

October 17, 2021
Sunday of the Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council



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: See Typica Book this Sunday

Divine Services for the Week:

- SUN., OCT. 17 SUNDAY of the FATHERS of the 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL
8:30 A.M. TYPICA with COMMUNION
+ Mary Poiarkoff, offered by Prudy Peya
- SUN., OCT. 24 TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST
8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
+ Philomena Rossi, offered by Rich Mudron

Typica Service this Sunday – Father Geoff is away on business this Sunday. A guest celebrant was not available while he is away. We will therefore be having a Typica Service with Communion this Sunday. We welcome Deacon Tom Klacik to lead the Typica Service and distribute Holy Communion, which was consecrated by Father Geoff earlier this week.

How deeply is the Lord rooted in you? – This good seed is worthy of admiration. Rich and well-productive land brings forth fruit a hundredfold. They say that the best soils sometimes under cultivation produce a hundredfold, so this is a mark of every fertile and productive spot. One of the holy prophets said from the mouth of God, “And all nations shall congratulate you because you are a desirable land.” (Mal 3:12) When the divine word falls upon a pure mind skillful in cleansing itself from things hurtful, it fixes its root deeply and shoots up like an ear of corn. It brings its fruit to perfection being strong in blade and beautifully flowered.

(St. Cyril of Alexandria)

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

October 17: Dorothy Hagan, October 20: Erin Zimmerman, October 21: Andrea Vargo

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

October 19: Darlene & John Simunick, Daniel & Erin Zimmerman

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, Betty Polas, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

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

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

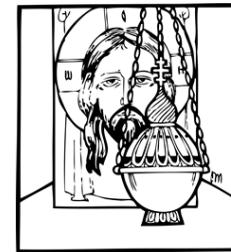
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

Epistle Readers – Oct. 17: Louisa Hersh – Oct. 24: Prudy Peya

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Oct. 17: R. Mudron – Oct. 24: M. Bobanic



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

October 17 - 23, 2021

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Michael & Mary Chapes

(In loving memory)

Offered By:

Daughter, Mary Dickey

Today our Holy Church remembers the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council under the holy Patriarch Tarasios. The Council of 787, the second to meet at Nicea, refuted the Iconoclast heresy during the reign of Empress Irene and her son Constantine Porphyrogenitos. This Council decreed that the veneration of Icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype the person depicted). It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because “no man has seen God at any time” (Jn 1:18). Since this Council, the use of Icons has been an important aspect of our prayer lives till this very day. In our Eastern Church we have inherited the practice of having an Icon corner in our Domestic Churches-our households. **The Icon corner should be part of every Eastern Christian home in order to enhance daily prayer.**

Rosary to be Recited

The Holy Rosary will be recited at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes located at the St. Anthony Center in West Aliquippa on Sunday, October 24, 2021, at 3:00 pm. Deacon Tony Giordano will lead the rosary and prayers.

Everyone is welcome to join the St. Anthony Congregation in honoring the Blessed Mother. For further information please call 724-622-8445

39th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration

On **Sunday, October 31**, St. John the Baptist Church in Uniontown will hold their modified annual ethnic festival from **Noon-4:00 PM**. Food items available in the Social Hall will be take-out only. Menu includes: Ethnic platter; kolbasi sandwich; halushki; pirohi; holubki; kolachi; cookies; cakes; and more! Raffle items will be available. Handicapped accessible. No charge for admission.

For information, call (724) 438-6027 or email stjohnthebaptistuniontown@gmail.com.

A	E	S	D	R	I	B	R	F	S	LAKESIDE	CROWDS	SOWER
E	S	D	E	E	S	O	E	E	E	SEEDS	BIRDS	SOIL
A	R	C	K	E	O	L	W	L	E	EARTH	SCORCHED	ROOTS
S	A	S	O	S	L	I	O	A	S	WITHERED	THORNS	CROP
R	E	D	H	R	T	I	S	K	E			
P	S	W	C	H	C	H	O	E	D			
R	O	O	E	S	T	H	K	S	S			
S	N	R	O	H	T	R	E	I	I			
E	E	C	C	T	R	E	A	D	B			
D	S	T	O	O	R	T	A	E	R			



Let us pray:

*During this Respect Life Month for those nearing the end of life:
May they receive care that respects their dignity and protects their lives as they place their
hope in the promise of eternal life; Let us pray to the Lord: Lord have mercy.*

A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

St. Paul writes in Galatians that "a person is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ." (Gal 2.16) This is sometimes used as a point of contention or disagreement between Catholic and Protestant Christians. One of the Protestant doctrinal cries of the Reformation was "*Sola Fides*" - that is, we are justified not by what we *do*, but by a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Catholics, for our part, held that we are certainly justified by God's grace, but that both our faith and our works are outworkings of that grace.

To be "justified" literally means to be "made righteous" or "made just." What St. Paul is speaking about in Galatians is, therefore, something that both Catholics and Protestants can agree on: we are not saved simply by keeping the "Law" (whether that be the Old Testament *Torah* that Paul was referring to; or simply being good, upstanding, moral people). In Paul's theology, even the most virtuous of human beings has fallen short and is therefore not worthy of the good things of God (see Romans 3:23). Rather, *salvation is always and only a gift from God*. It is gratuitous. It is unearned and unmerited. All Christians are able to agree on this point.

And yet, we believe that our deeds, our actions, our striving - that is, our "asceticism" - *does* have spiritual and eternal significance. St. Peter *affirms* this part of the Law, when he writes: "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy because I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1.15-15) And Jesus tells us: "Be merciful as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36)

How does this all fit together? I think St. Paul explains it when he says, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God..." (Gal. 2.20) That is, all our words of grace and actions of mercy are the outworking of *Christ in us*. It is our "participation" in God's divine nature (2 Peter 1.4); we become "fellow workers with Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

In 1999, the official Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue produced a "Joint Declaration" on the doctrine of Justification. After nearly 500 years, a level of trust and agreement was reached. In that statement, they declared:

"Justification thus means that Christ himself is our righteousness, in which we share through the Holy Spirit in accord with the will of the Father. Together we confess: By grace alone, in faith in Christ's saving work and not because of any merit on our part, we are accepted by God and receive the Holy Spirit, who renews our hearts while equipping and calling us to good works." (3.15)

Thanks be to God who, in Christ, has given us his righteousness and bestowed on us the Holy Spirit, equipping us and preparing us for good works!

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Fr. Geoff

Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

Today we remember the Fathers who defended the Orthodox faith at the Second Council of Nicea. It was in the 8th century that some men who were not Christians gained power and influence at the imperial court in Constantinople and began to say that we should not have icons of Jesus and the saints in the church. These men wanted nothing more than to cause division in the Church of God. Ultimately, the root of the error which they promoted was the denial that the material, created world could be a bearer of divine life. This is so important because it separates the apostolic and orthodox churches from the rest of Christianity today.



First, it is important to remember that we do not worship wood but rather we honor the one depicted in the icons. Just as we hang pictures of our loved ones, so we do well to paint images of the saints who are very much present to us today. We do so not because they are dead, but because they lived and continue to live the divine life. The saints are the men and women that are filled with divine life and bear the image and likeness of God himself. And when Divine Life is our life, then our life is no longer mortal life but eternal life.

We heard in the Gospel today about the seed which falls on bad ground and that which falls on good ground. As the Lord explained to his Apostles, and explains to us today, the ground represents the heart, and the seed is the Word of God. The seed is Christ himself who comes and makes his dwelling within us. The seed is Christ who makes his life our life.

It is for this reason that we celebrate today the memory of the Fathers of the Second Council of Nicea and also that we paint and honor and reverence the Saints depicted in the holy icons, because their heart was the “good soil” into which the seed, the Word of God, was planted deeply. They were filled with Divine Life and now live with God forever.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

1. Is the soil of our heart ready to receive the Word of God or are we rocky ground? Do we hunger for the things of God? Is our Christian life choked by the concerns of this world and by distractions that are all around us?
2. Do we come earlier to church each Sunday to grow in divine life?
3. Are we patient in the face of adversity and kind to those who hate us and are mean to us?
4. Do we pray regularly before the icon of Christ in our home?

There should be images in the churches of the faithful, especially the images of our Lord Jesus Christ and of the Holy Mother of God, of every kind of material, both gold and silver and of every color, so that his incarnation may be set forth for all. Let there also be painted the lives of the Saints and Prophets and Martyrs, so their struggles and agonies may be set forth for the stirring up and teaching of the people, especially of the unlearned.

St. Theodosius to the Second Council of Nicea

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

HE MADE HIS DWELLING AMONG US

THE ANNUNCIATION AND THE GOSPEL OF LIFE

The Annunciation celebrates the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to inform her that she was to be the mother of Jesus. On this great feast day, we not only recall Mary’s courageous “yes” to God, we also celebrate the Incarnation of Christ, our Savior. For it was there, in the womb of a woman, nine months before the celebration of the manger, that “the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14).



The celebration of the Annunciation coincides with the anniversary of the papal encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*). This prophetic document on the dignity and inviolability of every human life was put forth by Pope John Paul II on the Solemnity of the Annunciation in 1995. The intimate connection of these two events highlights a profound reality about the identity and value of every human person.

Luke’s Gospel tells us that by the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ would be conceived within the womb of Mary. It was there, in the womb of the Blessed Mother, that Christ first took on human flesh and made his dwelling among us. Like us, the unborn child Jesus grew and developed beneath the shelter of his mother’s loving heart. Through Christ’s Incarnation, God chose to share fully and intimately in our humanity and bridge all distance between God and man, so that we may dwell together.

The Church teaches us that “by His incarnation the Son of God has united Himself in some fashion with every man.”[1] God desired to dwell among us, as one of us, in order to bring us salvation. This truth “reveals to humanity not only the boundless love of God... but also the incomparable value of every human person.”[2]

Each of us is made in the image and likeness of our Creator, to share in the very life of God himself. This reality “reveals the greatness and the inestimable value of human life.”[3] The human person is “a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory.”[4] Created through the love of the Father, each one of us bears “an indelible imprint of God.”[5] By sharing in our humanity, Christ invites us to share in his divinity, that we might dwell with him for eternity.

Therefore, “the Gospel of God’s love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel.”[6] Through Christ’s descent to earth God desires to raise each one of us to the heights of heaven. May we recognize that to proclaim the Gospel of Life is to proclaim Christ, the one who *made his dwelling among us*.

Glory to Jesus Christ ~ Glory Forever!

Слава Иисусу Христу! ~ Слава на вики!

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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

*“Heavenly Father... give us love for all people, especially the most vulnerable,
and help us bear witness to the truth that every life is worth living.”*

