

June 27, 2021
Fifth 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 4: pp. 141 - 142

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JUNE 27 **FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Margaret Klacik, 1 year anniversary of passing, offered by JoAnn & Francis Hersh

MON., JUNE 28 **SAINTS PETER and PAUL HOLY DAY, Day of Obligation, Anticipated**
6:00 P.M. **VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY**

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

SUN., JULY 4 **SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Philomena Rossi, offered by Joanne Futato

Tread on the Necks of Demons

“He said to them, ‘Go!’” The foul-smelling animals are delivered up, not at the will of the demons but to show how savage the demons can become against man. ... Demons do not give up easily unless they are forcibly overcome. They are doing the harm they are ordered to do. Therefore the foul-smelling animals are delivered up that it may be clear to the demons that they have permission to enter the swine but not to enter man. Similarly, by our power of faith we tread on the necks of demons. They become subject to us under Christ who is triumphant.

(Peter Chrysologus)

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

July 3: Amanda Zelekowski

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

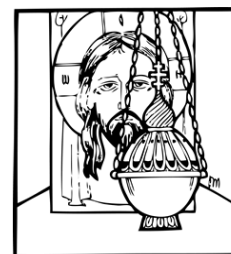
HOME – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

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

Epistle Readers – June 27: Jo Ann Hersh –July 4: Reaghan Cody

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – June 27: F. Hersh– July 4: R. Dzumba



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

June 27 – July 3, 2021

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Margaret Klacik

(In loving memory)

Offered By:

JoAnn & Francis Hersh



**GO TO CHURCH,
SAY YOUR PRAYERS,
REMEMBER GOD.**

O Leaders of the Apostles and Teachers of the universe, implore the Master of all creation to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Troparion for Sts. Peter and Paul

Flea Market Open Today!

Our Flea Market this past Friday and Saturday was very successful! Thank you to everyone who volunteered in any way for our Flea Market and to those who patronized and helped spread the word. We had a very good turn-out. There were many positive comments and people were glad our Flea Market was back. Some said ours is their favorite Flea Market. Thank you for all of the donations. We could not have done it without them. **The Flea Market is open today. There are still some very nice items left. Everything is 50% off or you can make any size donation beyond that if you prefer.** Be sure to look around following today's Divine Liturgy.



Baked Goods and Haluski

We have some delicious baked goods and a few quarts of haluski available for purchase today. Stop in the Center to purchase and take home some goodies!



Save the Date

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

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

LEVEL NAME CRIMINAL

DISEASES DANCE HAPPY

POOR REWARD KINGDOM

HUNGRY ALAS DENOUNCE

A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Two weeks ago, in my bulletin note, I wrote about the **Fruit of the Spirit** that St. Paul discusses in his letter to the Galatians (Gal. 5.22). For the next few weeks, I'd like to consider each of these "fruit" in turn. The first of these is **Love**, and this makes sense because love is the fountain of all other virtues.

Throughout the entirety of Scripture we are enjoined to love one another. In the Old Testament *Torah*, or Law, we read in the Book of Leviticus: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Lev. 19.18) In his own teachings, our Lord Jesus said that this commandment was second only to the love of God himself. St. John writes that we should "Love one another for love is from God." (1 John 4.7) And St. Peter teaches us: "Above all, love one another deeply, for love covers a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4.8)

Of course, love is often misunderstood to be merely an affectation of the emotions. (Or worse, merely a chemical reaction in the brain!) But while the emotions are involved in love, love cannot be reduced to an emotional response. Rather, love is an activity of the will. **We love someone when we will and act for his or her good.** In this way, Jesus can call us to love not only our family members, not only our neighbors or fellow countrymen. But in what is sometimes called the "hardest commandment," we are to love *even our enemies*. (Luke 6.35) That is, we are to actively seek their good. "Bless those who curse you," our Lord tells us, "and pray for those who mistreat you." (Luke 6.28)

And why such a difficult command? "We love because Christ first loved us." (1 John 4.19). Christ died even for the ungodly, even for those who set themselves against him, even for those who made themselves enemies of God. For **God is love** (1 John 4.8).

And if we have been united to Christ by the Holy Spirit, then his love will transform us so that the love of God goes forth from us into those around us. And if we have love, then others will know that we are disciples of Jesus (John 13.35).

The love of God knows no bounds. It is deeper than the sea and higher than the heavens. And - thanks be to God - it has reached even us. And if we let it, God's love can transform us into the image of the all-loving Lord. For God himself is love.

In the Love of the Lord,
Fr. Geoff

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Reflection

The Holy Trinity, who from all eternity has lived a life of loving communion, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, lives a life of interdependency. St. John can say that “God is love,” because from all eternity the Father has given his life to the Son in the Holy Spirit. Thus, man, made in the image and likeness of God, is made to live a life of dependency. We are dependent first upon God from whom we receive life, and second, we are dependent upon those around us, our parents and others that God has placed in our lives so as to live a life of loving communion.



When we walk away from God, when we turn our back on those in whose communion God has placed us, we do not find independence but simply dependence on someone or something else. We see this in today’s Gospel in the story of the demoniacs. A demoniac is someone who is under the dominion of the devil. This is exactly what the devil wants. He entices us with a false notion of freedom, of so-called “independence” to get us to turn from our true dependence on God, on each other, on the Church, to seek so-called “freedom.” “You will be like God,” the devil told Adam and Eve – the world of the self, or rather self-delusion – is the dominion of the devil.

Jesus, in healing the demoniacs, reveals and pours out God’s life back into these people. He puts them back into communion with God who is love and with the entire community of God which is bound together in love.

However, notice the curious response of the townspeople to Jesus’ freeing the demoniacs from their suffering, their dominion from the Evil One. They ask him to leave. Why is this? Shouldn’t they have been happy to see the men freed from their suffering? By saving the demoniacs, casting the demons into the herd of pigs, Jesus disrupted their economy. It inconvenienced the townspeople, who made their livelihood from the pigs. They were more concerned with the financial impact of this healing than they were on the well-being of the two men.

Jesus has not only come to free us from the devil dominion of the devil, but to restore our communion with God and with one another. This is the heart of Jesus’ healing ministry, to be the Incarnation of God’s love, and the restoration of our communion.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

1. Does Jesus have dominion over my life? In what practical ways does my relationship with Christ impact my daily life.
2. Are there ways in which I demonstrate that I do not want God in my life when his presence is inconvenient or painful?
3. Do I value the well-being of my brothers and sisters in Christ above my material goods?
4. How do I show the love of Christ with those whom I depend on, or who depend upon me?

Saints Peter and Paul, June 29

[Jesus] said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."



Who is Jesus to you? Peter did not say “you are a Christ” or “a son of God” but “the Christ, the Son of God.” For there are many christs by grace, who have attained the rank of adoption [as sons], but [there is] only one who is by nature the Son of God. Thus, using the definite article, he said, the Christ, the Son of God. And in calling him Son of the living God, Peter indicates that Christ himself is life and that death has no authority over Him. And even if the flesh, for a short while, was weak and died, nevertheless it rose again, since the Word, who indwelt it, could not be held under the bonds of death.

(St. Cyril of Alexandria)

St. Augustine on Saints Peter and Paul

The passion of the most blessed Apostles Peter and Paul has consecrated this day for us. We are not speaking of some obscure martyrs. “Their voice has gone forth into all the earth and their words to the ends of the world.” (*Ps. 19:4*) These martyrs had seen what they preached. They followed the Truth, they professed the Truth, and they died for the Truth . . .

“One day of suffering for the two Apostles. But they, two in spirit were one; even if they had suffered on different days they still would be one. Peter died first. Paul followed.”

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

Biblical Images of the Church:

The Church in the Old Testament: Humankind was created according to the model of the communion of Persons within the Most Holy Trinity: “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness ... So God created humankind ... male and female he created them” (Gn 1:26-27). In accordance with the eternal plan of God, the creation of humankind as male and female, initiates the revelation of the Church: “Just as God’s will is action and is called the creation of the world, so too his plan is the salvation of humankind and is called the Church.”

(#273)

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

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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



“Let us extol Peter and Paul, those two great Luminaries of the Church, for they shine brighter than the sun in the firmament of faith.”