

December 5, 2021
Twenty Eighth 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 3: See handout this Sunday

Divine Services for the Week:

- SUN., DEC. 5 TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST,
Venerable Sabbas the Sanctified
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
- SUN., DEC. 12 SECOND SUNDAY before the NATIVITY, of the FOREFATHERS,
FEAST of the THEOTOKOS of GUADELUPE
8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
+ Joseph Klacik, 20th year after passing, offered by JoAnn & Francis Hersh

The Lord expressed love for the one who was thankful, but He was angry with the ungrateful ones because they did not acknowledge their Deliverer. They thought more highly of their cure from leprosy than of He who had healed them. ... The one who returned to give thanks was given much more than the rest. Besides being healed of his leprosy, he was told by the Lord, "Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you." You see, those who give thanks and those who glorify have the same kind of feelings. They bless their helper for the benefits they have received. This is why Paul urged everyone to "glorify God with your body." (1 Cor 6:20) – **St. Athanasius**

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

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

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

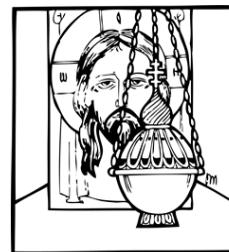
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers – Dec. 5: J. Hersh – Dec. 12: L. Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Dec. 5: F. Hersh– Dec. 12: J. Yurosky



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

December 5 - 11, 2021

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Stephen Hodovanich

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Daughter, Joanne Futato

Excerpt from Christ our Pascha: The Incarnation of the Son of God

The Nativity of Christ: The Church celebrates the coming of the Son of God into the world with the feast of the Nativity of Christ. The birth of Christ is announced to the shepherds by the angel of the Lord: "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Christ, the Lord" (Lk 2:11). The Fathers of the Church extolled Christmas night as a day of joy and peace:

Today the Bountiful One became poor for our sake ... Today we receive a gift for which we did not ask ... This present day threw open the heavenly door to our prayers ... Now the Divine Being took upon himself the seal of humanity, in order for humanity to be decorated by the seal of Divinity.

Pirohi Sale This Week



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!*

Decorating the Church

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

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

A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." This is how our Lord concluded the prayer he taught his disciples to use. (Mt. 6:9-13; Lk. 11.2-4) This phrase - "Lead us not into temptation" - is a curious one. Isn't *Satan* the tempter? Indeed. St. James even goes so far as to write, "When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone." (James 1:13)

So what is behind this phrase? The Greek word translated as "temptation" is *peirasmos*, but it can also simply mean a trial or a test. One modern translation of the *Pater noster* phrases it this way: "Save us from the time of trial."

Throughout our lives we have all sorts of various trials, temptations, and spiritual tests. There are times - and will be times - that we struggle to maintain the faith with integrity. St. Anthony of Egypt said to St. Poemen, "This is the great work of a man: to always take the blame for his own sins before God and *to expect temptation to his last breath.*"

So this is the human condition. We are in a state of spiritual struggle and will be until we meet our Lord face to face in the age to come. But we do not struggle on our own! We do not strive without hope! "Save us from the time of trial!" We can call out to God to "deliver us from evil," because we know with sure and certain hope that God has *already* defeated evil, sin, death, and hell. We can confidently face our trials because God in Christ has *already* conquered in the fight! "It is finished," Jesus declared on the Cross. (John 19:13)

Our own trials and temptations must always be seen in this light, the light of Christ's victory. So we can pray with great assurance, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," confident that our Lord will never abandon us in our time of need.

In Him who never forsakes us,

Fr. Geoff

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

Twenty Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

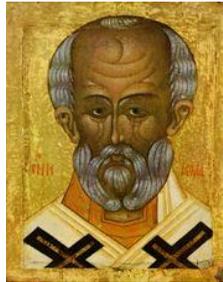


The Fathers of the Church see a lesson in today's Gospel reading for us. The ten lepers signify mankind. We are all leprous, but only one in ten give thanks to God for the salvation He has brought to us. In the same way, only some of the seed sown by God (in the Parable of the Sower) brings forth good fruit. We can all be cleansed by Him, but if we do not return to Him in gratitude and to glorify Him, we cannot be saved.

It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that we can win the battle that is going on inside us. The role of the Holy Spirit is to reveal to us who Jesus is and to convict us of our state. As we see that we are infected with the leprosy of sin, and as we experience the healing that Jesus has performed within us through the shedding of His blood on the cross, we can turn back to Him, fall on our knees at his feet, and thank Him, acknowledging His power and glory.

St Nicholas the Wonderworker and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, Dec. 6

Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra is transformed in our modern secular culture as Santa Claus - the man in the red suit who brings gifts at Christmas to all those who are good. It is interesting - and telling - to consider what the Church remembers him for. Yes, he is said to have punched Arias in the nose for denying the divinity of Jesus. But most of the stories that come to us through history are of him living the Christian life - like providing a dowry to three young women so they could marry and avoid slavery (the three bags of gold he threw through their windows landed in their stockings, and so today we hang our stockings by the chimney with care). All of the stories about Archbishop Nicholas that come to us through history are about his love for people - especially the poor. St. Nicholas was good. So good that his goodness shines through history - and radiates even from the man in the red suit. Such goodness can only be found in one who dwells intimately with Lord - for He is the only good One (Mt 19:17).



O Holy Father,

The fruit of your good works enlightens and delights the hearts of the faithful.

Who cannot wonder at your measureless patience and humility?

At your tender care for the poor?

At your compassion for the afflicted?

O holy Nicholas,

You have divinely taught all things well,

Now wearing your unfading crown,

You intercede for our souls.

(From the Vespers of St. Nicholas)

The Maternity of St. Anne, December 8

Celebrated for many centuries under a variety of titles, the feast widely known in the Eastern Church as the Feast of the Conception by St. Anna is celebrated in the Roman Church as the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This Feast commemorates Saint Anna's conception of Mary, the Mother of God.



Anna and Joachim had lived devoutly in marriage for fifty years. They gave a third of their income to the poor and a third to the Temple in Jerusalem. Still, they were scorned for being without offspring. With heavy hearts, they prayed that God would bless them with a child to comfort them in their old age. The Almighty God answered their prayers by allowing Anna to conceive a child who would be the Mother of God's own Son, Jesus Christ.

Nativity Fast Nov.15 - Dec.24

Who do you say that I am?

"But you", He said, "Who do you say that I am?" Then Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Christ," he said, "the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:15,16

"Who do you say that I am?" Was there ever such a penetrating question? Our answer to this question reveals not only who we think Christ is, but also who we are. Many of those who first heard Jesus ask this question were men and women of the Law. This is why they thought Jesus only a prophet. But Simon Peter could truly see Jesus for Who He Is. In his answer Peter revealed himself to be a man of God.



What of our answers to the question of Jesus? What do our answers say about us? Are we men filled with the Holy Spirit? One of the most ancient titles Christians give themselves was "Christ-bearers." From the very first we have been aware that we are called "to bear the mysteries of God," to bear Christ to the world. As we prepare to greet Christ in His Nativity and His Baptism in the Jordan, we should look to our life. Do we bear Christ in all of our life, or only in those parts of our life we consider "religious" or "spiritual"?

May our life during this season bear witness to the reality that "Christ is among us!" May our life answer that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God."

*Roy Jensen, Editor of Christbearers - Meditations for the Pre-Christmas Fast, Christmas, and Theophany
(Abridged from the original)*

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

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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, marvelous Fruit of the Holy Spirit, come to us and save us!

