

January 16, 2022
Thirty Fourth 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 1: pp. 125 - 127

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JAN. 16 **THIRTY FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**

+ Hermancia Mason, offered by Sr. Mary Virginia

SUN., JAN. 23 **THIRTY FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Margaret Raychevich, offered by Dwight & Mary Dickey

PRAY TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE! JANUARY 19-27, 2022



9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. The novena can be found at 9daysforlife.com. or there are a few copies available on the bulletin table.

Come! Receive the Light

As Jesus approached the blind man the blind man cried out and said, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" The beggar's hand was stretched out to receive a penny from man but found himself receiving the gift of God. "Son of David, have mercy on me!" He understood that Jesus was the Son of David, the David who had spared the blind and the lame of the Jebusites (2 Sam 5:6-8). How did Jesus answer him? He said, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." The blind man's faith first gave him life and then gave him bodily sight. (*St. Ephrem the Syrian*)

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

January 17: Ann Trombulak

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)

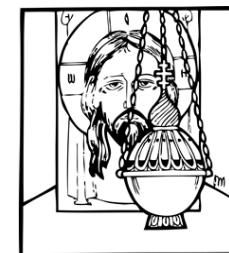
Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

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 – Jan. 16: Prudy Peya – Jan. 23: Jo Ann Hersh
Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Jan. 16: J. Yurosky – Jan. 23: F. Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

January 16 - 22, 2022

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

Mary Olack

(Health & God's Blessings)

Offered By:

Daughter, Kathy Kapaldo

Did You Know? While the common Christian greeting is "Glory to Jesus Christ," there is another greeting that is more appropriate when one is inside the church (Temple). While we are in Christ's Temple, we are literally in His presence, which is why it is more fitting to greet one another by exclaiming "Christ is among us!" to which the response is "He is and will be!" (or, in Slavonic, "Christos posred'i nas"~"Jest' i budet"). This is also the greeting when clergy (and the faithful!) exchange the Kiss of Peace and the proper greeting when the priest blesses with oil at mirovanje (outside of festal seasons, such as Pascha).

Christmas Decoration Take-Down

We are going to take down the Christmas decorations in the Church TODAY, January 16 after Liturgy. If you are able, please stay and help. *Thank you!*

January Resources Still Available

The reflection for January: Let it be done for You as You Wish and Theophany is 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!**



Church Mice



A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Some people who write about theology and religion will talk about religion comprising three aspects - believing, behaving, and belonging. When we look at our own Christian Faith in its Byzantine Catholic expression, we can see that all three of these aspects play an important role in our life together.

And though all three aspects play a part, in different peoples' lives at different times, one or the other may come to the forefront of their experiences as disciples of our Lord. What **we believe** is the "faith once delivered to the saints." (Jude 3) We express *content* of this belief every time we sing the Nicene Creed, which the fathers of the Church called the "Symbol of the Faith."

Our **behavior** as members of the Catholic faith is also part of our experience. Often this is simply viewed negatively: the list of things we ought *not* to do. (All those pesky "thou shalt nots" we see in Scripture.). But our behavior as Christians is actually something *positive*. The early Church theologian Tertullian, describing how unbelievers viewed the Church of his day, wrote: "*It is mainly deeds of a love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us. See how they love one another,' they say.*" (*Apologia*, 29) How we behave says something profound about the faith we share.

And **belonging** is a key part of our Catholic faith. We belong to each other because we belong to the family of God. Jesus told his disciples, "*You did not choose me, but I chose you.*" (John 15.16) We have, *in Christ*, become members of the family of God himself. We *belong* to him through our Baptism and anointing with Chrism, by his Word and his Spirit. St. Paul wrote that *nothing* can separate us from the love of God! (See Romans 8.35-39)

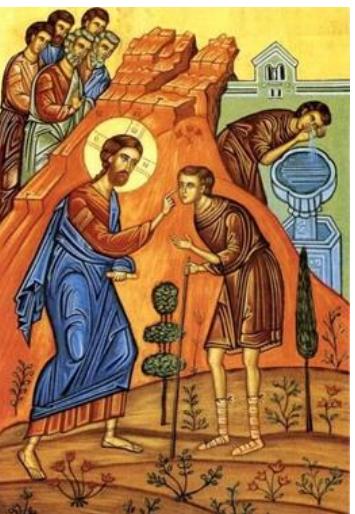
In the next few weeks, in these bulletin notes, I'll say a bit more about each of these aspects of our faith. What is wonderful, I think, about viewing the faith this way is that when we struggle to *believe*, we can rely on the fact that we *belong* to God and his Church. When we feel alienated or alone, we can rest in the fact that our *behavior* can show forth God's love regardless of how we feel. And when we are struggling in our moral growth, we can remember what we *believe*: that God in Christ reached down to save sinners like us!

Let us ask the Lord to increase in us the sure and certain hope of our faith, the wisdom and will to behave in ways that give him honor, and the grace to reach out to those around us with a love and welcome that shows them they belong. And always for his glory!

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Geoff

Thirty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The blind man in today's Gospel offers us a powerful example of "holy boldness." He did not hesitate to cry out loudly to the Lord for mercy, despite being told by others to be quiet. His faith in Christ, and his awareness of his need for mercy would not allow him to be quiet. He knew that Christ had the authority to heal him, and believed that He would want him to be healed of his blindness, He did not let how he was perceived in the eyes of men to prevent Him from turning to the Lord and asking for his mercy.



The world wants us to think that our faith is best kept quiet, that is what is "respectable." We can believe what we want, as long as we "keep it to ourselves." We must not keep our faith to ourselves, however! Our faith in Christ is the greatest gift we have and we must not be afraid to share it with others. Let us not be ashamed to proclaim ourselves Christians, and to proclaim the gift of mercy that God has given us.

Notice in the Gospel that the very people that had told the blind man to be quiet, however, were moved after the Lord healed him, and they also praised God. When are willing to praise God publicly, we often remind others of the importance of thanking God, and embolden them to do so with us.

Challenge Questions:

1. Do I pray in public, such as before a meal in a restaurant or the school cafeteria, or when having a friend over for dinner at my home? If I do not, why is that?
2. What is something that God has done for me that I want to thank him for?
3. Do my friends know that I am a Christian? If they do not, what is a small thing that I can do to share the gift of my faith with them?

Take Holy Water to Your Homes

You should drink Holy water when you feel a spiritual need, that is, when you find yourself strongly tempted; feel in an evil way; are about to set out on a journey; will miss the divine services; before a difficult encounter; in illness, afflictions, etc. *The taking of the Holy Water to our homes is to have in it a fount of continued blessings and protection against all evil.*



Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me!

The Healing Effect of the Mass and Divine Liturgy

by Most Reverend William C. Skurla

Individual Response to Prayer: Every time an individual participates in a joyous Roman Mass or an Eastern Catholic Divine Liturgy, he or she feels better. No matter if we enter the smallest chapel or the largest cathedral, we enter the sacred space and see the religious art that tells us that we have entered a holy place. The most extreme example is to step from the noise of the traffic on New York City's Fifth Avenue and to go into Saint Patrick Cathedral. Our ears enter the quiet before they are enveloped with the music and words which are different from those of our normal life.

The shift from the experience of our normal daily life to praying in a holy space gives us a healing by using a different part of mind which is engaged when we pray. The celebration of any Mass or Divine Liturgy, like quiet meditation, can bring about emotional and psychological healing for each person who attends. Weekly or daily prayer deepens the calm level, promotes healing, and extends one's life.

Excerpt from Christ our Pascha: The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

Christ began his public ministry with the proclamation: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (Mk 1:15). The kingdom of God is personified in Jesus Christ. One becomes a participant of the kingdom through faith in Christ and by holy Baptism: "The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned" (Mk 16:16; see also Jn 3:5). We were created for the kingdom of God: "Whatsoever good things are sown in the human soul, these are the offspring of the kingdom of God and have been sown by God the Word, who was in the beginning with God." The kingdom of God is the will of the Father, announced by the Son and fulfilled in the Holy Spirit. This "Blessed ... kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" will last "forever and ever." (#203)



The Veneration of the Chains of Peter (January 16th)

As Peter sat in prison shackled by the lawless Herod, an angel appeared to him: "Suddenly the angel of the Lord stood by him and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and awakened him, saying: 'Get up quickly.' The chains fell from his wrists" (Acts 12:7). The chains were preserved by Christians as much for the memory of this great Apostle as well as for their healing power,

for many of the sick were healed by touching them as well as with the towel of the Apostle Paul, "then when the face cloths or aprons that touched his skin were applied to the sick, their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them" (Acts 19:12). Juvenal, the Patriarch of Jerusalem gave these chains as a gift to the Empress Eudocia, the exiled wife of the Emperor Theodosius the Younger. She divided them into two and sent one half to the Church of the Holy Apostle in Constantinople and the other half to her daughter Empress Eudoxia in Rome, the wife of Valentian. Eudoxia built the Church of St. Peter and deposited these chains in it, together with those chains with which Peter was shackled before his death under Emperor Nero.

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

PASTOR: FATHER GEOFFREY MACKEY

Fr. Geoffrey's Direct Line: (412) 356-3698

Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238



OFFICE PHONE: 724-375-2742

FAX: 724-375-8776

ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652

PARISH EMAIL: stgeyz@gmail.com



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

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!