

August 29, 2021
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost,
Beheading of St. John the Baptist



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 5, pg.147 & the Beheading of St. John the Baptist, pp. 355 - 357

Divine Services for the Week:

- SUN., AUG. 29** **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST,**
 BEHEADING of ST. JOHN the BAPTIST
10:00 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY, Parish Picnic**
 + Philomena Rossi, offered by Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Dickey
- SUN., SEPT. 5** **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
 + Don Yasick, offered by Ed & Isabel Maruhnich

Born to Eternal Life – In what way, then, was this just man harmed by this demise, this violent death, these chains, this imprisonment? Who are those he did not set back on their feet – provided they had a penitent disposition – because of what he suffered, because of what he still proclaims today – the same message he preached while he was living. Therefore, do not say: “Why was John allowed to die?” For what occurred was not a death but a crown, not an end but the beginning of a greater life. Learn to think and live like a Christian. You not only will remain unharmed by these events, but will reap the greatest benefits. (*St. John Chrysostom*)

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

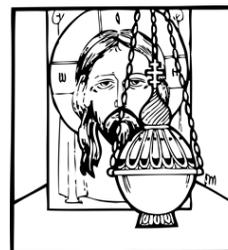
HOME – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

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

Epistle Readers– Aug. 29: Joanne Futato – Sept. 5: Jo Ann Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders– Aug. 29: M. Bobanic – Sept. 5: F. Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
August 29 – September 4, 2021
Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

Mary Solomon

(Health & God's Blessings)

Offered By:
A friend

The Church is One: The Church of Christ is one, for God is one: there is “one God and Father of all” (Eph 4:6); and one is Jesus Christ, the Builder of the Church. As we read in Matthew 16:18, “I will build my church.” Built by Christ and enlivened by the Holy Spirit, the Church is “the mystery of indivisible unity, in the image of the Most Holy Trinity.” The unity of the Church is founded on the one common faith in the Most Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and in one baptism: “one faith, one baptism” (Eph 4:5). By one faith and one baptism, those who have believed become members of the one Body of Christ: “So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Rom 12:5). The one Church is the prefigurement of a unified People of God, which will become perfectly manifest in the kingdom of God (#284)

Glory to Jesus Christ ~ Glory Forever!

Pirohi Sales return October 8

Our Pirohi Sales will return on Friday, October 8. 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!

Lebanese Festival

The 2021 Pittsburgh Lebanese Festival will be held **September 10-12**, benefiting Our Lady of Victory Maronite Catholic Church. Menu items include spinach pies, lamb kabob, tabbouli, grape leaves, falafel, fresh saj bread, hummus, kibbee, and Lebanese desserts. Entertainment by Said Abi Akl & Band on Friday and Saturday at 6:00 PM. Free admission and parking. Pre-orders available: www.pghlebanesefestival.com. Phone: 412-278-0841. O.L. Victory Church is located at: 1000 Tropical Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15216.

"Come and See" at B.C.S.

An in-person "Come and See" Weekend of Discovery Retreat for discerning Byzantine Catholic Men, 18 to 35 years old, single or married, is being hosted by the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. It begins on Friday evening (5 PM), Nov. 5, 2021 and concludes on Sunday afternoon (4 PM), Nov. 7, 2021. *The deadline for registering is Oct. 13, 2021. For more details and to register go to www.bcs.edu. You may also contact B.C.S. at 412-321-8383 or rector@bcs.edu. Only those who are fully COVID vaccinated will be permitted to register this year.*

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



Copyright 2002 Karl Zorowski. All rights reserved. www.churchmice.net

A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

We now come to the last of St. Paul's virtues which he lists as the "**Fruit of the Spirit**" in Galatians 5.22-23: **Self-Control**. While all of these virtues are countercultural in our day, self-control is, perhaps, the most out of step with our modern world.

All one has to do is watch television or internet advertisements and you'll see that we're actually encouraged to do the *opposite*. We're enticed to *indulge* in what we want, to feel that our desires are "worth it," that our frustration and anger *ought* to be expressed. But the Greek word translated "self-control" in Galatians is "*enkrateia*" which means **restraint** or **self-mastery**.

We show self-control when we do not react *reflexively* to things that entice us. When we feel a desire for something, do we automatically give into that desire? Do we demand immediate gratification? Do we grasp at it? Or do we take the time to *evaluate* that desire based on the will of God and his Law of Love? Is it a good, helpful, and holy desire? Or is it self-centered?

We also exercise self-control when we do not react reflexively to things that anger or frustrate us. When we are offended or harmed, our initial impulse is rage or retaliation. But if we take a step back and think of our Lord's commandments, we remember that we are to love those who hate us and bless those who treat us poorly. (See Matthew 5:44)

Jesus showed us the way of self-control when he was tempted by Satan after his baptism. Three times the Devil tried to get him to give in to his impulses: a temptation to satiate his hunger through immediate gratification, a temptation to idolatry and power, and a temptation to self-glorification. Jesus, having perfect self-control, refused all three.

God also shows self-control *even in just causes*. In Psalm 102 we read that God "does not treat us as our sins deserve, or repay us according to our iniquities." God wants us to be saved and come to a knowledge of his grace; and so he shows restraint, bearing with us patiently.

May this same God grant us his grace, that we may live according to his Spirit, which is not a spirit of vengeance, nor a spirit of entitlement, but a Spirit of self-control, through which we can build each other up.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Geoff

Pointing to the Lamb

The Beheading of the Holy and Glorious Prophet and Forerunner and Baptist John

The Church sets forth for every day of the year so many saints, so that we can be inspired by their lives, rejoice in their virtues, and take comfort in their intercession. There are countless martyrs and many holy ascetics. There are numerous hierarchs and worthy priests and deacons. There are choirs of virgins, wonderworkers, holy fools, unmercenary healers and passion-bearers. But there is only one Baptist and forerunner, and he, among all those born of woman knows no superior.



Today we celebrate the day of his beheading, or rather the surrender of his life to God's plan. We come to the date of August 29th because this is the day of dedication of the Church built by Saint Helen for his relics in Sebaste, the site of his burial. In that place his holy relics were honored until they were disturbed by the apostate emperor Julian. But, imprisoned in that dark palace, John actually gave his life into God's hands shortly before the Jewish Passover.

And that is entirely fitting and suitable. For even at his holy death, John did not abandon his ministry of going before the Lord, preparing his way (Luke 1:76). He had leapt for joy in the womb of his mother Elizabeth at the visitation of the Savior and the Mother of God. He entered the desert before the Lord, and told the demons to prepare to address the Only-begotten in the flesh. He preached to the people of Israel to prepare the way of the Lord, and to make his paths straight (Luke 3:4). He pointed to the Lamb of God, and made his own disciples to be apostles of the Lord. Though innocent, he was arrested and accused unjustly, a forerunner of the chosen path that the blameless Christ would follow. Now, he gave his life over to death, but this did not mark the end of his ministry! He entered into the realm of the dead, into Hades where the righteous of all ages, the patriarchs, prophets and just ones from the creation of the world were waiting to be loosed from their bondage. He walked among the dead, in the kingdom of death, crying out for all those weeping there to prepare themselves to receive the Lord God! The time of their captivity was coming to an end, soon Christ the true God would by means of the Cross enter into their condition, and lead them forth into freedom, opening the gates of paradise and carrying them to the glory of the holy Resurrection. The voice of God the Word would be heard in their midst, and the darkness of death would be illumined with the eternal Light. The psalmist words prophetically described that day: *The just shall rejoice at the presence of God, they shall exult and dance for joy. Make a highway for him who rides on the clouds, rejoice in the Lord, exult in his presence. God will go forth, at the head of his people, and the heavens will melt at the presence of God. This God of ours is a God who saves, the Lord our God holds the keys of death.* (from Psalm 67).

Holy kinsman of the Lord, prophet, forerunner and Baptist John, pray to God for us!

We hear the story of the beheading of the forerunner John, and shudder with shame and disbelief. How could the Savior God allow such a terrible end to his kinsman and faithful servant? With treachery and lust, the death is plotted of one so pure and righteous? But John himself was not disturbed, nor did he question God's ways. He gave himself over to the will of God, whose plan is ever for the good to those who love him.

We fast today, as if to honor the Forerunner who fasted always. We fast today, to separate ourselves from the passions that were so cruelly executed on the day of his death. Trumpets precede the entrance of the King into the banquet hall. Lightning precedes the thunderclap. A candle precedes the procession of the Holy Gospel. And we fast today to remind ourselves that humility precedes the gifts of God. How shall we boast? Even hours of patient vigil, even endless good deeds, even mountains of philanthropy are a pittance, amounting to nothing more than some camel hair and a leather girdle before God. It is a humbled spirit and contrite heart that is acceptable before the throne of grace. So on this feast we fast, becoming less, that God can become all. Lord, grant us the grace to humble ourselves, help us to persevere, even to the end.

Happy New Year!?! (Sept. 1)

Byzantine Liturgical New Year that is! The Church follows the computation of time according to the civil calendar year. However, in the Byzantine Rite, the liturgical year begins on September 1st, while the Western Churches begin their liturgical year on the first Sunday of Advent.

The Byzantine Church inaugurated the first of September as the beginning of the liturgical year in honor of the victory of Emperor Constantine the Great (d. 337 A.D.), over his adversary, Emperor Maxentius, in 312 A.D. Prior to Constantine, Christianity was constantly exposed to persecution. But with Constantine's victory, as attested to by St. Ambrose (d. 397 A.D.), the Church began a new life. So indeed, Happy New Year!

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha:

Biblical Images of the Church: *The Church is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic:* The Holy Fathers, in unified conciliar fashion, summarized the most distinctive signs of the Church of Christ in the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Symbol of Faith. Relying on other professions of faith used from apostolic times, they referred to Christ's Church as being "one, holy, catholic, and apostolic." These four signs of the Church become manifest in the light of faith, to be revealed in full glory at the second coming of Christ. (#283)

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

What are your plans for growing your faith this new Liturgical year?