

# Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Festive day of the Procession of the Holy Cross



*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! - Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!*  
*Слава Иисусу Христу! Слава на вики!*

### Divine Services for the Week:

**NINTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**  
**Post-Festive Day of the Transfiguration**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
 + **Ann Trombulak**, offered by Rich Mudron

## Happy Birthday Greetings:

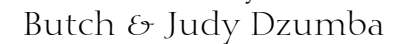
### Wedding Anniversaries:

## Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

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

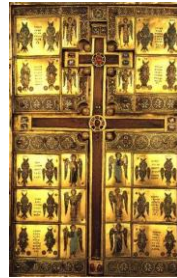
**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – July 31: M. Bobanic – Aug. 7: F. Hersh**



MOUNTAIN  
 PRESENCE  
 BLEACHER  
 WHITE  
 ELIJAH  
 MOSES  
 RABBI  
 THREE  
 TENTS  
 SHADOW  
 BELOVED  
 VOICE

**August 1: Procession of the Cross** - It became a tradition to carry the wood of the Venerable Cross through the streets of Constantinople for the sanctification of the city starting in the beginning of August. This was done because illnesses were more common in August at that time. On the eve of the Feast, it was taken out of the imperial treasury, and laid upon the altar of the great Church of Hagia Sophia. From this Feast until the Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, they carried the relic of the Cross, through the city in procession, offering it to the people to venerate.



### **88<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sept. 2 – 5**

The annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is a special ministry of the Sisters of St. Basil. It has been held every Labor Day weekend since 1934. It was that year that the Sisters and pilgrims celebrated the blessing of the then newly acquired Monastery for the Sisters. In 1935, Pope Pius XI gifted the Sisters with a beautiful icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help requesting that they spread devotion to the Theotokos under that title. The Pilgrimage is a source of ongoing renewal and provides for the diverse spiritual needs of the many pilgrims who frequent this major unifying event in the life of the Byzantine Catholic Church. Its participants include clergy and faithful from across the country. The Pilgrimage offers the celebration of Divine Liturgy; opportunities for the Mystery of Reconciliation; Anointing of the Sick; Adult Enrichment Programs; activities for children, teens, young adults; and pastoral counseling. The Pilgrimage is the oldest and largest Byzantine Catholic Pilgrimage in the United States. The Sisters welcome all people of faith to share in this special ministry and in its many blessings. The Sisters welcome all people of faith to share in this special ministry and in its many blessings. Location: 500 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401



### **St. George Annual Picnic, Sunday, August 21**

We will begin the day with our Sunday Divine Liturgy which will be at **10:00 A.M.** with the picnic following. Sign-up sheets are now in the Center. Please let us know if you are planning on attending and how many of your family and friends are coming. There will be many activities including bingo, outdoor games, and a bonfire (*Bring your lawn chairs!*). **We will be having the very popular basket raffle and will again take donations of already made gift baskets. Simply bring your donations in the coming weeks or the morning of the picnic.** *Let us come together as a family for our wonderful annual picnic.*



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

### **A Note from Father Geoff**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This coming Saturday we celebrate the wonderful Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. This feast, once so enthusiastically celebrated by Christians of both the Eastern and Western Churches, has become less frequently observed in recent years. This is to our detriment.

Brother Victor-Antoine D'Avila-Latourrette writes,

*In the Gospel accounts of the Transfiguration, we see the explicit desire on the part of the eternal Father to glorify his Son before he undergoes the sufferings of his Passion. For a moment, the veil covering his divinity is lifted and, suddenly, Jesus appears clothed in surpassing beauty. He is luminous, translucent with the Father's glory. The disciples present at the event instantly recognize the glory of God shining from that human face.*

This glorious feast celebrates not just that Christ is truly divine, but also that Christ is divine *in his humanity*. It links the feasts of the Incarnation (Christmas, Theophany) with that of the Ascension, when Christ, in his full humanity *and* divinity, sits at the right hand of the Father, interceding for his human brothers and sisters - that's us! In the Transfiguration, we contemplate the mystery of a human being who is also God, and who radiates the uncreated light of God even though, as the Prophet Isaiah had said of him hundreds of years earlier: "*He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.*" (Isaiah 53.2)

As we look forward to this marvelous feast, I would encourage you to take a little time this week and read the biblical accounts of the Transfiguration: Matthew 17.1-13; Mark 9.2-13; Luke 9.28-36. Meditate on these words of Scripture and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you the truths revealed in them.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, whose glory was revealed to his disciples at the Transfiguration, also in his mercy reveal himself to us in this life. At let us remember the words of St. John the Theologian, who teaches us that, "we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

Christ is among us!

*Fr. Geoff*

### **Paraklesis for the Dormition Fast**

Every day this week, Monday through Friday at 8:00 A.M., there will be a reader service of the **Paraklesis** as a group of parishioners offer our prayerful supplications to our Holy Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary. The **Paraklesis**, or **Office of Supplication to the Theotokos** is probably the most ancient service of supplication. Come and be part of this prayerful service.

*Unto the Mother of God let us sinners humbly and diligently have recourse now*



## ***Eighth Sunday after Pentecost***

*Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to Him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish He looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds.*

Today's Gospel reading from the holy apostle and evangelist Matthew relates to us the feeding of the five thousand and the miraculous multiplication of loaves and fishes. This miracle teaches us several things that are helpful in our journey of faith. We can see how this miracle is also a revelation of the Savior's divinity, of the power of Christ. The miracle takes place when the day is already far spent, but Christ is not limited by time; He is the Lord of Time. Where does this miracle take place? In a desert place, in the wilderness; therefore Christ is also the Lord of Space. He blesses and multiplies bread and fish; He is also the Lord of Land and Sea.

We see in this miracle how Christ not only feeds us with material food, but also with spiritual food, for, as it is written in the Holy Scriptures, "man shall not live by bread alone". Look at the numbers mentioned in this Gospel. Why five loaves? The number five, as we read in the Psalms and in the prayers of thanksgiving after communion, represent our five senses. These five senses are fed by Christ, the Bread of Life.

What about the two fishes? They represent the two parts of the New Testament, the Gospels and the Epistles, which were written by fishermen, who became fishers of men, for we are spiritually fed by their writings.

Why twelve baskets of fragments? They represent the twelve Apostles who preach to the ends of the universe, the fragments who feed our souls with the words of Christ through the Holy Spirit.

As we meditate upon this Gospel reading, let us open our minds and souls to Christ our True God that we too may be fed and satisfied with the Bread of Life.

### **Learn What Jesus Did**

And not even here does Jesus hold back on the miracle, but it continues as the loaves become fragments. The broken pieces signify that of those the loaves, some remained unreceived. This was in order that those who were absent might also learn what had been done. For this providential purpose, then, Jesus indeed permitted the crowds to get hungry in order that no one might suppose what took place to be as illusion. For this purpose He also caused just twelve baskets to remain over: that Judas, too, might bear one. He wanted all the disciples to know his power. He fed their hunger.

*(Commentary from St. John Chrysostom)*



*O Most Holy Theotokos save us!*

## ***The Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ***

On **August 6<sup>th</sup>** we celebrate in our Holy Churches the glorious Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ. This day is one of the 12 major feast days of our Holy Church. By His Transfiguration, the Savior has showed us how people become in the future life, in the Kingdom of Heaven, if they follow God's Law and how the entire earthly world would be transfigured. The Lord also reminds us that we can be transfigured even now if we lead a truly Christian life.

This important event in Christ's life on earth occurred not long before His Crucifixion. In order to sustain His disciples' faith when they would see Him suffering, the Lord first showed them His divine glory. Taking along three of His disciples – Peter, John and James, the Lord ascended a high mountain, called Mount Tabor, to pray. While Christ was praying, the disciples fell asleep from fatigue. When they awoke, they saw that Christ was transfigured: His face shone like the sun, while His garments had become radiant as light. Two prophets – Moses and Elijah – appeared to Him in their heavenly glory and spoke with Him about His forthcoming suffering and death. Seeing all this, the disciples' hearts were filled with extraordinary joy. When they saw that the prophets were about to withdraw from Christ, Peter, trying to hold them back, cried out: "Lord! It is good for us to be here; if You wish, we will make three tents here: one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah." Suddenly a bright cloud enveloped them and out of the cloud they heard the voice of God the Father: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!" In great fear the disciples fell to the ground. Christ came and touched them, and said: "Arise and do not be afraid." The disciples arose and saw Christ in His usual appearance. (Read the Gospel reading for this Feast: Matthew 17:1-9)



On the Feast of Transfiguration, fruit is brought to our Churches to be blessed for eating. Traditional practice includes the blessing of grapes (a reminder that we must abide in the True Vine, Jesus Christ). Local customs also include other fruit. The blessing of grapes, as well as other fruits and vegetables on this day is the most beautiful and adequate sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in God's Paradise where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord.

In the land of our ancestors, in Subcarpathia, the fruits of the season were apples, plums, and pears. These usually were brought to the church and blessed. In the United States grapes are also added.



**Bring a basket of fruit to Divine Liturgy for the Transfiguration Holy Day on Saturday, August 6**

**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

***O Most Holy Theotokos save us!***