

September 19, 2021  
Sunday after 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: Ressurrectional Tone 8, pg. 161 & Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross: pp. 258-260

Divine Services for the Week:

**SUN., SEPT. 19**      **SUNDAY after the EXALTATION of the CROSS**  
**8:30 A.M.**      **DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ **Heath Jones**, offered by Erik Fetkovich

**SUN., SEPT. 26**      **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**  
**8:30 A.M.**      **Dormition of St. John the Theologian**  
                 **DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ **Mary Poiarkoff**, offered by James Mudron

**Are you ashamed of Christ?**

One who claims to live in Christ ought to walk as He walked. Would you follow Christ? Then be humble as He was humble. Do not scorn His lowliness if you want to reach His exaltation. Human sin made the road rough. Christ's resurrection leveled it. By passing over it Himself He transformed the narrowest of tracks into a royal highway. Two feet are needed to run along this highway; they are humility and charity. Everyone wants to get to the top – well, the first step to take is humility. Why take strides that are too big for you – do you want to fall instead of going up? Start with the first step, humility, and you will already be climbing.



*(Saint Caesarius of Arles)*

**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

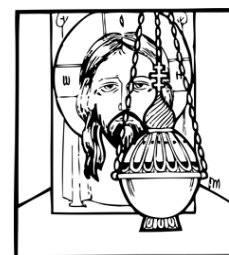
**Rochester Manor:** (174 Virginia Ave., Rochester, PA 15074) – Ann Trombulak

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

**Epistle Readers – Sept. 19: Prudy Peya – Sept. 26: Joanne Futato**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – Sept. 19: J. Yurosky – Sept 26: R. Dzumba**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**  
September 19 - 25, 2021

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

+ **John Salamon**

*(In loving memory)*

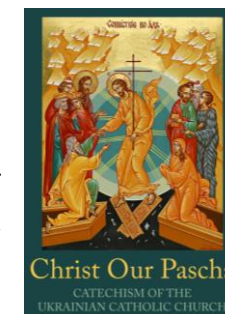
Offered By:

Wife, Mary

**Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha:**

**Biblical Images of the Church: *The Church is One:***

The Mystery of God's Life, "the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations" (Col 1:26), was revealed to humankind in the Incarnate Word of God. In the same way, the Church of Christ, the mystical Body of Christ, becomes visibly manifest in self-governing Churches. It is in these, and formed out of them, that the one and unique Catholic Church exists. (#285)



*Save your people, O Lord, and bless your inheritance. Grant victory to your Church over evil, and protect your people by your cross.*



# 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.

**Anniversary Liturgy** - On **Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>** 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.

## **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 Sisters and Brothers,

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus explained to his disciples "that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." But Peter objected: "Never Lord!... This shall never happen to you!" (Mt. 16.21-22)

Peter had realized that Jesus was the Messiah by this point. He was aware that Jesus was the one who came to restore the glory to Israel and fulfill the promises God made through the Prophets of the Old Covenant. But he misunderstood *how* Jesus would fulfill these promises. This past week, as we've celebrated the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, we remember just how God, in Christ, brought about the fulfillment of his promises: through the suffering of "many things" and through being killed, and raised to life.

The Cross of Jesus therefore became for us the means by which he won our salvation, our victory. Christ is the Victor over sin, death, and hell. The Cross was the means by which he cast out the "prince of this world" (the Devil) (John 12:31). This was predicted by the Prophet Isaiah:

*Surely, he took up our pain and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him and afflicted.  
But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities,  
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.  
We all, like sheep, have gone astray...  
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.* (Isaiah 53.4-6)

In the Cross of Christ, therefore, we glory! It is the forgiveness of our sins, our redemption from death, the conquering of the gates of hell, and the means by which Christ judges the world by taking to himself the sins of the world. Therefore, we sing with great reverence: *We bow to you Cross, O Lord, and we glorify your holy Resurrection!*

In the Cross of our Lord,

*Fr. Geoff*

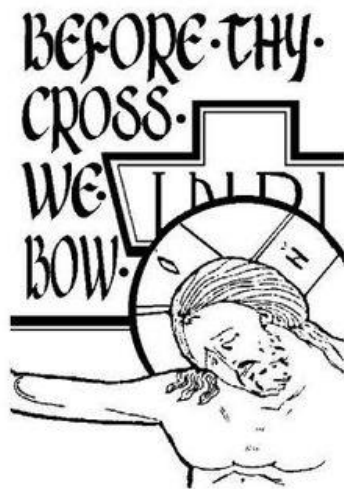
*Wearied by the storms of life, we hasten to Your divine intercession, O Savior of the World.  
Strengthen our weakness enabling us to carry our cross without complaint, praising You: Alleluia!*

Kontakion to the All-Merciful Lord, Physician of Our Souls and Bodies



## Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The Epistle which is proclaimed in the Church today is one that has been misused by many non-Apostolic Christians who would look to reject the Church's teaching on salvation. "Faith" in our understanding is the union of our entire self to Christ. This union which entrusts my intellect, spirit, soul and body to the Savior joins me to Christ in such an intimate way that my life is transformed into his life. This is the process of Theosis or divinization. As Saint Paul says "it is now no longer I who live, but Christ is living in me." Faith, then, is an aspect of love by which I give my life to the one that I love. In this act of total self-gift we can discern two important truths. The one who loves first must die to himself in as much as the lover's life is no longer about himself but totally about the one whom he loves and whom he sustains through the gift of his life. The second truth that results from the first is that the lover, having died to himself, comes to life or is "resurrected from the dead" in the life of the beloved.



The Gospel which is proclaimed today confirms and makes explicit for us the above explanation of loving faith. "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For anyone who would save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will save it." The cross, the exaltation of which we celebrated this past Thursday, is the sign of the Lord's total self-giving love. The cross reveals to us the breadth and depth of God's love. What remains is our response to that gift and our union with that love.

### PRACTICAL QUESTIONS:

1. How can we understand Saint Paul's teaching that he is "nailed to the cross" with Christ?
2. How can we unite ourselves to the cross of Christ and why would Jesus want us to do so?
3. How do we save our life by losing it?
4. What kind of life are we called to give up and what kind of life do we gain?

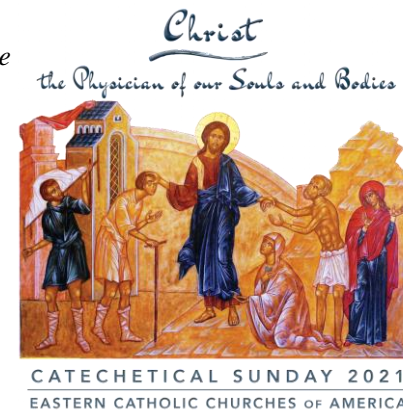
**Parents/Grandparents:** The greatest gift, the most precious inheritance that we have to give to our children is our Byzantine Catholic Faith. Jesus makes it clear that He wants children to come to know Him, and He considers it a grave offense for an adult to hinder this process or lead a child astray: "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](mailto:stgbyz@gmail.com).

*We bow to Your cross, O Lord, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection.*

## 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](http://GodWithUsBooks.org) or [GodWithUsOnline.org](http://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.



We are excited to share with you our many **CATECHETICAL RESOURCES** for the renewal of our Eastern Churches! Each week we will once again be offering you **reflections for use at home** to go along with the all of our other resources offered for your personal formation. Be sure to take advantage of all that is being offered to you! **There will be monthly reflections on the Healing Ministry of Christ published in our Victory Bearer bulletin for our Catechetical theme for the year Christ, The Physician of Souls and Bodies. Our Church Library is available FOR ALL to help in your on-going formation.**

**Adult Formation Opportunity:** There is a NEW season of online webinars from [www.godwithusonline.org](http://www.godwithusonline.org). The first is detailed below:

### Rethinking SUNDAY SCHOOL The Problem & Practical Solutions MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. ET

Watch from the comfort of your home!

Please join us as we explore with Fr. François Beyrouti the importance of holding onto a discipleship model in teaching the faith, and practical ways to accomplish this in our current situations. This will be a talk for **EVERYONE**, regardless of whether you share the faith formally or informally!

GOD WITH US ONLINE is an outreach project of the Eparchial Directors of Religious Education (ECED) and the Eastern Catholic Associates (ECA) and is dedicated to the catechetical renewal of Eastern Catholics in the United States in accord with the Church's call for a new evangelization. *All programs are offered free of charge.*

*"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*

Most of the problems in the Church are due to ignorance of the Scriptures."  
St. John Chrysostom

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

"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*