

July 24, 2022  
Seventh 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!*

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 6, pg. 152

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JULY 24

8:30 A.M.

**SEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**

**DIVINE LITURGY, *Blessing of cars***

+ **Lori Dickey Stevic**, offered by Sandy Barilla Stewart

SUN., JULY 31

8:30 A.M.

**EIGHTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**

**Pre-Festive day of the Procession of the Holy Cross**

**DIVINE LITURGY,**

+ **Cheryl Szedney**, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba

“Yes, Lord!”

The two blind men could not see Christ but were told about him. The Lord showed them that faith should not be expected as a result of health but health should be expected because of faith. The blind men saw because they believed; they did not believe because they saw. From this we understand that what is requested must be predicated on faith and that faith must not be exercised because of what has been obtained. If they should believe, they offer them sight.

(St. Hilary)

Save the Date

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



**Happy Birthday Greetings:**

July 27: Prudy Peya

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

None for the week

**Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins**

Eileen Batcha, 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)

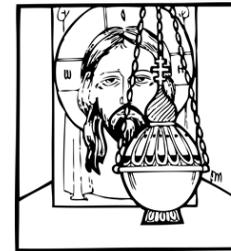
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

**Epistle Readers – July 24: Joanne Futato – July 31: Dan Pinchot**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – July 24: R. Mudron – July 31: M. Bobanic**



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

July 24 - 30, 2022

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

+ **Margaret Klacik**

*(In loving memory)*

Offered By:

JoAnn & Francis Hersh

But seek first  
the kingdom of God  
and His righteousness,  
and all these things  
shall be added to you.  
Matthew 6:33

### 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](http://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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Grief Share Support Group

Simpson Funeral Home is sponsoring a Grief Share Support Group for Christians of various denominations to gather and walk together through their journeys of grief at the loss of loved ones. The group will meet at Mary, Queen of Saints/St. Francis Cabrini Social Hall, 115 Trinity Drive, Aliquippa, beginning **Wednesday, August 31** and running through **October 19, 2022**. It will meet **7:00 - 8:30 PM**. For more information, contact Janet Primo at 724-462-7460. An RSVP is recommended by August 17th.

### A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We often think of the spiritual life as something very difficult and strenuous. After all, Jesus said, "*Strive to enter through the narrow gate.*" (Luke 13.24) There are stories of saints exercising heroic asceticism [spiritual exercise] in their fasting, in their hours of prayer, in their prostrations, in their poverty, and the like.

But the same Lord who told us to "*strive to enter through the narrow gate*" also tells us, "*Come to me, who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*" (Matthew 11.28-30) And when St. Benedict was writing his famous Rule for monastics, he said that he wished to "introduce nothing harsh or burdensome."

The true spiritual life is not so much about doing hard deeds or being heroic. Rather, it is about keeping the first things first; keeping the main thing the main thing. Any disciplines or spiritual exercises we take up are intended to *help us* to keep the main thing the main thing. And the main thing is Jesus Christ and growing in union with him. "*Seek ye first the kingdom of God,*" Jesus tells us (Matthew 6.33).

So when we pray, when we perform acts of charity, when we read Holy Scripture or the writings of great saints, it is not so much to show how strenuous a spiritual athlete we can become. Rather, our attention must always, always, always be on Jesus Christ and his great mercy and loving-kindness for sinners, starting with ourselves.

St. Teresa of Kolkata ("Mother Teresa") was reported to have said, "We cannot all do great things. But we can all do small things with great love." Those of us who are busy working in the world - in our families, in our offices and schools and workplaces, in our communities - do not have the same contexts that many of the great monastic saints had. So the sanctification that each of us is called to will look different.

Elder Ephraim of Katounakia, a monk of Mount Athos, said, "If I say one hundred prayers a day in the silence of Katounakia [his monastic community] and you say three prayers amidst the tumult of the city and your professional and family obligations, then we are equal."

Taking up the easy yoke of our Lord means trusting in his grace and mercy. And out of his abundant grace, we can raise our voices in prayer and praise; reach out in love to those around us; and perform small tasks with the love that he has poured into our hearts (Romans 5.5).

Glory to Jesus Christ!

*Fr. Geoff*

## Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David."

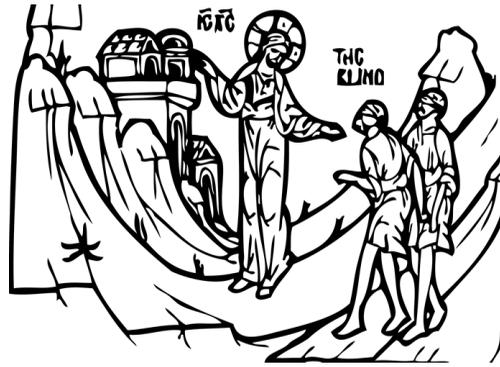
Again and again we hear in the Gospel the story of men or women who were healed of their illnesses, and it seems so simple in the Gospel: there is a need, and God meets it. Why is it then — we ask ourselves — that it does not happen to each of us? Each of us is in need of physical healing and of the healing of our soul. And yet, only a few are healed — why? What we miss in the reading of the Gospel is that Christ did not heal people indiscriminately. One person in a crowd was healed; many, who were also sick in body or soul, were not. That comes from the fact that, in order to receive the grace of God, so that it acts in us unto the healing of soul or body, or both, we must be open to God — not to the healing, but to God.

Illness is something which we so often wish to banish from our experience, not only because it hampers our life, not only because it is accompanied by pain, but also — I suspect even more — because it reminds us of our frailty, it speaks to us of our mortality.

What can we do then? We must ask ourselves attentive questions, and when we come to God asking Him to heal us, we must first prepare ourselves to be healed. To be healed means not just to be made whole with a view to going back to the kind of life which we had before, it means being made whole in order to start a new life, as though we had become aware that we had died in the healing act of God, aware that all that was the old man in us, this body of corruption of which St. Paul speaks, must go in order for the new man to live.

Are we capable of receiving healing? Are we willing to take upon ourselves the responsibility of being made new in order to enter, again and again, into the world in which we live, with a message of newness — to be light, to be salt, to be joy, to be hope and faith and love, to be surrendered to God?

Let us reflect on it, because we all are sick in one way or another; we all are frail, all are weak, all are incapable of living to the full, even the life which is offered us on earth. Let us reflect on it, and become capable of opening ourselves to God in such a way that He may work His miracle of healing, make us new — but in order for us to bring our newness, indeed God's newness, into the world in which we live. Amen.



"Have mercy on us, Son of David"

## Eighth Week after Pentecost

### Matthew 16:2b-4a

"When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather; for the sky is red.' And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of Jonah."

*(Gospel for Monday of the Eighth Week)*

### St. John Chrysostom on understanding the signs

It is much as in the sky, He says, where one thing is a sign of a storm and another of fair weather. No one when he saw the sign of foul weather would expect a calm, nor in a calm and fair weather would one expect a storm. So you would do well also to think with regard to me. My coming in this present time is different from the way in which I shall come in the future. Now there is need of these signs which are on the earth. But those in heaven are stored up against that time. Now as a physician I have come to heal. Then I shall come to judge. Now I am seeking out those who have gone astray. Then I will demand an account.

### 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.

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

# ST. 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

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*Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

Romans 15:1 - 7

