

July 10, 2022
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!
Слава Исусу Христу! Слава на вики!*

Proprs for this Sunday: See handout

Divine Services for the Week:

- SUN., JULY 10** **FIFTH SUNDAY** after **PENTECOST**,
Venerable father **Anthony of the Monastery of the Caves**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ **Betty Zapko**, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba
- SUN., JULY 17** **SUNDAY** of the **FATHERS** of the **SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**,
+ **Betty Zapko**, offered by Rich Mudron
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Tread on the Necks of Demons

“He said to them, ‘Go!’” The foul-smelling animals are delivered up, not at the will of the demons but to show how savage the demons can become against man. ... Demons do not give up easily unless they are forcibly overcome. They are doing the harm they are ordered to do. Therefore the foul-smelling animals are delivered up that it may be clear to the demons that they have permission to enter the swine but not to enter man. Similarly, by our power of faith we tread on the necks of demons. They become subject to us under Christ who is triumphant.

(Peter Chrysologus)

Happy Birthday Greetings:

July 13: Eleanor Fedell, July 14: Margaret Dzugan, July 16: Dawn Dickey

Wedding Anniversaries:

July 12: Dwight & Mary Dickey, July 16: David & Suzanne Klacik

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)

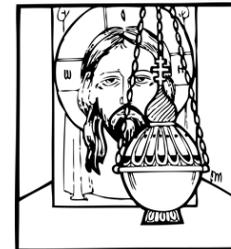
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers – July 10: Jo Ann Hersh – July 17: Louisa Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – July 10: F. Hersh – July 17: R. Dzumba



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

July 10 – 16, 2022

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ **Betty Zapko**

(In loving memory)

Offered By:

Ed & Isabel Maruhnich

Does Jesus have dominion over my life? In what practical ways does my relationship with Christ impact my daily life.

Are there ways in which I demonstrate that I do not want God in my life when his presence is inconvenient or painful?

Do I value the well-being of my brothers and sisters in Christ above my material goods?

How do I show the love of Christ with those whom I depend on, or who depend upon me?



Save the Date

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

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.

Excerpt form Christ Our Pascha

The Signs of the Coming of the Kingdom: The Works of Christ:

Human ailments, suffering, and death are consequences of the Fall. Christ came to conquer sin, the cause of all our woes. Only Christ, as the God-man, has the power to free us from sin. He accomplishes this by means of forgiveness: "Friend, your sins are forgiven you" (Lk 5:20). Quite often, a physical cure or healing—as a result of forgiveness—becomes the visible sign of a spiritual change (in Greek, metanoia) within a person: "Stand up and take up your bed and go home" (Lk 5:24). Christ heals us by forgiving our sins and restoring our physical health. (#212)

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!***



Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Recently, I have been reading some of the spiritual writings of Brother Victor-Antione d'Avila-Latourrette, a French Benedictine monk from the Hudson Valley of New York State. His writings are deeply spiritual, gentle, hopeful, and often informed by the Byzantine tradition. This past week, I read these words of his on the Christian virtue of non-judgment:

"Of all the Christian virtues we are called to practice, perhaps one of the most difficult is cultivating this nonjudgmental attitude. It is painfully difficult, almost as much as the command to love our enemies. It is doubly difficult, for most of the time we do it automatically, without truly realizing what we are doing. In a word, we have become so accustomed to judging others that it has become second nature. Yet the Scriptures remind us that the only judgment is the Lord's...The Desert monks and nuns observed that it is impossible to enter into communion with God while possessing a judgmental bearing towards our neighbor."

This radical emphasis on not passing judgment on others is founded in the Scriptures, promoted by the ancient desert monastics, and taught by the early Fathers of the Church. It was one of the aspects of Eastern Christian spirituality that first attracted me to the Byzantine expression decades ago. It takes seriously Jesus' words: "Judge not, that you may not be judged." (Matthew 7.1) And Jesus himself showed this virtue in the story of the woman caught in adultery (John 8.1-11).

This doesn't mean that we don't make "judgment calls" about what is right and wrong, good or bad. For ourselves, we must be vigilant that we seek the good. The Psalmist says, "Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." (Psalm 34.14)

But when it comes to others, we are called to have an attitude of patience and forbearance. St. Paul teaches us that, when we find that we *must* correct a brother or sister, we should do so with the greatest humility and gentleness (Galatians 6.1). And St. Peter goes so far as to teach, "Above all, love one another, for love covers a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4.8)

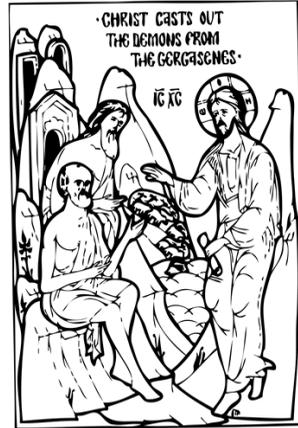
What would our witness to the world look like if we Christians were known to be gentle, nonjudgmental, and gracious? It is a hard virtue, to be sure. But - like all Christian virtues - it is one that Jesus himself showed us first: "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them..." (2 Corinthians 5.18-19)

Glory be to Jesus Christ, who has reconciled us to the Father, and empowers us to be his patient and gracious representatives in the world.

In Christ,
Fr. Geoff

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Gospel reading is about the healing of two men possessed by demons. There are two things that stand out from the story. First, the demons recognized Jesus as the Son of God. They recognized His power, His ability to torment them before the Last Judgment. Jesus proceeded to heal the two men by casting the demons into a herd of swine, who promptly ran down a steep bank into the sea and drowned.



Second, the herdsmen, now deprived of their means of subsistence, went into the city and told everyone what had happened to the demoniacs. The whole city came out to meet Jesus. Instead of rejoicing that two men were freed from demons, the people begged Jesus to leave their neighborhood.

We know that the Lord works miracles, large and small, in every human life. We know that sometimes even miracles come with costs. In this case, the miracle of healing two demoniacs came at the cost of a herd of swine. In our lives, the birth of a child is a miracle but comes with a cost of raising of child – both financial and emotional. Miracles occur in careers which also require challenging relocations.

The question we are left to ponder from today's Gospel is, what is OUR reaction to God's miracles in our lives? Do we invite Him to stay with us, or do we demand that He leave, as did the Gadarenes?

It seems surprising that the people asked Jesus to leave their neighborhood. One would think that a man who wielded the power of demons would be someone you'd invite to stick around for a while. It seems that there were materialistic reasons that they asked Jesus to leave their city – He had left herdsmen without a herd.

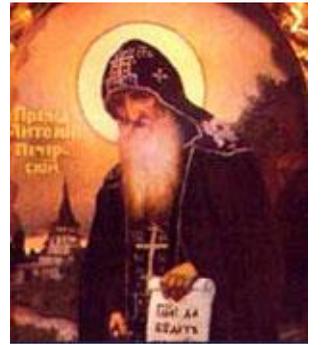
Jesus wants to make His home in each of us. He wants us to invite Him in. And yet, just like that Gadarenes, many reject Jesus, believing that to follow Him consigns one to not be materially rich, or behaviorally free. There are many reasons why we reject Jesus – some of us reject Him all the time, while everyone, even those who are devout followers, reject Him at times.

Accepting Jesus is not a one-time event. While there are some churches that believe in a once-saved, always saved theology, our church views salvation as a process. We were saved by the Resurrection of Christ. We are in the process of being saved today. We will eventually be saved only by the Grace of God. We are supposed to invite Him to be part of our lives, our jobs, our families, and all that we do, on a regular basis.

Jesus stands at the door of our hearts, already working miracles large and small for us. The question for today is this: Do we regularly invite Him in to take up His abode in us? Do we invite Him in only when it is convenient? Or do we send Him away, based our actions.

Saint Anthony of Kiev

Near the northern Belarusian border of the roughly Texas-sized nation lies the Ukrainian city of Liubech. This region's most esteemed son is Anthony Pechersky, alternatively known as Saint Anthony of the Caves or Saint Anthony of Kiev. Anthony of Kiev is widely considered the father of Slavic monasticism, which has played an absolutely central role in the spirituality of the East for a millennium.



Kyivo-Pechers'ka Lavra, or the Kiev Monastery of the Caves, is still revered as the site overlooking the Dnieper River, where Anthony returned from Mount Athos to his homeland to introduce and popularize ascetic monasticism in the region. As Christianity was still finding a foothold among the population at the time, Anthony served as a bit of an unwitting missionary, though his life was focused on austerity, simplicity and bodily mortifications more than itinerant preaching. As with many of the Desert Fathers, such as his namesake, Anthony of Egypt, people came to recognize his sanctity and made pilgrimages to visit him for spiritual and practical advice.

The church that was eventually erected at the center of the cave complex where Anthony's followers lived a severely monastic life was dedicated to the Dormition of the Theotokos, or the "falling asleep" of the Virgin Mary, the "God-bearer," which is closely related to, but not strictly speaking precisely identical with, the Western framing of the incident that we refer to as the Assumption. But John Paul II, always himself passionate about Eastern theological conversations and relationships given his Polish roots, employed the term as a fitting one for the end of Mary's earthly existence (General Audience, June 25, 1997).

Unfortunately, this region's recurrent waves of violent history led to the destruction of the original church during World War II. It was rededicated in the year 2000, and today the monastery complex is not only a place of prayer, but also one of the area's most developed museums, which includes an extensive network of catacombs. It is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. While a number of saints are buried in the complex, Anthony's wishes that his body be returned to the earth in secret have been kept, and his relics were never found. One of the later monks, Nestor the Chronicler, did however manage to uncover those of Anthony's closest disciple and friend, Theodosius of the Caves.

Pope Francis has called the recent developments in Ukraine "very worrying" and has encouraged the faithful of the East and West to pray for peace through the intercession of Christ's Mother. He has at previous times begged for "reciprocal trust" and "reconciliation" among these rival nations. As Europe stands on the precipice of war once again, let us unite our prayers with those of the region that gave birth to a saint recognized by both Catholics and Orthodox that cooler heads might prevail, and the consciences of world leaders may be pricked, so as to cease making enemies out of close neighbors.

Michael M. Canaris

Christ is among us! He is and shall be!

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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

Jesus has not only come to free us from the dominion of the devil, but to restore our communion with God and with one another.

