

October 24, 2021
Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost



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 5: pp. 146 - 147

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., OCT. 24 **TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ **Philomena Rossi**, offered by Rich Mudron

SUN., OCT. 31 **TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ **Philomena Rossi**, offered by John Kubanda

The Holy and Great Martyr Demetrius, October 26

Born in Salonica of devout parents, he was a much-longed-for only child. Because of this he received an excellent education. Like his father, Demetrius became a soldier in the Roman army. The emperor Maximian appointed him to persecute the Christians in Salonica, but Demetrius confessed his faith and preached Christ. He was cruelly martyred for his witness to the Lord. Since earliest times, he has been regarded as a wonderworker and powerful intercessor.



Did you Know?

October 26 is **Carpatho-Rusyn Day** in North America (*Our heritage*). There is a hand-out available today with more information on this. Celebrate your heritage!

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:
October 26: Alexander Hersh, October 28: John Gural

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:
October 30: Shawn & Christine Cody

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

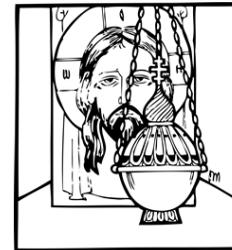
Ann Trombulak – **Rochester Manor:** (174 Virginia Ave., Rochester, PA 15074)

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. 24: Prudy Peya – Oct. 31: Joanne Futato
Ushers – Stand in as needed
Troica Holders – Oct. 24: M. Bobanic – Oct. 31: J. Yurosky



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

October 24 - 30, 2021

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

Brian Todd
(Health & God's Blessings)

Offered By:
Mary Elizabeth Olack

Excerpt from Christ our Pascha

The Sin of Abortion: Abortion is the deliberate and direct killing of a human being during the period between its conception and birth—at the very beginning of its life. Generally, abortion takes the form of an artificial termination of pregnancy. Abortion also consists of all actions involving a manipulation that leads to the destruction of human embryos obtained through the use of reproductive technologies. The Holy Scriptures teach us that the dignity of the human person exists from conception: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you”

Glory to Jesus Christ ~ Glory Forever!
Слава Иисусу Христу! ~ Слава на вики!

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 TODAY 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.

Saint Nicholas Celebration Dinner

The 64th Saint Nicholas Celebration benefiting the Byzantine Catholic Seminary will take place on Sunday, December 5, 2021 at St. John Cathedral & Center in Munhall, PA. Preceding the event, Vespers to St. Nicholas will be celebrated in the Cathedral. Tickets for the Dinner are \$45 per adult and \$20 per child under 12. If you wish to attend, please see Father Geoff *before* November 8, so that the reservation form can be submitted in time. In addition to the dinner (or in lieu), if you would like to be a contributing sponsor to the event, your name can be included in the program book. Father Geoff has this information as well.

Assembly of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church

On November 4 & 5, 2021, the Assembly of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church will be held at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, PA. It is designed with eminently qualified presenters and presentations of vital significance. We live in an unprecedented time of lives disrupted by the covid pandemic. This assembly offers an opportunity for us to together grow spiritually and begin to bring ourselves and our Church into a time of renewed interest, growth, and participation. Topics include "Look Back: Looking Ahead with a Hopeful Heart (Dcn. Tom Shubeck); Our Worship Post Pandemic (Fr. Valerian Michlik & Fr. Andrew Summerson); The Eucharist: Holy Gifts to Holy People (Bishop Kurt Burnette); and Growing Parishes Post Pandemic (Dcn. Basil Balke).

If you would like to represent the parish at this assembly, please speak with Fr. Geoff.

Let us pray:

During this Respect Life Month may God grant us the wisdom and courage to lovingly protect His gift of human life at every stage, in sickness and in health;

Let us pray to the Lord: Lord have mercy.

A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The **Our Father** (or the "Lord's Prayer") is something that most of us learned as children at our mothers' knees. Since the earliest days of the Church, it has been recited daily by the faithful. Not only do we pray this prayer in every liturgy, we pray it in our homes. The first century Church rule called the *Didache* teaches that Christians should pray the Our Father three times a day. This is a good foundation from which to build a personal rule of prayer.

Jesus gave his disciples the Lord's Prayer in answer to their request, "Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11.1) This request seems rather simple and straightforward. But it indicates something very deep in every human heart: the desire to be in communion with God, to be in fellowship with the Creator.

To be a person is to be in relationships with other persons. Our greatest joys come from our relationships: the love of parents, the devotion of children, the self-giving of spouses, the camaraderie of friends, and even the kindness of strangers. And our greatest sorrows also come from our relationships: the loss of loved ones to death, love betrayed, gossip which slanders, disappointed hopes for our children, conflict, and wars.

But to be human is to love, and to be a Christian is to love God. Our human loves will always, at some point, disappoint us whether in this life or when we say goodbye at death. To love is to suffer. And human love is also imperfect. Our love, even when selfless, can come from mixed motives; selfishness is mixed with altruism.

And yet the human heart continues to reach out in love with a desire for fellowship, for communion. And the love and fellowship of *God* never disappoints the way earthly loves do. So our Lord gave us a model of prayer for us to use so that we may grow in that love and fellowship. Over the next few weeks I'll discuss parts of the Lord's Prayer in the bulletin. I hope it can open up deeper meaning for you and draw you closer to the heart of the Holy One who made, sustains, and redeems us.

This week, as you pray the Our Father, pay attention to the words. Perhaps slow down a little bit and think of the words you are saying. Just maybe you will discover new movements of the Holy Spirit in your life, as you draw closer to our loving Father.

Yours in Him,

Fr. Geoff

Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost

In On this Sunday again we hear a very familiar parable about the Rich Man and the poor man named Lazarus. From this Gospel reading we learn that if we give our love to money and to the things of the world that it buys and not to God, we suffer, we are committing sin, because we are choosing to live against God and against the principle of our nature. The reason it is “sinful” to love money and the things it can buy is because it goes against the law of our nature. The law of our nature is to love God in whom we were made. Only when we love God are we truly healthy, whole and alive. When we give our love to money and to the lusts of the flesh that money can buy, we give our love to that which has no life, to what passes away. We are then giving our love to death. This is why we are sick in soul and body. In our love for money, we have become disconnected from ourselves, disjointed, and fragmented.

The Rich Man in this morning’s parable represents anyone who loves money and the things of the world it can buy. Perhaps the Rich man in this morning’s Gospel represents especially us who call ourselves Christian. We say we love God with our lips; but what do we love in our secret heart? Outwardly, we attend the Divine Services. Outwardly, we say our prayers. We may even say them regularly, faithfully. But in our heart, who, what do we love?

According to this parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man, the chief distinguishing mark of the lover of money is indifference to his neighbor in need. Engrossed in the endless chase to get ahead, he is in total disregard to the suffering and the needs of others. On this Sunday let us renew the vision of the Gospel that the Church through her prophets, her preachers and teachers, cries out to all of us: “In the fear of God, with faith and love draw near.” Turn away from the love of money and from the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life; for these are not of the Father but they are of the world, and the world passes away, and the lust of it, but he who does the will of God abides forever. Serve God as your only Master. To take up your cross is to take up the work of learning to love Him with all your heart and your neighbor, even your enemy, the suffering and the needy as yourself; and so you may live and go in and take possession of the land, the Kingdom of Heaven, that the Lord, the God of our fathers, has given to you. Amen

See, the more sumptuously the rich man lived, the more Lazarus was humbled! The more Lazarus was made low, the greater was his crown. Why should he have seen Abraham above all the just, and Lazarus in his bosom? He saw him because Abraham loved the poor and so that we might learn that we cannot hope for pardon at the end, unless the fruits of pardon can be seen in us.

St. Ephrem the Syrian



“Do not turn your face away from any poor man, and the face of God will not be turned away from you.”

Be Not Afraid

When battered by life’s storms, or immersed in a dense fog of suffering and uncertainty, we may feel alone and unequipped to handle the circumstances. Yet with words that echo through thousands of years into the corners of our hearts, the Lord says to us, “Do not fear: I am with you” (Isaiah 41:10).

He speaks these words not as one who merely observes our pain, but as one who experienced immense suffering. And the very wounds that bear witness to his suffering indicate the essence of our identity and worth: we are loved by God.

Reflecting on the healed wounds of the Risen Christ, we see that even our most difficult trials can be the place where God manifests his victory. He makes all things beautiful. He makes all things new.

He is *always* with us. Jesus promised this when he gave the disciples the same mission he gives to each of us: Go.

Go be my hands and feet to a world enslaved by fear. Go to the woman who is unexpectedly pregnant and fears the future. Go to your friend who fears reprisal at work because he takes a stand for the protection of human life. Go to your aging parent in failing health who fears being a burden. And go to others, too, for their support.

We don’t need to have everything figured out. We can simply follow the guidance of Our Blessed Mother, the first disciple: “Do whatever he tells you” (John 2:5).

Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God’s gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us.

“Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

At times, we may feel like we can’t make a difference, or that we’re unequipped for what God is asking of us. But St. Joseph “teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses”. When human life is threatened, when our brothers and sisters need support welcoming or embracing life, may we lovingly respond with the faithfulness of Joseph.

Teachings of Christ

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you”

Respect Life

