

September 12, 2021
Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross



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 7, pg. 156, Nativity of the Theotokos: pp. 243-244, Prokeimenon & Alleluia: pg. 251

Divine Services for the Week:

- SUN., SEPT. 12** **SUNDAY before the EXALTATION of the CROSS**
8:30 A.M. **Leave-taking of the Nativity of the Theotokos**
 DIVINE LITURGY
 + **Mary Poiarkoff**, offered by Patricia Fetkovich
- TUES., SEPT. 14** **EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**
6:00 P.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
- SUN., SEPT. 19** **SUNDAY after the EXALTATION of the CROSS**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
 + **Heath Jones**, offered by Erik Fetkovich

Are You a Sheep or a Goat? – Many of the more careless sort, using the loving kindness of God towards men to increase the magnitude of their sins and the excess of their disregard, speak in this way saying: “There is no hell, no future punishment. God forgives all our sins....” But let us remember that there are two advents of Christ, one past, the other still to come. The first was not to judge us but to pardon us. The second will not be to pardon us but to judge us. It is of the first that He says: “I have not come to judge the world but to save the world.” But of the second He says: “When the Son shall come in the glory of His father, He will set the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.” (Mt 25:31) And the sheep will go into life and the goats into eternal punishment. (*St. John Chrysostom*)

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

None for the week

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

Sept. 12: Daniel & Kathy Kapaldo

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

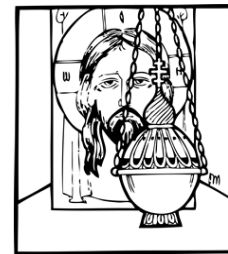
Rochester Manor: (174 Virginia Ave., Rochester, PA 15074) – Ann Trombulak

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

Epistle Readers – Sept. 12: Louisa Hersh– Sept. 19: Prudy Peya

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Sept 12: R. Mudron – Sept. 19: J. Yurosky



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

September 12 – 18, 2021

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

The Parishioners

Observe the great care that the owner took with this place and the extraordinary hardness of the people. He himself did the work the tenants should have done. It was he who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it and built a tower. He left little for them to do. All they had to do was take care of what was there and to preserve what was given to them. Nothing was left undone but all accomplished. But they made little effort to be productive, even after they had enjoyed such great blessings from him. For when they had come out of Egypt, he gave a law, and set up a city, and built a temple and prepared an altar. Then he “went into a far country.” He was patient with them. He did not keep a close account of their sins. The meaning of “going into a far country” is God’s great patience.

St. John Chrysostom

Teach your children this lesson: The rewards of evil are temporary while the rewards of Godliness are eternal.

- St. Cyprian

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!



St. Nicholas Raffle

The Annual St. Nicholas Celebration benefiting the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril & Methodius is being planned to resume this year. Dinner information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, as we have done in previous years, there is a Metropolia-wide raffle in conjunction with the dinner. The raffle prize is **\$2,000 cash** and tickets are **\$10.00** apiece. Each parish has received 17 tickets to be sold. The winning number will be based on the PA Lottery Evening Pick 3 Number drawn on Monday, December 6, 2021. If you would like to purchase a ticket, see Fr. Geoff after the Liturgy. Please pay with Cash or with a check made out to the parish with "St Nicholas Raffle" in the memo line.

Ukrainian Food Festival - October 1 & 2

Our sisters and brothers at Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie will be hosting their Food Festival on October 1 & 2, 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Pyrohy, Holupsti, Kielbasa, Haluski, Borscht, pastries and more will be served. Entertainment and church tours will be conducted. The parish is located at 220 Mansfield Blvd. in Carnegie.

Faith Fest 2021

An ecumenical church gathering for all Christians and churches of the Hopewell and Aliquippa areas, "Faith Fest" is the collaboration of several area pastors. It is a multi-denominational, cross-cultural gathering of believers in Jesus Christ. The unity cookout is an opportunity to celebrate and appreciate the rich heritage and diverse church cultures rooted in our community. The time together will include: grilled burgers, hotdogs, and a variety of covered dishes and desserts; games and prizes for children; worship from various area churches in different traditions; opportunities to fellowship with other Christian believers; and a time to celebrate and acknowledge the unity we already share in Christ at a time when the wider culture is so divided. Each family attending is asked to bring a side dish of their choosing (to feed 12 people); a lawn-chair or blanket. (There will be some picnic tables available. **Sunday, September 26, 2:30-5:30 PM at Hopewell Community Park Amphitheater.**

A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This week, we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The readings for the Saturdays and Sundays before and after this observance are changed from the regular post-Pentecostal readings. So the whole week becomes, as it were, dedicated to the Holy Cross, which is the mystery of our salvation.

Throughout his ministry, Jesus gave hints about how he was going to die. A couple of times he referred to being "**lifted up**" from the earth. Obviously, this means he would be lifted up on the Cross, an instrument of torture and a means of state execution for traitors and insurrectionists. But the word used translated "lifted up" can also mean "**exalted.**" So this cruel and shameful "lifting up" actually became the means of *exalting* the Lord; the Cross becomes a Throne.

Once, Jesus was arguing with the Pharisees about his identity. Jesus had claimed "I am the Light of the world." (John 8.12) In the interaction that followed, Jesus explained that he came from the Father, but the Pharisees did not know who his Father was. Then Jesus explained, "When you **lift up** the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he." (John 8.28) Jesus' true identity as the Messiah - the Christ who would save Israel and redeem the world - becomes clear only when he is lifted up/exalted on the Cross.

Later, when speaking to a crowd, Jesus would say, "Now is the time for the judgment of this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am **lifted up** (*or "exalted"*) from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12.31-32) These two sentences are rich with meaning:

First, on the Cross, Christ is judging the world. And he's judging the world by *taking to himself* the sin of the world. ("God made him who had no sin to be sin for us," as St. Paul put it in 2 Corinthians.) Second, it is by the power of the life-giving Cross that the "prince of this world" - the Evil One - is driven out. This is good news! The Enemy's defeat is guaranteed. We need not fear, for Christ is the Victor.

Finally, it is on the Cross that Jesus "draws all people" to himself. The message of the Cross, the message of redemption, the message of our salvation, is for *everyone*. God wants everyone to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. So he reaches out to all - and we, who take up our own crosses, reach out to all in his Name.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit, that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you, for the glory of your Name. Amen.

Yours in the Cross of Jesus,

Fr. Geoff

The Universal Exaltation of the Holy Cross: September 14

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross originated in Jerusalem in the year 355 to commemorate the dedication of the Basilica of the Resurrection. When the true Cross of Jesus was found shortly afterwards, this event was commemorated on the same day. In time, the Feast of the Exaltation replaced the feast of the dedication.

In 395, St. John Chrysostom wrote of three crosses which were discovered beneath Golgotha by the Empress Helena. Many other writers speak of miracles which occurred through contact with the true Cross. It was through one of these miracles that the true Cross was recognized by St. Helena and St. Macarius, the Bishop of Jerusalem.



The Holy Cross was kept in the Basilica of the Resurrection in Jerusalem until 614, when the Persians conquered the city and burned the Church. In 628, Emperor Heraclius III defeated the Persians and returned the Holy Cross to Jerusalem. A portion of the Cross was taken to Rome in the seventh century by Sergius I, a Pope of Byzantine origin.

As we celebrate this Major Feast let us remind ourselves that the power of the Cross is given to each and every Christian. But just as a soldier must learn to properly wield his weapons in battle, so a warrior of Christ must learn how correctly to make the sign of the Cross. A shield has no effect if carelessly waved about in the air. Likewise, there are many who receive no benefit from the sign of the Cross because they make it mechanically or haphazardly.

The Cross, once a tool of death, has become a means to life, an instrument of our salvation; it gives strength to resist temptation, to refrain from gossip or harsh words and it dispels fear. Amen.

Anniversary Liturgy - On Sunday, October 10th we will celebrate the tenth anniversary of Deacon Tom's ordination with a combined parishes Divine Liturgy at St. Mary in Ambridge at 9:30 AM. Deacon Gregory Loya from the Dormition of The Mother of God parish in Cleveland, Ohio will be concelebrating with Deacon Tom and will be the homilist for the Liturgy. Deacon Gregory and Deacon Tom were classmates at the Seminary from 2005 – 2010 during their academic studies for the diaconate. There will be a reception in the parish hall following the liturgy with light refreshments. Please plan to attend as we continue to be thankful for Deacon Tom's service to our parishes and the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. May God grant to his servant Deacon Tom many happy and blessed years.

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Catechetical Sunday 2021

The need of Christian education is as immediate as when the disciples first appealed to Jesus: "Teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1)

In order to pass on the faith of our Church, we must take hold of it ourselves! What are you doing to nourish your spiritual life and your knowledge of the beautiful faith of our Church? There are many resources available at our parish including **Sunday School, Adult Formation** (to be announced), our **Church Library**, and **Catechetical Handouts**. You can also visit GodWithUsBooks.org or GodWithUsOnline.org for books, videos, webinars, further resources and study guides to strengthen you in your confidence to share the faith of our Church with others.

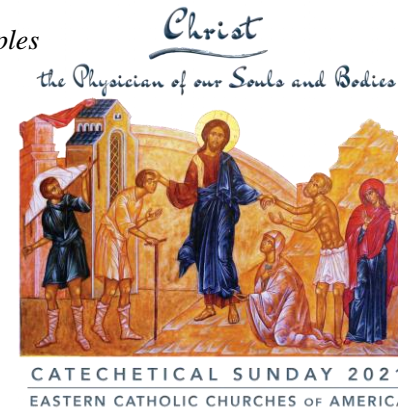
Parents/Grandparents: The greatest gift, the most precious inheritance that we have to give to our children is our Byzantine Catholic Faith. Jesus makes it clear that He wants children to come to know Him, and He considers it a grave offense for an adult to hinder this process or lead a child astray: "whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea." (*Matthew 18:6*) **When we bring our children regularly to Sunday school we provide them with a gift of knowledge that has lifelong value and significance.** If you wish to send your children to Sunday school for the 2021/2022 school year, please register by September 26 by filling out a registration form or emailing stgbyz@gmail.com.

The Importance of Spiritual Help for Young Children

Parents have to help their children spiritually when they are little; because then, even their faults are little and they can easily be corrected. It's like a fresh potato; if you scratch it a little, it's peeled. If, however, it gets older and staler, you will need a sharp knife to clean it; and if it has some dark spots, you'll need to dig deeper. If the children are filled with Christ from an early age, they will always remain close to Him. And even if they should stray a little when they grow up, either because of a phase of rebellion they're going through or because of bad influences, they are sure to return to their senses. This is because the fear of God and the devotion that watered their hearts - when they were young - cannot ever be eradicated.

- By Elder Paisios the Athonite

"Tradition ... Tradition ... Yes, the religious traditions of our people have very deep spiritual meaning, but we MUST be acquainted with them and try to preserve them!"



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

"We then, are the Church, the Body of Christ, and we actualize it for the transformation of the world, transforming the world to become the body of Christ."

Bishop Nicholas Samra, Stewards of the Mysteries

