





## Save the Date

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

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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).



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**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.

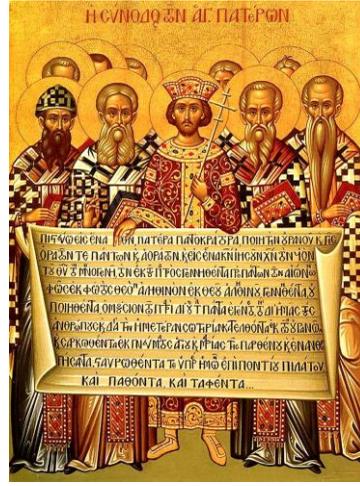
Let's ask the Lord to give us the grace not to shy away from opportunities to "preach" the kingdom of God in word and deed. After all, if we truly believe that the love of God in Christ is good news, isn't it natural to spread it?

Blessings,

*Fr. Geoff*

## Commemoration of the first Six Ecumenical Councils

The Church venerates the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils because Christ has established them as “lights upon the earth,” guiding us to the true Faith. “Adorned with the robe of truth,” the doctrine of the Fathers, based upon the preaching of the Apostles, has established one faith for the Church. The Ecumenical Councils, are the highest authority in the Church. Such Councils, guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and accepted by the Church, are infallible.



Here is a brief listing of when and what they dealt with:

- 1st in Nicaea in 325: Refuted Arian heresy and affirmed Jesus is Son of God. The first part of the creed is composed.
- 2nd in Constantinople in 381: Refuted heresy of Macedonius and affirmed Holy Spirit is God. The second part of creed is composed.
- 3rd in Ephesus in 431: Refuted heresy of Nestorius and affirmed Mary is the Mother of God.
- 4th in Chalcedon in 451: Refuted Monophysite heresy and affirmed Jesus is one person with two natures: Divine and human. These natures are distinct, unconfused, and in perfect harmony.
- 5th in Constantinople in 553: Condemned errors of Origen and certain writings of others such as Theodoret, Theodore of Mopsuestia, and of Ibas. Reconfirmed first four councils.
- 6th in Constantinople: Refuted the Monothelite heresy and confirmed Christ has two wills: Divine and human which are distinct, unconfused, and in perfect harmony with one another.

### Deacon Brian Norrell to be Ordained to the Priesthood

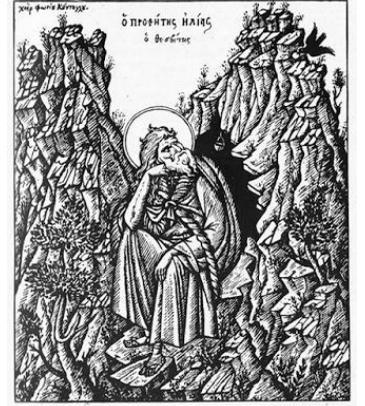
Over the past two years, many of us have gotten to know Deacon Brian Norrell and his wife, Missy, as Brian has been studying for the priesthood at our seminary in Pittsburgh. This morning, Brian is scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood by Metropolitan William, at St. Basil's Church in Dallas, Texas, at 10:00 AM (which is 11:00 AM *our time*). May God grant his servants Father Brian and Pani Missy many years! Mnohaja Lita! Axios!

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

*Christ is among us! He is and shall be!*

## Feast of the Holy and Glorious Prophet Elias, July 20

Elias, also known as Elijah, was one of the greatest and most remarkable prophets of the Old Testament. Of his origin, not much is known, except that he was from the city of Tishba. He appeared on the historical scene during the reign of Ahab (9 cent. B.C.) He delivered to that impious king the message of Yahweh: Israel would be punished by a long drought and Ahab's house would fall. He then lived to see the tragic end of Ahab. Next we hear of Elias in connection with Ochozias, Ahab's son and successor, to whom he predicted that the injuries received in a fall would be fatal. The end of the earthly life of Elias came mysteriously. As he was conversing with Eliseus on the hills of Moah, "a fiery chariot, and fiery horses parted them both asunder, and Elias went up by a whirlwind into heaven" (Kgs. 2:11). Jews, Christians and Moslems pay high honor to Elias; Carmelite monks cherish the belief that their order was in some sense founded by him. Together with Moses, he appeared at Christ's transfiguration.



### Blessing of Cars Next Sunday

St. Elijah ascended into heaven as the Second Book of Kings describes it: "...a fiery chariot, and fiery horses parted them both asunder, and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven." Because of this ascension of Elijah into heaven on a fiery chariot, it became the Byzantine tradition to bless chariots on this day. Eventually, this spread to all types of vehicles. Now each year, we bless our cars on the feast of St. Elijah (July 20) or on the following Sunday. There will be a joint parishes Divine Liturgy at **St. Mary Church** on Wednesday, July 20 at 6:00 P.M. followed by blessing of cars. **There will be a blessing of cars here at St. George next Sunday, July 24 following Divine Liturgy.** *Plan on being here for this special blessing.*

### 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!*



# ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

**PASTOR: FATHER GEOFFREY MACKEY**

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Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

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

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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.”*

