let the patient down through the roof. Because the Centurion knew for certain that even a mere command was enough for raising the servant up, he thought it unnecessary to bring him.

St. John Chrysostom, the Gospel of Matthew, Homily 26.1

Embrace Faith

There is no coercion with God. He always has a good will towards us. He gives reliable counsel to men and angels (who are also rational beings), to whom He has given the power of choice. Those who yield obedience therefore possess what is good freely and justly. It is given by God but preserved by themselves.... The human spirit is possessed of free will from the beginning, and God is possessed of free will, in whose likeness man was created. Man is advised to hold fast to the good and thereby be responsive to God. This refers not only to works but to faith as well. God preserved the human will free and under self-control, as is shown in Jesus' words to the centurion: "Go. Be it done for you as you have believed."

(St. Irenaeus, From Against Heresies)

Excerpts from Christ Our Pascha

The Church—An Icon of the Most Holy Trinity: In the "fullness of time" (see Gal 4:4) God the Father visits humankind through his incarnate Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, so that the human race in the Holy Spirit, through adoption in Christ, could come to the Father. The place and environment where God's adoption of human beings is realized is the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church. The Church is the People of God the Father, the Body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Church, initiated in the eternal plan of the Father, becomes a reality in the Incarnation of God's Son and is manifested at the descent of the Holy Spirit. (#271)

The Church, as the place where Father, Son, and Holy Spirit act, is an icon of the Most Holy Trinity, that is, a community where human beings can commune with God and with each other. As God is one in three Persons, so also the one community of the Church exists in the coming together of self-governing Churches that live in communion with each other. (#272)

St. George Church

FLEA MARKET

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

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

ST. GEORGE FLEA MARKET THIS WEEK!

June 25 & 26, 9:00 – 2:00

Our Flea Market is **THIS WEEK!** MANY NICE ITEMS HAVE BEEN DONATED! EVERYONE please PRAY, come, and bring your friends to our Flea Market **THIS WEEK, JUNE 25 & 26.** Also tell EVERYONE you know about our Flea Market!

We are Still Accepting Donations all Week

Sorting and Pricing Flea Market Items

We will sort and price items beginning **Monday, June 21 at 10:00 A.M.** and continue each day until finished. If you are able to come and help with this event, it will be greatly appreciated.

Please Bake for the Bake Sale

Bring your baked goods **BEFORE** the Flea Market begins!
Preferably, Thursday

Haluski will be Sold, Stop and Get Lunch

Don't Forget to Come and Work at the Flea Market

All hands on deck! Everyone's help is needed to work and/or to shop!

Advertising the Flea Market

You can still pass out flyers, it's not too late. Also PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE share on Facebook! Call your friend and family!

Help spread the word! Advertise!

Flea Market Set-up

TODAY following the Father's Day breakfast, **WE WILL MOVE SOME OF THE TABLES FOR THE FLEA MARKET INTO PLACE.** All who are able, please plan on helping. It can be done very quickly when we are all here. Thank you!

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



Setting up Flea Market: Monday beginning at 10:00 AM and every day until finished.
Work the Flea Market: Fri. & Sat. 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.