

June 5, 2022
Pentecost Sunday



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

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

Proper for this Sunday: pp. 203 - 208

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JUNE 5

8:30 A.M.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

DIVINE LITURGY, *Kneeling Prayers*

+ **Lori Dickey Stevic**, offered by Martha Barger and Margaret Albert

SUN., JUNE 12

8:30 A.M.

SUNDAY of ALL SAINTS

DIVINE LITURGY

+ **Betty Zapko**, offered by Rich Mudron

2:00 P.M.

BLESSING of GRAVES, at Mt. Olivet Cemetery

Eternal Memory

Our church family offers prayerful condolences to the family of parishioner Cheryl Szedny who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, May 29. In blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to the soul of Your departed servant Cheryl and remember her forever! *Vičnaja jej pamjat'!*

Prayers to the Holy Spirit

Today at the end of Divine Liturgy we will have special kneeling prayers to the Holy Spirit. These prayers are only said on the Feast of Pentecost.

Happy Birthday Greetings:

June 5: John Dzumba

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)

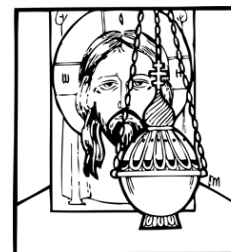
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers – June 5: JoAnn Hersh – June 12: Prudy Peya

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – June 5: Francis Hersh – June 12: R. Dzumba



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

June 5 - 11, 2022

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Stephen & Elizabeth Hodovanich

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Daughter Joanne

Church Mice

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“In former times men, seized by madness, wanted to build a tower to reach heaven; but the Lord, by dividing their tongues, divided their evil purpose. So now the Holy Spirit descends upon them in fiery tongues to unify a divided world. The result is something new and strange (mystical).”

St. John Chrysostom

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 here at St. George Church will be on **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 will be greatly appreciated. **Setting up of the Flea Market will begin on Monday, June 20.** *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.

Father's Day Breakfast, June 19

On **Sunday, June 19**, our annual Father's Day Breakfast will take place in the Center following the 8:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy. We will come together as a Church family for a delicious breakfast in honor of all Fathers, Grandfathers, Great-grandfathers, Godfathers, Spiritual Fathers, and all who portray a fatherly role in our lives. **Everyone is invited!**

*There is a short meeting today following Liturgy (at coffee hour)
for all who wish to help with the Father's Day Breakfast. Thank you!*



A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today, we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, the Coming of the Holy Spirit. The Epistle designated for today's liturgy is Acts 2.1-11, which tells the story of the sound like a mighty, rushing wind, the descent of tongues of fire, and the disciples all speaking in other languages that they didn't previously know. It's an amazing, almost movie-like, story.

But if you continue to read in the Acts of the Apostles beyond what is read in Church this morning (which I encourage you to do!) you will read St. Peter's Pentecost sermon, his explanation of all that this all means. After all, many in Jerusalem who heard this commotion accused the disciples of being drunk! (Acts 2.13)

What St. Peter explains is that, far from being drunk, what was happening was none other than the fulfillment of the words of the Prophet Joel, hundreds of years earlier. He had written: *"... in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams... And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* (Acts 2.17-21; Joel 2.28-32)

In the Feast of Pentecost, not only is the New Testament Church established and empowered for ministry; not only do the Apostles get the strength they need to take the Gospel into all lands; and not only are the Jewish believers given a fulfillment of their prophecy. But, more astoundingly, it is proclaimed that God is for everyone, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is for everyone, and salvation is made possible for everyone. St. John the Theologian would later be given a vision of the new heavens and the new earth in the age to come of life everlasting. And Jesus said these words to him: *"The Spirit and the Bride say 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty, come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price."* (Revelation 22.17)

The Good News of Jesus Christ is even better news than we can imagine! You and I, brothers and sisters, are incorporated into Christ's Body because of the outpouring of the Spirit on "all flesh." And because of that Good News, out of our hearts can flow "rivers of living water" (John 7.37-39) which can invite others into the fellowship of the Church, and incorporate them into the family of God.

Just like the disciples, who were empowered and gifted by the Spirit to share the Good News of God in Christ, *we too* have been empowered and gifted to share the Gospel. Let us do so in our words of grace and our deeds of mercy. And may Christ alone receive all the glory.

In the Spirit,

Fr. Geoff

Pentecost – The Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles

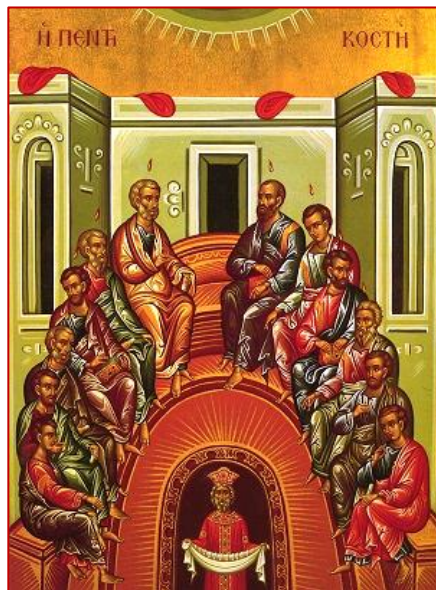
Pentecost may be a short period of time on the liturgical calendar celebrated for the week following the Feast Day. But the Holy Spirit is with us at all times. Our journey forward would be incomplete without putting our trust in the Holy Spirit, who guides us gently and quietly, even in times of difficulty. We should make every effort to be aware of the actions of the Holy Spirit in our lives and always express gratitude for His Presence in the ways we are blessed.

The Liturgical color for Pentecost in Eastern Churches is always green. This is the only time in the entire liturgical calendar this color is used. Green represents life and the predominant emphasis and the Divine power of the **Holy Spirit** is as the **Giver of Life**. In Scripture, Jesus Christ speaks of “living water” and “real food” in reference to the Sacraments that are necessary to life eternal in the Kingdom of God.

The Sacraments of Initiation in the Byzantine Catholic Church are Baptism, Chrismation, and Holy Eucharist. Infants and adults being received into Eastern Churches receive all three Sacraments in one ceremony. This was the traditional rite of Initiation in the early Church which Eastern Churches have since retained. On Pentecost Sunday, the faithful appropriately sing a baptismal verse: “All you have been baptized into Christ, have been clothed in Christ.”

The Holy Spirit is the life of the Church and its members. The Holy Spirit is the Giver of gifts that help us as faithful believers grow in grace and in love of God. **The gifts of the Holy Spirit are: Fear of the Lord** (adoration and reverential respect), **Knowledge, Fortitude, Counsel, Piety, Understanding, Wisdom**. We receive these gifts when we strive to follow God’s commandments, seek His Will daily, and remain in sanctifying grace.

The action of the Holy Spirit is so powerful. We fail when we take for granted the source of all good and when we fall into the mistaken belief that we are the creators of all of our blessings and our world. Instead, we should remember to call upon and pray to the Holy Spirit to grant us the graces we need not just in our own lives, but in being a “light” and bringing “The Light” to a world of darkness.



Let Your Good Spirit guide me in ways that are level and smooth. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth

In the first six verses of John 16 the Lord tells His disciples that those who follow Him will be persecuted, and that they will do so because they “have not known the Father, nor (Him)”. Saint Cyprian teaches that the coming persecution needs to be endured in light of 1 Peter 4:12-14, which teaches us that we need to “rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.” In verses 7-13 we learn of the promise of the Holy Spirit, Who will lead us in truth.

Since we were created to God’s “image and likeness” (Gen. 1:26), and received the Holy Spirit at the time of our Chrismation (Confirmation), by living our life in Him we gradually restore our human nature to its pristine perfection. Justly, therefore, the Eastern Fathers of the Church call the process of our growing in the divine life our deification or divinization. And this we achieve only by our cooperation with the Holy Spirit Who sustains us and makes us grow in the divine life. Therefore, with piety and devotion, let us constantly implore Him with the well-known Prayer to the Holy Spirit extensively used by our people:

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, You are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of life, come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O gracious Lord.

Blessing of Graves

As part of the Feast of Pentecost, we will have the Blessing of Graves at Mt. Olivet Cemetery next **Sunday June 12, at 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).



Pentecost Week

As we commemorate the birthday of the Church on this Great Feast of Pentecost, the entire week is free from fast and abstinence for the faithful. Let us all celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the full revelation of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Spirit.



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!



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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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



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