

November 28, 2021
Twenty Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 2: pg. 130 - 132

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., NOV. 28 **TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Marge Raychevich, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba

SUN., DEC. 5 **TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST,**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Gordon Jn. Baptiste, offered by Liz

(At St. Mary: Monday, Dec. 6, 6:00 PM, Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas Holy Day)

TUES., DEC. 7 **MATERNITY of HOLY ANNA HOLY DAY, Anticipated**
6:00 P.M. **VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Philomena Rossi, offered by Karen Progar

Rejoice! You are free! - The incarnation of the Word and his assumption of human nature took place for the overthrow of death, destruction and the envy harbored against us by the wicket Serpent, who was the first cause of evil. This is plainly proved to by the facts themselves. He set free the daughter of Abraham from her protracted sickness, calling out and saying, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." A speech most worthy of God, and full of supernatural power! With the royal inclination of His will He drives away the disease. He also lays his hands upon her. It says that she immediately was made straight. It is now also possible to see that His holy flesh bore in it the power and activity of God. *(St. Cyril of Alexandria)*

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:
December 1: Joseph Yurosky, December 2: Amy Hagan

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

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

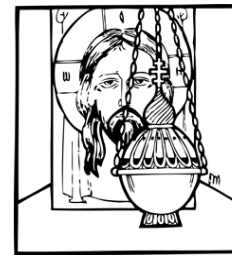
Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

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 – Nov. 28: J. Futato – Dec. 5: J Hersh
Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Nov. 28: M. Bobanic – Dec. 5: F. Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
November 28 – December 4, 2021
Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:
+ Marge Raychevich
(In Loving Memory)
Offered By:
Mary Elizabeth Olack

Pirohi Sale



Order your Pirohi for Christmas! Our next Pirohi sale will be this **Friday, December 10. We encourage all who are able to please come and help. Work days are Monday 9:00 AM, Tuesday 9:00 AM, and Thursday 9:00 AM. Friday we begin at 6:30 AM. Our Pirohi Project takes a lot of help to make it a success.** Spread the word and please **come and help**, if you can, any of the days you are able. Orders should be called in by **Thursday at noon at (724) 375-6652.** God Bless our pirohi workers and customers! *Thank you!*

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Decorating the Church and Hall

As part of our preparation for the Nativity of Christ, we will decorate our holy Church on Sunday, December 12 following the Divine Liturgy. We are asking men to stay and help out with putting up the trees and EVERYONE to help with decorations for this sacred time of the year. *Thank you.*

Sanctuary Candles for 2022

The 2022 weekly sanctuary candle intentions are available for you to sponsor with your intention in memory of a deceased loved one or friend, or for the health and well-being of a friend or loved one. Please see Joanne Futato at the candle table in the narthex if you wish to sponsor the weekly candle.

Christmas Altar Candles

A sign-up sheet is now in the Narthex to donate altar candles for Christmas.

Church donation envelopes for 2022 are now available in the Narthex

Pre-festive Troparion of the Nativity

Bethlehem, make ready, Eden has been opened for all. Ephrathah, prepare yourself, for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Virgin in the cave. Her womb has become a spiritual paradise in which divinity has been planted. If we partake of it, we shall live and not die like Adam. Christ is born to raise up the likeness that had fallen.

Upcoming Divine Services Schedule

December 6 St. Nicholas Holy Day, Divine Liturgy at **St. Mary** at 6:00 PM
December 7 Maternity of St. Anna Holy Day, Vespereal Divine Liturgy at **St. George** at 6:00 PM
December 12 Divine Liturgy for Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sunday Liturgy here as usual 8:30 AM
Christmas Eve Great Compline, caroling, and Divine Liturgy at **St. George** at 7:00 PM
Christmas Day..... Divine Liturgy at **St. Mary** at 9:00 AM
December 26...Synaxis of the Theotokos/Sunday after Christmas, Sunday Liturgy here as usual 8:30 AM
December 27 Protomartyr St. Stephen Holy Day, Divine Liturgy at **St. Mary** at 9:00 AM
December 31 Vespereal Divine Liturgy for the Circumcision/St. Basil at **St. George** at 6:00 PM

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A Note from Father Geoff

Dear brothers and sisters,

As we walk through the **Our Father** in these little notes, our next petition is "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." This is another old fashioned way of speaking. Today, to "trespass" usually means to be on someone else's property without permission. But in the Elizabethan era when this translation was made, a "trespass" was an offense or a sin. Some modern translations of the Lord's Prayer put it this way: "Forgive us our sins and we forgive those who sin against us."

Putting it in the stark terms of "sin" really hits the nail on the head here. We are asking the Lord to forgive us *insofar as we are willing to forgive others*. In St. Matthew's account of the Lord's Prayer, as soon as Jesus gives the prayer to his disciples, he follows up with an explanation: "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." (Mt. 6.14-15)

Forgiveness is not an easy thing. Often I have *thought* I had long forgiven someone who had wronged me, only years later to feel the anger and offense rising back up in my mind. Or sometimes I have found myself recounting to *other people* some wrong done to me, sullyng the culprit's reputation, when I had *thought* that I had moved on from it.

And so we have to keep coming back to this prayer of our Lord. And we must keep coming back to the Cross of Jesus Christ. We recall before God our *own* sinfulness and God's great mercy in forgiving us. And *that* helps us continually to work on forgiving others.

The 18th century poet Alexander Pope famously wrote, "To err is human; to forgive, divine." When we forgive others their sins, we are imitators of God himself, whose character is always to be merciful. And more than that, when we forgive, we are *participating* in the forgiveness of God, who has shared with us the "ministry of reconciliation" (see 2 Corinthians 5).

So when we pray the Lord's Prayer, we are daily reminded of God's attitude toward us (forgiveness, mercy, grace) and reminded that our posture towards others is to be the same. May God give us the grace to continually turn to him, repenting of our own sins, and striving to forgive our sisters and brothers in love.

Yours in the mercy of God,

Fr. Geoff

Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

In our Gospel reading for today, we find Christ in the synagogue. He was teaching there on the Sabbath day. He saw a woman who had been ill for 18 years. She was bent over. For 18 years, all she could look at was the ground. Christ showed her great compassion. He called to her. “Woman,” he said, “You are loosed from your illness.” He laid hands on the woman. St. Luke the Evangelist tells us that immediately she was made straight. And she glorified God.

This poor woman is so much like many of us in this life. Many people in the world are broken. They are bent over, so to speak, by the weight of living this life. They are bent over by life’s cares, sorrows, pressures. And even if we seem overwhelmed by our own cares – think of others. Think of those who might be worse off than we are. Think of the hungry, the naked, and the homeless. Think of mothers and fathers out of work. Human suffering is everywhere ant throughout this earth. There are many in this world who are bent over with the infirmity that is their own lives.

Besides healing this woman Our Lord teaches us a valuable lesson. We witness that this act of healing of the poor bent woman was an act of love, an act of charity. Christ is telling the ruler of the synagogue and us that an act of love – can be done any time! This act of love done by Christ far transcends any law or any rule. This is a call for us to follow Christ in the same daring. We are called to dare to break away from our daily comforts and concerns. We are called to dare to reach out to those less fortunate. We are called to give and give, and give some more. We are called to give, as the expression goes, “until it hurts.” This is the way to follow Christ.

And for those among us who feel crushed and bent over by the cares and worries of this life? It is to Christ Himself that we must turn. It is only Christ who can straighten our backs. It is only Christ who can make us look, not at the ground, but up to the heavens. This time of preparation for the arrival of Christ at Christmas is a time to not only to be ashamed of our way of life that keeps us bent over. It is to prepare for the great rejoicing at the glorious things being done by God. He sends His Son to straighten our lives so that we can join Him in straightening others.



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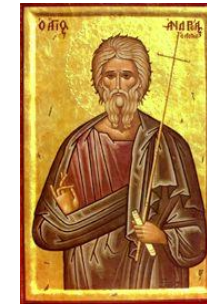
Nativity Fast Nov.15 - Dec.24

How can we prepare for Christ's arrival?

One way is by increasing our prayer. “The two great movements of the soul have always been withdrawal and return...withdrawal into God’s presence through prayer for strength...without prayer, the quality of our service deteriorates. Without prayer we forget the world; with prayer we remember.” Advent is a time to remember that in God, we move and breathe and have our being, and we must be *with* Him and consciously *in* Him before we can have authentic love and relationship with others.” ~ Fr. Anthony Coniaris



November 30: St. Andrew the First-Called Jesus' First Disciples (John 1:35)



Jesus' First Disciples (John 1:35)

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?”

“Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour. Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

St. Andrew in Tradition

After the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, St. Andrew went to the Eastern lands preaching the Word of God. He went through Asia Minor, Thrace, Macedonia, and Ukraine. He stopped overnight on the hills of Kyiv. Rising in the morning, he said to those disciples that were with him: “See these hills? Upon these hills shall shine forth the beneficence of God, and there will be a great city here, and God shall raise up many churches.” The apostle went up around the hills, blessed them and set up a cross. He also went to Thrace, where in the small village of Byzantium, the future Constantinople, he founded the Church of Christ. On his journeys the First-Called Apostle endured many sufferings and torments from pagans, but through the prayers of the Apostle, the Lord worked many miracles.

Reflection:

1. Are you a light to others?
2. Would people at work, school, in social settings, or even at the grocery store know that you are a Christian by the way you act and how you speak to others or treat others?
3. What concern/s has God has placed in your heart and what do you think he is calling you to do about it?
4. What would you ask Jesus if you met him?

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

O Christ the Savior, incarnate Son of the Eternal God, come to us and save us!

