

January 23, 2022
Thirty Fifth 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 2: pp. 130 - 132

Divine Services for the Week:

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

SUN., JAN. 30
8:30 A.M.
THIRTY SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST,
THREE HOLY HIERARCHS, SUNDAY of ZACCHAEUS
DIVINE LITURGY
+ Lori and + Mark, offered by Francis & JoAnn Hersh

Today's Gospel: Faith and Persistence

The Canaanite woman who approaches Jesus three times is persistent in her petition and her belief that Jesus could hear her daughter. He uses her persistence to show that it was her faith in him that elicited the healing.

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

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

January 23: Judy Dzumba, January, 24: David Barnett, January 25: Mary Elizabeth Olack

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

January 28 - Joseph & Marian Yurosky

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)

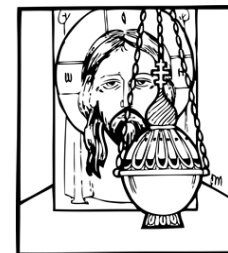
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers – Jan. 23: Jo Ann Hersh – Jan. 30: Louisa Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Jan. 23: F. Hersh – Jan. 30: M. Bobanic



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

January 23 - 29, 2022

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Lori Foister

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Eleanor Fedell and family

The Faith of the Syro-Phoenician Woman

Christ went out of His borders, and the woman also went out of her borders, and so it became possible for them to fall in with each other. ...When you hear of a Canaanite woman, you should call to mind those wicked nations who overturned from their foundations the very laws of nature. ...What is this new and strange thing? ...They had heard that He went about the villages healing, but her, when she had come to Him, He utterly repels. ...Yet she was not offended. ...But Christ says, "I am not sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." What did the woman do? ...Was she silent and did she desist? Or did she relax earnestness? By no means, but she was the more insistent. It is not so with us; rather, when we fail to obtain, we desist; whereas it ought to make us the more urgent. ...And He no longer calls then "sheep" but "children," and her "a dog." ...Out of His own very words she frames her plea. ...With this intent did Christ put her off, for He knew she would say this ...so He might exhibit His high self-command. For if He had not meant to give, neither would have given afterward. ...But do see her humility. He had called the Jews "children," but she was not satisfied with that, but even called them "masters."

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 52 on Matthew 15:1-3


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

The Announcement of the Kingdom: The Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7): An “icon in words” that portrays the kingdom of God is the Sermon on the Mount, especially the Beatitudes announced by Christ: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the land.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and every utter every kind of evil word against you falsely because of me.
- Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven (Mt 5:3-12). (#204)

E	P	E	H	S	P	A	R	C	S
T	E	R	A	S	E	N	N	E	G
I	O	L	L	E	W	I	S	R	O
N	S	R	D	O	O	F	A	H	D
A	T	R	M	P	E	N	O	D	E
A	I	A	A	E	T	S	O	L	S
N	N	T	L	E	N	Y	F	I	U
A	A	B	D	H	L	T	R	V	O
C	A	L	H	S	I	W	E	E	H
T	R	E	T	H	G	U	A	D	S

GENNESARET TYRE CANAANITE
DAUGHTER DEVIL LOST
SHEEP WOMAN HOUSEDOGS
SCRAPS TABLE WELL



A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Believing, behaving, and belonging. These are three aspects of our life as members of God's family. Today, I want to write a little about **belief**.

We often talk about our belief in terms of the *content* of our Catholic faith. We *believe* in one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We *believe* that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully human and fully divine; that he died and was buried; that he rose on the third day. We *believe* that he will come again, that he forgives the sins of the penitent, and that he is making all things new.

But our faith is not only in what we acknowledge with our minds. In the Hebrew tradition of the Old Testament - the tradition that Jesus and the Apostles taught from - faith is not just a noun. It's not so much something you *have* as something you *do*. Or, put another way: a living faith is when our *beliefs* lead to *action*. St. Paul wrote that "we have been justified (or "declared righteous") by faith." (Romans 5:1) But St. James wrote that "a person is justified by works and not by faith alone." (James 2.24) So what is this faith?

I think a clue can be found in the Book of Hebrews, from which we often hear in our liturgies. In Hebrews 11, we are giving a long list of Old Testament figures. For each one, the author writes, "By *faith*, so-and-so did such-and-such." By faith Noah built the ark to save his family. By faith, Abraham set out from his hometown when he heard God's call. By faith, Abraham offered Isaac. By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau. By faith Moses' parents hid him in the Nile. And on and on. In other words, faith is *belief-in-action*. (I'd encourage you to take a few moments this week to read Hebrews 11.1 - 12.3.)

And it is in this sense that **belief** is a part of our Christian life. The doctrines and teachings of our faith are important, vitally important. But to truly *believe*, in a Christian sense, is to live our lives in such a way that the beliefs we hold with our minds play out in the way we live our lives.

May we all continue to grow in our faith! Let us ask the Lord not only to continue to lead us into all truth with our minds (John 16.13), but, to inspire us by his Spirit that the beliefs we hold will bear fruit in our lives, for our good, and for the good the world arounds us.

Yours in the True Faith,
Fr. Geoff

Thirty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Today the Church proclaims to her children two biblical texts which, at first glance, seem to conflict. First, Saint Paul, quoting the Old Testament (Lv.26: 11.2), instructs God's people to "come out" from among the unbelievers and "be separated." Then, in the Gospel proclamation we learn of Jesus' withdrawal from his own people, and journey into a foreign land where he encounters a woman who is, according to the law, unclean. How are we to reconcile these two texts?



While in the Old Testament God's people were called to physically separate themselves from "unclean" peoples in order to avoid the influence of paganism, in the New Testament Jesus teaches us where true holiness is found. The "separation" which Saint Paul calls for in the Epistle is not an ethnic or regional one (cf. Gal 3:28), but rather a spiritual one – a separation from sin. And this separation from sin happens when we, like the Canaanite woman, proclaim Jesus as our "Lord" and cry out to him "help me." Through faith in the Lord we are united to him, and become temples of the Holy Spirit. No longer will the Father be worshiped in a temple made of dead stones, either in Jerusalem or in any other city built by men (Jn 4:21), but in the hearts of those who profess Jesus as King and Lord.

Challenge Questions:

1. How should we, as Christians, "separate" ourselves?"
2. What is faith?
3. How are we "Temples of the Living God?"

Venerable Fulton Sheen (Victory over Vice)

"It is not hatred that is wrong, it is hating the wrong thing that is wrong. It is not anger that is wrong, it is being angry at the wrong thing that is wrong. Tell me your enemy, and I will tell you what you are. Tell me your hatred, and I will tell you your character. Do you hate religion? Then your conscience bothers you. Do you hate the wealthy? Then you are avaricious, and you want to be wealthy. Do you hate sin? Then you love God. Do you hate your hate, your selfishness, your quick temper, your wickedness? Then you are a good soul, for 'if any man come to me... and hate not his own life, he cannot be my disciple' (Luke 14:26)"

Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David!

The Healing Effect of the Mass and Divine Liturgy

by Most Reverend William C. Skurla

The Prayer for the Needs of the Community

The second way that the Mass heals is through the prayers and litanies with intercessions in which we offer prayers for peace, healing, and forgiveness. The Roman Mass presents one set of intentions following the Gospel. In the Eastern Christian Churches there are several litanies for every possible need including healing. In all Catholic liturgies, the prayers call us to move from the focus on ourselves to concern for others.

We pray for peace in the whole world and for national and local political governments. We hope that our prayers will transform our leaders and people with security and justice for all peoples and races. Peace can serve as the foundation for working together to build a better world. It is hard to care for others when you do not feel safe in your own neighborhood or home.

We directly pray for the improvement of our heath and the health of those who are ill. We hope that God will intervene, but we are reminded to participate in the healing process by visiting and assisting the aged and infirmed. Our verbal prayers transform our hearts to allow us to become agents of healing.

The prayers directly before approaching the altar to receive communion remind us of our need for forgiveness. In the Roman Church we request that the Lamb of God have mercy on us. In the Eastern Church we ask for mercy upon the sinner. This request for the Lord's mercy is repeated during the Divine Liturgy and all services. We are all sinners and without the Lord's mercy we are lost.

A Prayer for Life - *Father and maker of all, you adorn all creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness. Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen*

"Repentance raises the fallen, mourning knocks at the gate of Heaven, and holy humility opens it." "Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience."

St. John Climacus: "The Ladder of Divine Ascent"

Dates to Remember:

February 2nd – Presentation of Our Lord
February 19th – First All Souls Saturday
February 20th – Meat-fare Sunday
February 27th - Cheese-fare Sunday
February 28th – First Day of the Great Fast

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



Christ is Among us! He is and Shall be! ~ Christos posred'i nas! Jest' i budet!