

July 4, 2021
Sixth 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 5: pp. 146 - 148

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JULY 4
8:30 A.M.

SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
DIVINE LITURGY
+ **Philomena Rossi**, offered by Joanne Futato

SUN., JULY 11
8:30 A.M.

SEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
DIVINE LITURGY
+ **Mary Poiarkoff**, 40th Day after passing, offered by Dorothy Hagan

Forgiveness is Yours

Jesus' words of healing are worthy of reflection. The paralytic is not told, "Be healed." He is not told, "Rise and walk." But he is told, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven you." The paralytic is a descendant of the original man, Adam. In one man, Christ, all the sins of Adam are forgiven. In this case the man to be healed is brought forward by ministering angels. In this case, too, he is called a son, because he is God's first work. The sins of his soul are forgiven him, and pardon of the first transgression is granted. We do not believe the paralytic committed any sin that resulted in his illness, especially since the Lord said elsewhere that blindness from birth had not been contracted from someone's sin or that of his parents.

(St. Hilary of Poitiers)

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

July 11: Betty Zapko

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

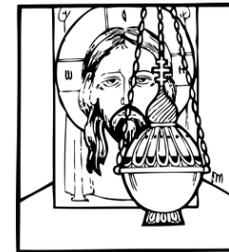
HOME – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

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

Epistle Readers – July 4: Reaghan Cody – July 11: Joanne Futato

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – July 4: R. Dzumba – July 11: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

July 4 - 10, 2021

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

The Parishioners

True Freedom Comes from God

Jerusalem is beloved of God, and is portrayed in Scriptures and the Liturgy as a loving, nursing mother who gives comfort and love to those who love her. As Americans we celebrate that we, too, have been blessed by God in a country that has so many good things. As disciples of Christ who are also faithful citizens, we are called and challenged to help our own country remain free, governed in a spirit of right reasoning, and to be a source of comfort, justice and peace. As we rightly celebrate Independence Day and give thanks for our many blessings and freedoms, let us remember what true freedom is and from Whom it comes.

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

One day some men brought their friend who was paralyzed to Jesus. Jesus told the man, "Your sins are forgiven." Some teachers of the law didn't like what Jesus said, so instead Jesus said, "Get up, take your mat and walk." Why did Jesus heal the man?

Use the code to find the letters that fit in the blank. Match the arrangement of the lines with those in the code. The first one is done for you.

J U L O L O U S O U E

7 O U N S U L U

7 O 3 7 3 U W 3 O U

O U O O E E U W O

O U O 3 E

3 U O U O 7 U

O U O N N 7 U L N U L

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

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Many Christians have great sensitivity of soul. In a daily struggle to lead a good and holy life, they are scrupulously aware of their sinfulness. Some despair that God could ever forgive them their many weaknesses and failings. Other Christians at various times in their lives even fall into a way of life very much at odds with Christian values. They sin, and sin boldly. Sometimes, when they come to their senses, they may feel repentant but doubt that God could ever forgive the enormity of their transgressions.



It's presumptuous, however, to consider God so small as to be unable or unwilling to forgive human offences, no matter their number or seriousness. It's grandiose to presume that one's sins are of such magnitude that Almighty God is incapable of pardoning them. St. Matthew shows Jesus, without any great ado, offering forgiveness to a paralytic with four words: "Your sins are forgiven." The implication in this narrative is that God, quite simply, is always ready to forgive anyone at the drop of a hat.

It's a human tendency to project human personality traits onto God. Depending on our temperament and the way we respond to offences against ourselves, we might picture God as petulant, grudge-holding, vengeful and the like. We fear God as unforgiving because that's what we experience ourselves. It stands to reason, then, that we can come to appreciate God's eagerness to forgive by practicing our own eagerness to be forgiving. And this is exactly what the Gospel encourages.

The Scribes are outraged that Christ would presume to forgive a man's sins with a few simple words. They ask: "Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" The point is, we can!

We all can be quick and eager, for example, to forgive those who sin against us. To err is human, but to forgive is divine. We can prove our own divine qualities, as did Jesus, when we say with fullness of heart, "You're forgiven."

The Gospel cautions us not to make God "small" with misguided ideas that God is cheap with grace and vengeful of human failings. But, by the same token, the Gospel encourages us not to be small ourselves. Big-hearted people are generally admired, and there is no reason we can't be big-hearted ourselves. All that's required is that we have an open heart and not hold on to grievances.

Who of us is aware of being paralyzed?

And who of us has faith, the calm and yet passionate certainty that no one but God can give us again the freedom of our movements? We find ourselves in life paralyzed by fear, paralyzed by the desire to be seen in the best of lights, paralyzed by our calculations that do not allow us to act freely, to breathe freely, to be fearless? How many of us could dare say that they are not possessed of the desire to be seen better than they are, to be seen as they are not, as God does not see us? How many of us could say, "I want to be seen as I am - not only in all my frailty (this others could accept), but in my deceitfulness, in my ugliness, full of fear, full of vanity", that is, of the desire to be judged on appearances and not on the reality? Our venerable father John of the Ladder says *"that one who is possessed of vanity is arrogant in the face of God while he is a coward in the face of men."*

We are all paralyzed: paralyzed by fear, paralyzed by calculations, paralyzed by the determination not to see because we are afraid of what we may see. We still, all of us, imagine that we can live the life of a paralytic and die whole; that we may live a whole life never having faced the truth, and stand before God Who is the Truth - and be acceptable. Oh, it is not a matter of God rejecting us! It is a matter of suddenly discovering, with horror, that we have no place in the realm of Truth, in the realm of daring Truth, in the realm of beauty, of heroic beauty.

On this Sunday let us reflect on this; let us not think of the man who was paralyzed and whose faith healed his body by the power of God; let us think of our own paralyzed condition. Today we must LOOK at ourselves: we still perhaps have time to become true and real as God has willed us, to be what God dreams we should be, to respond to His love by not betraying ourselves, one another and Him.

Remember that there is hope, there is hope because God has the power to heal, God has the power to break our palsy if we turn to Him with faith, and hope and courage!

Reminder - Please remember to collect the Flea Market signs and return them to use again next year, Thank you!

Liturgy Intentions - The Archeparchy of Pittsburgh has updated the suggested donation for a Divine Liturgy intention to \$20.00, going forward. Please Note: this is a *suggested* donation only.

God Bless America!

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

Biblical Images of the Church:

The Church in the Old Testament: God reveals his plan about the Church, as the fullness of creation, in the account of the life of Adam and Eve in Paradise. It was a life in unity with God and in harmony with all creation. The Holy Fathers describe the bond between Christ and the Church in the vision of God's creation of Eve from the rib of Adam: "Just as Eve came into being from the rib of Adam, so did [the Church] from the rib of Christ." The relationship between Adam and Eve is a prefigurement of the relationship between Christ and the Church:

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish (Eph 5:25-27). (#274)

Happy Independence Day!

Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You for the gift and blessing of the freedom we enjoy in our great nation. We praise You, Lord, for inspiring and guiding our founding fathers as they struggled to build our country and create a new way of living with the goal of freedom and justice for all. We thank You, Lord, for the courageous self-sacrifice and generous spirit of countless people who have given their life's blood in the defense of freedom and for the pursuit of justice. Keep us faithful to the tradition and example we have inherited; may we leave for the next generation a better world, prepared for the dawning of the Kingdom of Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



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

It is better to eat meat and drink wine and not to eat the flesh of one's brethren through slander.

Abba Hyperechius