

October 31, 2021

Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost

Feast of our Holy Martyr Theodore Romzha Bishop of Mukachevo



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 handout this week

Divine Services for the Week:

- SUN., OCT. 31 **TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
Feast of our holy martyr Theodore Romzha Bishop of Mukachevo
DIVINE LITURGY
+ Philomena Rossi, offered by John Kubanda
- SUN., NOV. 7 **TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST,**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Mary Poiarkoff, offered by Patricia Fetkovich
- MON., NOV. 8 **ST. MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL and ALL ANGELS HOLY DAY**
6:00 P.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Philomena Rossi, offered by Florence Leisky

Don't be a Swine!

If there is anyone among us who is wanton, swinish, filth-loving, impure, and willingly contaminated with the abominations of sin, God will permit him to fall into their power and sink into the abyss of damnation. It will never happen that those who love Christ will become subject to them. It will never happen to us as long as we walk in his footsteps, avoid negligence in the performance of what is right, desire those things which are honorable, and belong to that virtuous and praiseworthy lifestyle that Christ has marked out for us by the precepts of the Gospel.

(St. Cyril of Alexandria)

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

None for the week

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

November 2: John & Anne Gural

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)

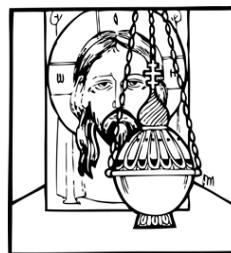
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers – Oct. 31: Joanne Futato – Nov. 7: JoAnn Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Oct. 31: J. Yurosky – Nov. 7: Francis Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

October 31 – November 6, 2021

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

The Parishioners

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)

Your regular attendance and sacrificial offerings benefit the overall welfare of our Parish

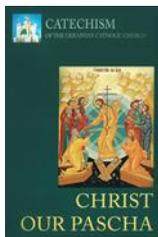
On this final Sunday of Respect Life Month let us Pray:

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.

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.



Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha:

The Church is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic: *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)

We are called to be not just parishioners but DISCIPLES who spread the Good News

Church Mice



Please, remember to turn your clock 1 hour back this Saturday, November 6th, before you go to bed. Standard Time Resumes.



A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The **Our Father** begins with an *invocation* - literally, a calling on the Name of someone, in this case, God. Jesus, during his time on earth, expressed a very intimate relationship with God, a relationship that can only be understood as the relationship of a Father and a Son. When Jesus was in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, he even used the Aramaic word "Abba," which is a deep, intensely close word for father, akin to "daddy." (See Mark 14.32-36)

In our own earthly lives, our relationships are with imperfect people. None of us had perfect fathers. And none of us who *are* fathers are without sin. And for some people, their parental relationship is so difficult that calling God "Father" can be a struggle for them. But I believe it is still important for us to call God "Father" as Jesus did. Not just because this is the doctrine of the Church (which it is), or because the Bible says so (which it does). But because understanding God as the *perfect* Father is even more powerful and awe-inspiring since we *know* that human fathers are imperfect. It says something of the kind of love that God showers on his people, and it tells us that his mercy is a mercy that doesn't just forgive, but lifts us up, and desires to see us grow and become mature.

So Jesus begins his prayer "Our Father, who art in heaven." (Matt. 6.9) *Heaven* is the dwelling place of God. We say in the Creed that God is the "Creator of *heaven* and earth." It is the place where God's perfect reign is not tarnished or twisted, the way it has become here on earth. St. John's Revelation speaks of the heavenly realm as being the "temple" of God. It is where God dwells. So to say "Our Father *who art in heaven*" is to say that we know that God is transcendent, that he is above and beyond anything we can know or experience on earth or in our limited knowledge.

Heaven, however, is not out of our reach. In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells his disciples: "*I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*" (John 14.2-3) So part of our Christian hope is to dwell in the heavenly places with the Father and the Son.

But more than that, we can begin to taste the joys of heaven in our own lives. In the Divine Liturgy, we celebrate "heaven on earth." Our participation in the Body and Blood of Christ is a "foretaste" of the banquet we will enjoy in heaven.

And, as we grow in holiness - as we grow in love with God - we can begin to recognize his presence more and more; not just in church, but in every aspect of our lives. St. Catherine of Siena said, "All the way to heaven is heaven, for Jesus said, 'I am the Way.'" Let us follow that Way, seeking our Father in heaven, as we listen to his Son and Word, Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Geoff



Next Pirohi Sale: November 12. Plan your orders!

Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost

Around 2,400 years ago an elderly and respected man stood trial for his life. When he was about to be condemned to death, he said something that has remained with us even today. The man was the Greek philosopher Socrates and in that most important moment he stated before his judges, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” In other words, one who goes about life without considering what he does, why he does it, where his life is headed, and how he might improve himself, is not really living.



In this we are reminded that there are two types of “life” that we can speak about—bodily life and spiritual life. It is very possible to be alive in the body and dead in the spirit. It is also possible to die in the body and be alive in the spirit.

In the Gospel text today we learn of Jesus’ journeys “to the other side of the sea” where he meets one who is in every way like the “living” dead. There Jesus confronts “life” apart from God – which is described in the most horrific terms, the “life” of the demons – and drives it out of the man and into the sea.

While the story of the demoniac may seem to be an extreme example, it helps us see what life apart from God looks like in its ultimate end.

Jesus, who is God, comes to us in our sin (the demoniac), under the dominion of the devil and “living in the tombs.” Notice that Jesus does not wait for us to come to him, but in the mystery of the Incarnation, he takes on our human nature, and he himself enters into our life as he entered the land of the Gerasenes – and there he comes to heal us, and to “raise us up” that we may no longer be under the dominion of death but under the dominion of life.

Just like the demoniac, we who have received this gift of new life in Christ Jesus are called to live accordingly.

Does the demoniac go back to live in the tombs? No! His life has changed! He is no longer living in death but in the light of Christ.

The Gospel concludes by telling us that “the man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying “return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city everything that Jesus had done for him.

The story of this healing should remind us that our heart must be centered upon Christ. He has given us newness of life and this new life must be shared with others. When is the last time that we “proclaimed throughout the whole city how much Jesus has done for us”? When is the last time we intentionally brought Christ into a conversation in our homes and with our friends? When is the last time we invited someone to come to church with us? We have received a new life in baptism – but are we living it? Or are we still living in the tombs? Do we prefer the friendship of the devil over the friendship of Christ? “The unexamined life is not worth living.”

“Faith is our greatest treasure on this earth.”

PRACTICAL QUESTIONS:

1. What are some characteristics of “life” apart from God?
2. What are some things you can point to that make your life different as a Christian?
3. What are some things Jesus has “done for you?”
4. What are some ways that we can “proclaim” to the world what Jesus has done in our lives?
5. What are some good ways that we can “examine” our life?

Demons are cruel, mischievous, hurtful and treacherous to those who are in their power. See how they hurried the swine over a precipice and drowned them in the waters? ... It will never happen that those who love Christ will become subject to them, as long as we walk in his footsteps, avoid negligence in doing what is right, desire that which is honorable, and follow the virtuous and praiseworthy lifestyle that Christ has marked out for us by the precepts of the Gospel.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

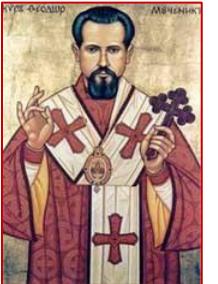
Christ, the Physician of Souls and Bodies: New Resources Today, Oct. 31

We again have *CATECHETICAL RESOURCES* to share with you for the renewal of our Eastern Churches! Today we have a reflection for November: [Run to the Hem of Christ](#) available for your personal formation. Kindly bring these resources and your Church bulletin home with you weekly for **deeper review** and family discussion. *Many thanks!*

Run to the Hem of Christ

Blessed Theodore Romzha

Today we commemorate Blessed Theodore Romzha in our Byzantine Catholic Church. “*I would rather die than betray my Church,*” Blessed Theodore Romzha (1911-1947), told his Soviet Communist persecutors. The apostolic administrator of the Ruthenian Catholic Mukachevo Eparchy in Ukraine, Bishop Romzha told his flock, “*Faith is our greatest treasure on this earth.*” The NKVD secret police soon poisoned him.



Rejoice! Shepherd of Mukachevo
Rejoice! Light of Užhorod;
Rejoice! Humility among the hills;
Rejoice! Strength amid the trees;
Rejoice! Sweet drink for a thirsty people;
Rejoice! Steadfast beyond all hope;
Rejoice! Bishop Theodore, martyred father,
Who now raise your prayers before the throne of God.

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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



“Faith is our greatest treasure on this earth.”