

May 29, 2022  
Sunday of the Fathers of the First Council of Nicaea



**SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Christ is Glorified! Exalt Him Forever! ~ Christos Proslavlennyj! Velicajme Jeho vo v'iki!*

Propers for this Sunday: pp. 196 - 202

Divine Services for the Week:

<b>SUN., MAY 29</b> <b>8:30 A.M.</b>	<b>SUNDAY of the FATHERS of the FIRST COUNCIL of NICEA</b> <b>DIVINE LITURGY</b> + Lori Dickey Stevic, offered by Mary Elizabeth Olack
<b>SAT., JUNE 4</b> <b>9:00 A.M.</b>	<b>FIFTH and FINAL ALL SOULS SATURDAY</b> + <b>DIVINE LITURGY, Panachida, Hramoty</b>
<b>SUN., JUNE 5</b> <b>8:30 A.M.</b>	<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b> <b>DIVINE LITURGY</b> + Lori Dickey Stevic, offered by Martha Barger and Margaret Albert

**Eternal Life in Christ**

In asking to be glorified, Jesus is asking his Father not to give him glory so much as He is seeking to reveal the honor the Father had already given Him. The Son's willing obedience and his glorious deeds reflect back on the Father. They are then passed onto us as the gift of salvation we receive through faith.

The Gospel recounting the High Priestly Prayer is placed on this Sunday after Ascension because today we also celebrate the memory of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council held at Nicea in A.D. 325. It was at this Council when the Church affirmed that Christ was of one essence with the Father and the Holy Spirit.



**Happy Birthday Greetings:**  
None for the week

**Wedding Anniversaries:**  
None for the week

**Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins**

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon

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

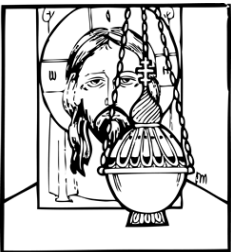
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

**Epistle Readers – May 29: Joanne Futato – June 5: JoAnn Hersh**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – May 29: Michael Bobanic – June 5: Francis Hersh**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**

May 29 – June 4, 2022

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

+ Anna, John, & Andy Choros

*(In Loving Memory)*

Offered By:

Mary Salamon

*Christ is Glorified! Exalt Him Forever!*  
*Christos Proslavlennyj! Velicajme Jeho vo v'iki!*

St. George Church

**FLEA  
MARKET**

Haluski Sale, Bake Sale

**June 24 & 25**

**9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

### It's St. George Flea Market Time!

Our Flea Market, Haluski, and Bake Sale will return this summer here at St. George Church, **Friday & Saturday, June 24 - 25**. WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING NEW DONATIONS. Consider donating items you no longer need to our Flea Market, no clothing please. Items can be brought to the Center every Saturday from 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. or any time you are here. Ask family and friends to consider donating items to our Flea Market. **We will also need Bake Sale items, so please consider baking.** Your help with this event will be greatly appreciated. We always have a great time. *Thank you!*

### St. Anthony of Padua Invitation

The feast day of St Anthony of Padua will be celebrated on Sunday, June 12, 2022 at the 4:00 P.M. Mass held at St Titus Church, Franklin Ave., Aliquippa, PA. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Jean-Luc Zadroga, O.S.B. The St. Anthony Congregation invites everyone to attend this special Mass, and also extends an invitation for all to attend a reception at the St. Anthony Center in West Aliquippa, following the Mass. Gino Romano will provide the entertainment for the evening. Anthony Battalini, President: 723-622-8445

### School of Diaconate Studies Accepting New Applicants for 2023

The admissions process for the 2023 School of Diaconate studies is now open. Men who are discerning a call to diaconal service in the Church are encouraged to apply. **Deadline for registration form is July 1, 2022.** Classes for the first year of the 4 year program will be held June 18-July 1, 2023 at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. A two week residency is required each year. Please submit the registration form (available in our narthex/foyer) and once received, candidates will then be contacted by the Vocations Office. For any further inquiries, you may email [vocations@archpitt.org](mailto:vocations@archpitt.org).

### Fellowship Coffee and Doughnuts Today Following Liturgy

Parishioners, visitors, and friends, we are thankful that you have come to worship with us today and pray that your participation in our Divine Liturgy will be enriching to you. Following every Sunday Divine Liturgy, Fellowship Coffee and doughnuts are served. Please stay and join us!



*Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.*

*Psalm 133:1*

### A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are now in the ten days that separate the Feast of our Lord's Ascension from the Feast of Pentecost, when we remember and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit in power. Before our Lord was taken up into glory, Jesus said to his disciples: *"And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high"* (Luke 24.49). So the disciples waited.

Waiting is a hard discipline in any context. It is especially hard for us in the era of on-demand movie streaming, text messages, and Amazon Prime deliveries. But they waited.

The People of God had waited hundreds of years for the prophecies of Isaiah and Zechariah to be fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah at Christmas. Mary, in her great *Magnificat* exclaimed: *"He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the humble and meek; He has filled the hungry with good things and the rich he has sent away empty"* (Luke 1.52-53); and yet she waited another 33 year years for the death and resurrection of Christ. And now, having met and known Christ, the disciples find themselves again waiting; waiting for the fulfillment of the Prophet Joel: *"I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions..."* (Joel 2.28)

Today we are still waiting; waiting for the culmination of all things; waiting to see the Lord's promises fulfilled *in our own sight* and not just as a promise for the future. We are waiting to see God's kingdom come here on earth as it is in heaven. But in the time between Ascension and Pentecost, the disciples give us an example of how to behave. After Christ was taken up in glory, the Acts of the Apostles tells us, *"Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet...And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying... [and they] with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer..."* (Acts 1.12-14)

In our own lives, while we wait to see the Lord's action and power; while we wait to see justice fulfilled and people reconciled to each other; while we wait for the hungry to be fed and the humble to be exalted, we do not wait aimlessly. We can devote ourselves to unity and to prayer. We can pray for the kingdom of God to be realized here on earth as in heaven, for the forgiveness of our own sins, for the Spirit of God to come upon all humanity, and for our brothers and sisters in Christ in all of their pilgrimages and struggles.

May the Lord who united humanity and divinity in the Incarnation, and who is seated at the right hand of the Father, grant us his Holy Spirit anew, that we may love, serve, and please him in this life, and enjoy his presence in the age to come of life everlasting.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Geoff*



## **Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicea**

*Moved with divine zeal and concern for unity, the Emperor Constantine the Great, equal to the Apostles, summoned the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was in this place that the bishops of the Church gathered in 325. All of them, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God. The Fathers composed the holy symbol of Faith, the Nicene Creed:*

The Nicean-Constantinopolitan Symbol of Faith was brought to our ancestors by the Apostles of the Slavs, SS. Cyril and Methodius, in the ninth century. Since that time our ancestors jealously preserved its integrity and proudly professed it throughout the centuries” with one voice and one heart” (cf. Divine Liturgy) in their wooden churches under the Carpathian Mountains. This very same faith our forefathers brought with them to the blessed shores of America and passed it on as a priceless treasure to their posterity with the following words:

*“We have seen the true light, we have received the heavenly Spirit, we have found the true faith, and we worship the undivided Trinity, for the Trinity has saved us”* (cf. Divine Liturgy).

Let us recall the words of our modern Confessor, Blessed Bishop Paul P. Gojdich, OSBM. (d. 1960), who said: *“Faith is not an item of trade or gain, but is our spiritual treasure, assuring us great consolation on earth and opening for us the gates of heaven after we die. It is this true faith, which was given to us by the Son of God and which the Catholic Church teaches; and it is not the one invented by men.”*

Let us then heed the admonition of another “hero of faith” of ours, our martyred Bishop Theodore G. Romzha (d. 1947): *“Our greatest treasure here on earth is our faith, for which we should be ready to sacrifice even our own lives. If we must die, let us die as martyrs, fearlessly professing and defending our faith!”*

***He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end. (Symbol of Faith)***



*Be exalted above the heavens, O Lord*

## **We Prepare to Celebrate Pentecost**

Next Sunday we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday, which is a celebration of the fulfillment of the promises of God. As a parish community we will also celebrate the revelation of the Trinity, the coming of the Holy Spirit, the day our holy tradition views as the beginning of the Church. Let us remember that this not simply the celebration of an event which took place centuries ago. It is the celebration of what must happen and does happen to us in the Church today. We all have died and risen with the Messiah-King, and we all have received his Most Holy Spirit. We are the “temples of the Holy Spirit.” God’s Spirit dwells in us. We, by our own membership in the Church, have received “the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit” in the sacrament-mystery of chrismation. Pentecost has happened to us!

It is also Spirit is also known as the Green Sunday. Why? Green is the color of spring and summer, the color of life, and life is an attribute of the Holy Spirit, “the Lord and giver of Life” who animates us all. In commemoration of Pentecost, please *wear green* to celebrate this day!

## **Blessing of Graves**

As part of the Feast of Pentecost, we will have the Blessing of Graves at Mt. Olivet Cemetery on **Sunday June 12, 2:00 P.M.** We will gather at the Cross at the main entrance of the cemetery for a Panachida Service then proceed to bless the graves of our deceased loved ones. Come and pray for your deceased family members.

*The Holy Spirit reminds us” not to reject the traditions of our elders, which they have learned from their fathers”* (Sirach 8:9).

## **Memorial Day Prayer**

*O God of spirits and of all flesh, Who have trampled death, and overthrown the devil, and granted life to Your world; now, O Lord, give rest to the souls of Your departed servants, the soldiers who have laid down their lives for us, in a place of light, a place of green pasture, a place of refreshment, whence all pain, sorrow, and sighing have fled away. O God, as You are good and the Lover of Mankind, forgive every sin committed by them, in word or deed or thought, for there is no man who lives and who does not sin. For You alone are without sin, Your righteousness is everlasting righteousness, and Your word is truth. For You are the resurrection and the life, and the repose of Your departed servants, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

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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

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which they have learned from their fathers” (Sirach 8:9)*