





## Save the Date

St. George's annual picnic will be on **Sunday, August 21**.  
More details to follow.

## Tee Up Fore Life - Golf Outing to Benefit Choices Pregnancy Center

Choices Pregnancy Center is hosting "Tee Up fore Life" at Topgolf in Bridgeville, PA on September 16, 2022. This new event is intended to help support Life and raise funds for Choices. Registration for an individual golfer is \$125 and includes three hours of golf, breakfast, lunch, and soft drinks. Spectator only registration is \$50 and includes breakfast, lunch and soft drinks, but no golfing. For more information or to register visit [teeupforelife.org](http://teeupforelife.org) or call 724-457-1220.

## Summer Retreat for Young Adults: Where your Treasure, There your Heart

Hear the whispers of God's love during this weekend retreat for young adults. Visit the St. Joseph's Motherhouse grounds in Baden in July or August for a weekend of gentle, meaningful conversations about purpose, group and individual prayer, and restorative time in nature during this special retreat for young adults. Offered twice this summer: **July 29-31 or August 26-28**. Both weekends begin at 6:00 PM on Friday and end at noon on Sunday. Cost: \$125, including home-cooked meals and private lodging. Financial aid is available! Contact Kathy Wray, St. Joseph Spirituality Director at [kwray@stjoseph-baden.org](mailto:kwray@stjoseph-baden.org) or 724-869-6585 for assistance.

## 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Assumption Pilgrimage

### *A Pilgrimage of Renewal Rebuilding and Peace*

The Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon Annual Assumption Pilgrimage will take place **August 13 – 15, 2022** at 2759 North Lipkey Road, North Jackson, Ohio 44451.

The Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon is a Maronite Catholic Church under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Maronite Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon in St. Louis, Missouri. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated in the Roman, Byzantine, and Maronite Rites. The Byzantine Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by Archbishop Metropolitan William on Sunday, August 14 at 7:00 P.M., followed by a procession with the Shroud of the Dormition of Our Lady, Burial Service of the Theotokos with Archimandrite Monsignor George Appleyard, and blessing with the Icon of Our Lady of Lebanon. You are invited to bring fresh cut flowers to lay at the shroud of Our Lady of Lebanon. There are children's activities, a food hall, and gift shop. More information is available at [www.ourladyoflebanonshrine.com](http://www.ourladyoflebanonshrine.com).



**Upcoming Pilgrimage For Byzantine Catholics: 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Labor Day weekend.** More info to follow.

## A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

About six months ago, one of my neighbors passed away. I confess I didn't know him very well. He was an underprivileged older man, who most often spoke to me when he was in need of money. Sometimes he'd offer to trim our hedges for a few bucks. And sometimes he would just ask for a gift outright. He knew I was a clergyman, so he'd often see me leaving the house and yell across the street, "Hey, Preach!" before making his request.

This greeting always made me smile. "Hey, Preach!" I miss hearing him say it. It was especially endearing because the man had never actually heard me preach. I doubt he even knew what church I served. But to him I was recognizable as some sort of professional religious guy and he knew he could approach me in need.

Preaching is one of my favorite tasks as a priest. I don't always do it well, but I enjoy it. It can be hard to figure out what to say about a particular scripture passage. Sometimes I think I've got something really great to say, but it doesn't make an impact. Other times, I've not had a lot of time to prepare, and yet it seems to hit a parishioner right where they needed it. The success of a homily is entirely up to the Holy Spirit.

But, good or bad, there's really ultimately only *one* thing a priest or pastor ever needs to preach. St. Paul put it this way: "*When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except **Jesus Christ, and him crucified.***" (1 Corinthians 2.2) And St. Peter told his readers, "*We did not follow cleverly-devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" (2 Peter 1.16)

There's really only one thing to "preach," whether you're a priest or a layperson, and whether you're standing in the front of a church or meeting a neighbor in need: Jesus Christ and him crucified. In other words we proclaim the coming of the Kingdom of God which was made known to us in the revelation of Jesus Christ.

This "preaching" takes many forms. It is done in both words and deeds. It is in loving those we would not necessarily be inclined to love. It is in advocating for the needs of those who are without. It is in offering words of grace and deeds of mercy. Because Jesus Christ whom we proclaim is the one who both identifies with the needy (Matthew 25.31-46) and models the way of the servant (John 13.1-17). And yes, even though it may be uncomfortable for us talk about, it is letting people know of the forgiveness, compassion, and mercy of God.

Let's ask the Lord to give us the grace not to shy away from opportunities to "preach" the kingdom of God in word and deed. After all, if we truly believe that the love of God in Christ is good news, isn't it natural to spread it?

Blessings,

*Fr. Geoff*



# ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

**PASTOR: FATHER GEOFFREY MACKEY**

Fr. Geoffrey's Direct Line: (412) 356-3698

Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238

OFFICE PHONE: 724-375-2742

FAX: 724-375-8776

ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652

PARISH EMAIL: [stgbyz@gmail.com](mailto:stgbyz@gmail.com)

PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org](http://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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*“Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their lives, and imitate their faith.”*