

August 22, 2021  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost,  
Post-Festive Day of the Dormition of the Theotokos



**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: Ressurrectional Tone 4, pg. 141 & for the Dormition, pp. 352 - 355

Divine Services for the Week:

- SUN., AUG. 22**      **THIRTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**  
**POST-FESTIVE DAY OF THE DORMITION**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ **Mary Poiarkoff**, offered by Rich Mudron
- SUN., AUG. 29**      **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST,**  
**BEHEADING of ST. JOHN the BAPTIST**  
**DIVINE LITURGY, Parish Picnic**  
+ **Philomena Rossi**, offered by Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Dickey

**Light as a Feather** - It is one thing to be broken but something else again to be crushed. Sizeable pieces of whatever is broken remain, but whatever gets crushed is reduced to dust and utterly eliminated. The stone does not break those who fall upon it, but those who fall on the stone break themselves. Their destruction, therefore, is not attributable to the stone's strength but to the violence with which they fall upon it. How hard do we hit the stone when we fall upon it? That is determined by the weight of our sins. But repentance can make us as light as a feather. Remember Isaiah 53:5 - *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.* (Adapted from the Incomplete Homily on Matthew)

**Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:**

None for the week

**Wedding Anniversaries this Week:**

None for the week

**Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins**

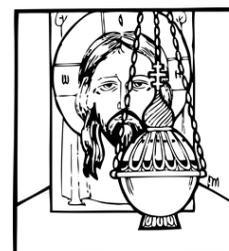
**HOME** – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

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

**Epistle Readers – Aug. 22: Prudy Peya – Aug. 29: Joanne Futato**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – Aug.22: J. Yurosky – Aug. 29: M. Bobanic**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**

August 22 - 28, 2021

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

+ **Steve Kusko**

*(In loving memory)*

Offered By:

Niece, **Mary Solomon**

**Glory to Jesus Christ ~ Glory Forever!**

## Parish Picnic Next Sunday, August 29

### Last Day to Sign up

The picnic will begin following the 10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy next Sunday. Lunch will be served around 12:00 P.M. There will be bingo and the very popular basket raffle. **Everyone is welcome to bring a covered dish or drinks. We are in need of 3 watermelons, 3 cantaloupes, and relish trays. These can be brought on Friday or Sunday. Let us come together as a family for a day filled with fun and fellowship at our wonderful annual picnic!**

**Picnic Set-up: Kitchen work will be done on Friday beginning at 9:00 A.M and the Men's Club will be setting up the outdoor tables on Sunday morning beginning at 9:00 A.M. Come and help!**

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## Pirohi Sales return September 10

Our Pirohi Sales will return on Friday, September 10. This is a very important tradition for our St. George Church. Plan on purchasing your dinners from our pirohi sales on the second Friday of each month. We can't do this project without your help and support. Spread the word and come and help! Thank you!

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## A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The eighth of the "Fruit of the Spirit" is **Gentleness**. (Galatians 5:22-23) While many of the other virtues that St. Paul writes about are frequently discussed, gentleness seems to be the Christian virtue that is forgotten in our day.

What does it mean to be gentle? It is the gentle - or "meek" in some translations - that will inherit the earth, Jesus tells us in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:5). And in Galatians, St. Paul reminds us that "if anyone is caught in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one *in a spirit of gentleness*. (Gal. 6:1).

But in our day to day lives, being "gentle" is usually thought of as ineffective and inefficient, if not outright weak. If we are able to demand, require, coerce, or order things to our own liking, we usually do it! Whether it's our children, people we work with, or those we interact with in business, "gentleness" is not common in our day. In modern politics, gentleness is avoided entirely!

Pastor Joel Repic, of the Gospel Tabernacle in Aliquippa, recently reminded me that "gentleness is the attitude that says, 'I don't have to control you.'" We think being gentle won't work; it won't get us the results we are sure that we need. But Joel goes on to explain,

*If by "it won't work" we mean "it might not get people to do what I want (even if what I want is righteous)" - well, you're probably right. It won't always work. But if by "work" we mean "it will honor and dignify [the other person]," gentleness will work every time.*

We, in our modern world, want results and we want them now. Gentleness, which is born of humility, is the ability to slow down in our interactions with other people; to allow them to be themselves and not demand that they be who **I** think they should be. It is the great strength which allows us to not impose our own will on others.

As you may have guessed, just like all of the other "Fruit of the Spirit," gentleness is expected of us because it is part of *God's own character*. Remember Jesus' reassuring words: "Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; **for I am gentle and humble in heart...**" (Matthew 11:28-29)

Thanks be to God, who like a loving parent, tenderly guides and corrects us in true gentleness. Let us ask the Lord that, by his Holy Spirit, we might grow more and more like his own divine character, showing ourselves to be loving by our gentleness with others.

Yours in Christ,  
*Fr. Geoff*

## Church Mice

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## ***Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

The Lord said this parable, “There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them...”

Today’s Gospel reading is the parable of the vineyard. An owner built a vineyard, hedged it around, built a winepress and a tower, and then let it out to tenants. When he sent servants to take the rent, they were beaten and stoned. He sent others, but they did the same. When the owner sent his own son, they killed him.

This parable is addressed to each of us today in a personal sense. The vineyard is our own soul. It is hedged around with prayer, our guardian-angel, and our patron-saint. The winepress is where we offer ourselves to Christ. The tower is our inner Church where we pray to God. We are tenants of our God-created souls. The servants sent to us are all those occasions when God speaks to us. He speaks to us in prayer, He speaks to us through the word of His Scriptures, He speaks to us through every opportunity, every meeting, and every event that comes into our lives. He speaks to us through the presence of His Church in the world.

And how do we react? Do we reject everything sent to us, everything allowed to us, as a chance to do better, to make good our weaknesses? Do we fail to heed God? Do we ignore the Church? If so, then we too beat and stone and kill the servants of God. We are warned today that the Heir is coming.

At the end of the parable of the vineyard, Christ says: “The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord’s doing, and it was marvelous in our eyes?” The stone rejected is of course the Rock of Faith, Christ Himself, for He was rejected and crucified. Yet He became the head of the corner and it is marvelous in our eyes. Let us too be rocks of faith then, and though the world will reject us, we too shall become heads of the corner, and it will be marvelous in the eyes of God and men. Glory to You, O God, glory to You!



*O Most Holy Theotokos, Save Us!*

### **Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha:**

**Biblical Images of the Church: *The Church in the New Testament:*** The apostle Paul calls the Church the “Body of Christ.” The Head of the Body is Christ himself, and we are his members (see Rom 12:3-6; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Eph 1:22-23; 4:11-13). At the Mystical Supper [Last Supper] Christ gives his Body in the Eucharist. By partaking of Communion of this Body we become the Body of Christ. As there is only one God and one Intercessor between God and the human race, Jesus Christ, so also there is only one faith, one Baptism and one Church—beyond which there is no salvation. However, the ways and means by which God saves humankind through the Church always remain a mystery of God’s mercy. (#282)

### **From the Counsels of Elder Epiphanius of Athens**

- *True love is like the flame of a candle. However many candles you light from the flame, the initial flame remains unaffected. It doesn’t lessen at all. And every freshly lit candle has as much flame as the others do.*



- *Why do they put rubber tires with inner tubes on cars? So they give in, collapsing a little with every little stone or pothole in the road, and in this way they pass obstacles. If the wheels were firm and unyielding, the car wouldn’t be able to move forward. It would fall apart after a short distance because of the vibration from the small inconsistencies of terrain. The same thing happens with yielding to others in the family.*

### **A Prayer before Work**

*My Lord and Savior, You became man and labored with Your hands until the time of Your ministry. Bless me as I begin this work. Help me to bring it to completion. Lord, enlighten my mind and strengthen my body, that I may accomplish my task according to Your will. Guide me to bring about works of goodness to Your service and glory. Amen.*

### **A Prayer after Work**

*O most sweet Jesus, You are the fulfillment of all blessings. Fill my soul with joy and gladness and save me. Grant that Your Name be glorified; for, not to us, but to Your Name are forever due + honor, glory and worship. 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

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*O Most Holy Theotokos, Save Us!*