

August 14, 2022  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Festive Day of the Dormition,  
Venerable Father Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves



**SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

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

Proprs for this Sunday: See handout

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., AUG. 14	TENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, Pre-Festive Day of the Dormition, Venerable Father Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves DIVINE LITURGY + Ann Trombulak, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba
8:30 A.M.	
MON., AUG. 15	DORMITION of the THEOTOKOS HOLY DAY, <i>Obligation</i> DIVINE LITURGY, <i>Blessing of flowers and herbs</i>
6:00 P.M.	
SUN., AUG. 21	ELEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST Post-Festive Day of the Dormition, <i>Church Picnic</i> DIVINE LITURGY + Ann Trombulak, offered by Poiarkoff family
* 10:00 A.M. *	

Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

According to our Byzantine Catholic Tradition, flowers are solemnly blessed on the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15). Tradition speaks of the Apostles returning to the tomb of Mary. Finding it empty, her tomb was filled with a heavenly fragrance and flowers were present where her body once lay. Since Mary could only have been taken up by the Lord, flowers are seen as the presence of His saving Power. As a reminder of this event, flowers are brought to Church and blessed. Blessing of Flowers will take place on the Feastday Divine Liturgy, **Monday, August 15, 6:00 P.M.** Liturgy.

**Happy Birthday Greetings:**

August 14: Gabriel Mackey, August 18: Francis Hersh, Sr.,

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

None for the week

**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)

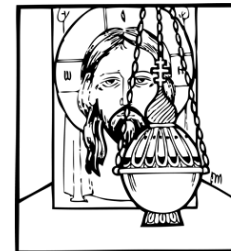
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers – Aug. 14: Louisa Hersh – Aug. 21: Joanne Futato

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Aug. 14: **R. Dzumba** – Aug. 21: **R. Mudron**



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

August 14 - 20, 2022

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

The Parishioners

*She gazes on her Son divine,  
in whom both God and Man combine;  
He whom she cradled with delight  
now reigns as King in Godhead's Light.*

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

# St. George Annual Picnic, Next 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 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 are taking donations of already made gift baskets. Simply bring your basket the morning of the picnic.** *Let us come together as a family for our wonderful annual picnic.*

*See you there!*

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**Total Faith** - When someone has total faith, such that he no longer disbelieves in anything found in holy Scripture and has faith like that of Abraham, who so believed in God to such a degree that his faith was reckoned to him as righteousness, then he has all faith like a grain of a mustard seed. Then such a man will say to this mountain – I mean in this case the deaf and dumb spirit in him who is said to be epileptic – “Move from here to another place.” It will move. (*Origen*)

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## 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. 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.. Location: 500 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401



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## 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!*



## A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Tomorrow we celebrate the wonderful Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. We celebrate that God has taken to himself the Blessed Virgin Mary, seated in the heavenly places with her divine Son.

"Dormition" means "falling asleep" - it's the same word we use for *other* saints who have died. In Eastern Churches affirm that Mary did experience bodily death, just as her Son did. But then she, too, "rose again," which is the meaning of our doctrine of the Assumption. Of her life in glory, St. Peter Damian wrote,

*She gazes on her Son divine,  
in whom both God and Man combine;  
He whom she cradled with delight  
now reigns as King in Godhead's Light.*

The Catholic writer Amy Ekeh, writes, "Blessed as she was among women, Mary's day-to-day life was much like everyone else's - a life that no doubt took its toll on the body. Scars, sunspots, wrinkles - she would not have escaped them. And why would she want to? Life tells its stories and leaves its beautiful marks on every body."

Mary is the great example to us of what a life of humility and faith is. Her "let it be to me" was the beginning of our salvation, when God himself became incarnate as a human child in her womb (Luke 1.26-38). Throughout her life, she was the model of faithfulness. She believed in her Son's power when she told him that they had run out of wine at the wedding in Cana (John 2.1-12). She came in faith to speak with Jesus as he was teaching and healing (Matthew 12.46-50). And she remained faithful even to the end, when her Son was crucified, standing at the foot of the Cross when so many others had abandoned him (John 19.25-27).

In all of these things, Mary is a model for us. And she remains an example - and a forerunner - for us in her Dormition. Because we do not believe in a sort of disembodied life after death; we believe in the resurrection from the dead. And Mary has gone before us in this great mystery. As Ekeh writes, "She goes before us, body and soul, and we will follow. In heaven as on earth, our bodies will tell their stories."

In the Maternal Care of the Theotokos,  
*Fr. Geoff*

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*O Most Holy Theotokos, Save Us!  
Presvjataja Bohoridice, spasi nas!*



## Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

*At that time, a man came up to Him and kneeling before Him said, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him.” And Jesus answered, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.”*

In today’s Gospel Reading Our Lord said that the disciples who were unable to heal the boy were FAITHLESS. What does it mean to have faith?

Faith is what comes of an encounter with the Lord beyond words and human concepts. It is the result of a face to face, heart to heart encounter with the living God. Faith is a gift given by God to those who have purified their hearts, to those who have learned how to sit at the feet of the Lord in silence and who practice moment by moment, day by day, month by month and year after year the constant remembrance of His presence. Faith is a return to the truth of who we are as human beings created in His image and likeness. It is the rising within us of the rivers of living water promised by Christ to those who have, as St. Seraphim so beautifully taught, acquired the Holy Spirit. Faith is released in us from the depths of our souls when we have taken out the garbage that obstructs the image and let go of everything that is unhelpful, unloving and unhealthy.

Faith embraces God Himself in an unmediated way, demanding and asking for nothing except to see and experience the wonder of His presence. Even miracles are a distraction from the “one necessary thing” which is to sit at His feet, to feed on His words, to bask silently in His silence. The Holy Fathers say that if you see a vision during prayer, ignore it and return to prayer for there is only one “necessary thing.” Faith rests in the God who at all times “is everywhere present, filling all things” and is content to be alone with Him and to love Him. True faith simply knows that the goodness of the Lord overflows at all times to all creation whether times are good or bad or happy or sad. “To live is Christ, to die is Christ,” wrote St. Paul. That is all we need. The sign of faith in a person may be miracles or not, but the one sure sign that faith is at work is love and humility. If they are present, then a variety of miracles are already occurring and the eyes of faith can see them. Amen.



O Most Holy Theotokos save us!

## Icon of the Dormition

The central icon of the feast vividly depicts this reality: the icon revolves around none other than Christ Himself, who has come down from His heavenly throne to receive His mother in His arms.

We see St Mary lying on her death bed, surrounded by angels and saints, above her body stands her Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. In His hands is a small child covered in white clothes which represents the soul of St Mary. She carried her Son into this life, and Her Son in turn carries her into eternal life. This is the privilege that awaits all Christians who carry Christ in their lives.

Several bishops in episcopal attire are shown here and are traditionally said to be St James, the first bishop of Jerusalem, St. Timothy, Heirotheus, and Dionysius the Areopagite (who provided the first written account of the Dormition in the second century). At the feet of St Mary’s bed, we see St Paul who bows low in honor of her.

St Peter is shown censuring the body of the Theotokos to convey that he was the leader of the Apostles and the fledgling church. This depiction of St Paul and St Peter on the right and left show the Christian understanding of how these two apostles were the pillars of the Church.

John the Evangelist who took care of the Holy Virgin after the death and ascension of the Lord Jesus, is often shown as leaning on the body of the Theotokos.

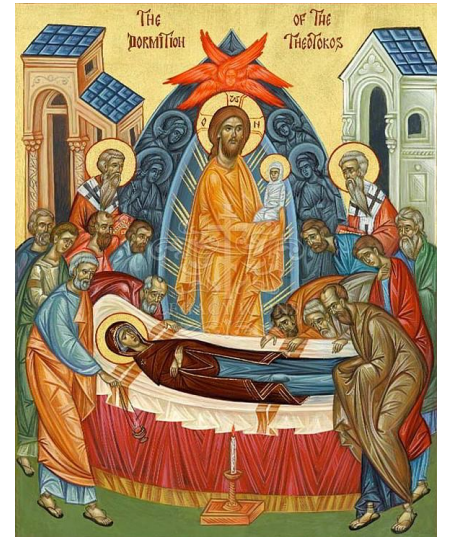
The Dormition icons always show some apostles with angels in the clouds. This is depicted to remind us of how the Apostles were miraculously brought to Jerusalem by the Holy Spirit from the ends of the earth just before St Mary’s death.

### The Troparion of the Dormition refers to Mary saying:

*You are the Mother of Life and have been transferred to life, and through your prayers have delivered our souls from death.*

### As the Kontakion speaks to heart of the feast:

*The grave and death did not detain the Mother of God.  
She prays perpetually and is our unfailing hope of intercession.*



**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!*