

July 3, 2022
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!
Слава Исусу Христу! Слава на вѣку!

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 3: pp. 135 - 137

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JULY 3
8:30 A.M.

FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
DIVINE LITURGY,
+ **Andrew & Patricia Kayla**, offered by Mr. & Mrs. Dan Pinchot

SUN., JULY 10
8:30 A.M.

FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
DIVINE LITURGY
+ **Betty Zapko**, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba

Embrace Faith

There is no coercion with God. He always has a good will towards us. He gives reliable counsel to men and angels (who are also rational beings), to whom He has given the power of choice. Those who yield obedience therefore possess what is good freely and justly. It is given by God but preserved by themselves.... The human spirit is possessed of free will from the beginning, and God is possessed of free will, in whose likeness man was created. Man is advised to hold fast to the good and thereby be responsive to God. This refers not only to works but to faith as well. God preserved the human will free and under self-control, as is shown in Jesus' words to the centurion: "Go. Be it done for you as you have believed."

(Irenaeus, From Against Heresies)

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)

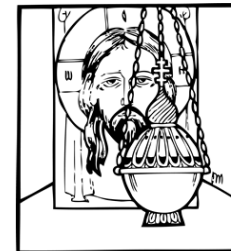
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers – July 3: Prudy Peya – July 10: Jo Ann Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – July 3: M. Bobanic – July 10: F. Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

July 3 - 9, 2022

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Irene Miller

(In loving memory)

Offered By:

Mary Elizabeth Olack





Save the Date

St. George's annual picnic will be on Sunday, August 28.
More details to follow.

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 in our Church Center. *Please stay and join us!*



Ukrainian Market Place

On Saturday, July 30, the 75th Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention will hold its **Ukrainian Market Place** from 10:00AM - 1:00 PM. It will be held at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel, 500 Mansfield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15205. There will be Ukrainian gift items, artwork, embroidery, pysanky (painted eggs), jewelry, and more. For more information call 412-527-5359 or visit orthodoxcarnegie.com. The event is sponsored by Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Carnegie.

Centennial Anniversary - St. Michael's, Campbell, Ohio

In Thanksgiving to Almighty God, the parish family of St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church, 463 Robinson Rd., Campbell, OH, will be celebrating their **Centennial Anniversary** on Sunday, July 31, 2022. This will be a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated with His Eminence, Metropolitan William Skurla at 3:00 PM.

Remember to return the Flea Market signs if you put one up in the community so we may utilize them again next year. Thank you!

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha - The Signs of the Coming of the Kingdom:

The Works of Christ: In addition to the words of his preaching, Christ points to other signs that indicate the arrival of God's kingdom: "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up" (Lk 7:22; see Is 35:5-6; 61:1). The works of Christ witness to the presence and action of God among his people. "As a man he fasted forty days and became hungry, and as God he defeated the tempter. As a man he went to the marriage in Cana of Galilee, and as God he turned the water into wine. As a man he slept on the ship, and as God he rebuked the wind and the sea and they heeded him." (#211)

A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Independence Day is a good time for us as Catholics to give thanks and pray for our country. We have so much to be grateful for: our freedoms and opportunities and rights. Along with these freedoms and rights, we also - as Christians - have great opportunities to serve as good citizens and show the love of God to our neighbors.

This weekend, as we celebrate in various ways, let us also not neglect to pray for our country. And this means not just praying vaguely for "our government and all in the service of our country." It means praying specifically and intentionally for our communities, our elected officials both nationally and regionally, those who provide essential services, and our neighbors. It means praying for those who agree with us and those who disagree. It means asking God's blessing both on those who love us and on those who hate us. Because this is the way of the Savior that we serve.

As the political landscape in our nation has become more and more polarized, it would be good for us to remember the words of our Lord:

You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust. (Matthew 5.43-45)

Brothers and sisters, this weekend, let us show our love for our country especially by showing the love of Christ for our neighbors. And let us thank the Lord for the opportunities for doing good that he has provided us in this our beloved nation!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Geoff

A Prayer for our Country

Almighty God, you have given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought here out of many families and languages. Grant the Spirit of wisdom to those whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your holy law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, do not allow our trust in you to fail; for we ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who together with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, now and ever, and forever. Amen.



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

How great must have been the faith of the Centurion who came to Christ asking for a healing of his servant, whom he loved, who was faithful to him. He heard Christ say, "I will come and heal him.", and he could answer, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed."



This is an event of the life of Christ; it is an event that touched not only the Centurion, not only his servant, but every member of the household. He came without Christ, and the servant was healed. Who of us, in dire, agonizing pain is capable of turning to the Lord, present Him his request, ask Him to show mercy and to manifest His power, and when the Lord says to us, in our hearts, 'I shall come, I shall work this miracle for you' - who of us would have the courage to say, 'No, Lord! Your word is enough!'...

And again, who of us, at moments when the Lord came close to us, have the thought of saying such words, realizing because of the holiness of Christ, the holiness of God, how unworthy we are of Him, of His life, His teaching, His example, His death, His descent into hell, to the very rock bottom of evil. And this hell is not only an image; isn't it within us? Isn't there in us a darkness that needs more than enlightenment - the Light of God, God, the light of the world?

On this Sunday the amazing centurion's faith was manifested. So often when we pray, we ask the Lord insistently to come close to us, to make His presence felt, so that we may clearly feel His power. This man acted with great simplicity, saying to Christ, "No don't trouble yourself to come. I am a sinful man and not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but just say the word and my servant will be healed. One word from God - that was what the man asked for, not the joy of contact which we all long. Today, we ask the Lord that He should fulfill our requests and, in addition to that, grant us the miraculous joy of His presence. Amen.

The Fathers on Scripture - Some argue that the Centurion, by his description, implied the reason why he had not brought his servant to Jesus saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress," as though he was at his last gasp, or even as Luke said, he was "at the point of death." In my opinion, however, the reason he had not brought him in was itself a sign of his great faith, even much greater than those who let the patient down through the roof. Because the Centurion knew for certain that even a mere command was enough for raising the servant up, he thought it unnecessary to bring him.

St. John Chrysostom, the Gospel of Matthew, Homily 26.1

Christ is among us! He is and shall be!

Independence Day

In God's plan of history – that mysterious drama that unites God's providential care with our freedom – there are particular moments that reveal with glittering clarity that God is in charge. For Americans, Independence Day marks the anniversary of such a moment.



Nearly two and half centuries ago, on July 4, 1776, members of the Continental Congress approved Jefferson's magnificent Declaration of Independence, proclaiming that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

For the first time a nation sprang forth, not simply from the bond of people living together in a place for years, but rather from an idea, the principle of the truth of the human person as sacred and unrepeatable. The Declaration acknowledged our origin as beings made by God, with rights God himself gave us. It is God's law – his plan – that declares unequivocally that in our creation by the divine hand rests our equal liberty and the right inherent in us as God's creatures. Our liberty arises not from us, but from the one who made us.

Independence Day honors not our own artificial schemes of liberty and equality but the founding principle of natural law that protects who we are: each one of us chosen, loved, and created as free beings by God our Father. No other authority will do: nothing other than divine truth provides proper grounding for ordered liberty. On God's authority, then, the American founders in 1776, "with a firm reliance on the Protection of divine providence," ventured forth in the great experiment, mutually pledging "to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our Sacred Honor."

Anne Husted Burleigh in the July issue of Magnificat, Vol. 23, No.5

True Freedom Comes from God

Jerusalem is beloved of God, and is portrayed in Scriptures and the Liturgy as a loving, nursing mother who gives comfort and love to those who love her. As Americans we celebrate that we, too, have been blessed by God in a country that has so many good things. As disciples of Christ who are also faithful citizens, we are called and challenged to help our own country remain free, governed in a spirit of right reasoning, and to be a source of comfort, justice and peace. As we rightly celebrate Independence Day and give thanks for our many blessings and freedoms, let us remember what true freedom is and from Whom it comes.

God Bless America!





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

"Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not continue in the house forever; the son continues forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."