

September 18, 2022
Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



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 and Exaltation of the Cross pp. 258-260

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., SEPT. 18
8:30 A.M.

SUNDAY after the EXALTATION of the CROSS
DIVINE LITURGY
+ Lori Dickey Stevic, offered by Mickey Barilla Nelson

SUN., SEPT. 25
8:30 A.M.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
DIVINE LITURGY
+ George Seech, offered by wife, Martha & Seech family

Are you ashamed of Christ?

One who claims to live in Christ ought to walk as He walked. Would you follow Christ? Then be humble as He was humble. Do not scorn His lowliness if you want to reach His exaltation. Human sin made the road rough. Christ's resurrection leveled it. By passing over it Himself He transformed the narrowest of tracks into a royal highway. Two feet are needed to run along this highway; they are humility and charity. Everyone wants to get to the top – well, the first step to take is humility. Why take strides that are too big for you – do you want to fall instead of going up? Start with the first step, humility, and you will already be climbing.



(Saint Caesarius of Arles)

Happy Birthday Greetings:

None for the week

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)

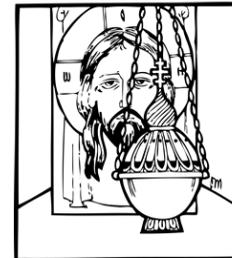
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers – Sept. 18: Louisa Hersh – Sept. 25: Joanne Futato

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Sept. 18: A. Hersh – Sept. 25: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

September 18 - 24, 2022

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

The Parishioners

The Most High planted in the middle of Paradise the thrice blessed wood, the gift of life for us, in order that, in approaching it, Adam might find eternal and immortal life, But he did not strive earnestly to know this life, and so he failed to attain it, and found death instead. However, the robber, seeing how the plant in Eden had been beautifully transplanted in Golgotha, recognized Life in it and said to himself: 'This is what my father lost formerly in Paradise.'

St. Romanos the Melodist

Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!

Pirohi Sales Return October 14

Our Pirohi Project will return on Friday, October 14. This is a very important tradition for our St. George Church. Plan on purchasing your dinner from our Pirohi Project on October 14 and the second Friday of each month following. We are looking for additional pirohi workers and would be very grateful if new members could join on one or more days. Work days are announced in the bulletin the Sunday before the sale, (*typically Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 9:00 AM*). We can't do this project without your help and support. Spread the word and come and help! Thank you!



Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

WE BELIEVE IN THE TRINITY, ONE IN ESSENCE AND UNDIVIDED:

The Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—infinately surpasses all possibilities of human understanding. “His divinity [i.e., Godhead] is completely unfathomable, and his essence, which is above all, is not what the mind conceives it to be.” According to the words of the apostle Paul, the depths of this mystery can be plumbed only by the Holy Spirit: “So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God” (1 Cor 2:11). However, that same Spirit, the Spirit of truth, descending upon people, reveals the inner life of God. The Holy Spirit teaches people to express the truth, inasmuch as this is possible, through the language of faith: “Now we have received ... the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed upon us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual” (1 Cor 2:12-13). And then, having thus taught, the Holy Spirit keeps vigil, that the faith, “the assurance of things hoped for,” might grow into the contemplation of “things not seen” (see Heb 11:1); that humankind may see the invisible as if it were visible, and see what is obscure face to face. “[Christians of the East] perceive that one draws close to this presence above all by letting oneself be taught an adoring silence, for at the culmination of the knowledge and experience of God is his absolute transcendence.” (#71)

R	H	T	A	E	D	O	R	C	P	JESUS	QUESTION	JOHN	CHRIST
A	E	C	N	U	O	N	E	R	H	STRICT	SUFFER	ELDERS	DEATH
N	C	W	S	A	T	A	O	A	S	CROSS	PROPHETS	RENOUCE	LIFE
A	C	R	O	S	S	P	J	E	S				
T	H	H	I	L	H	I	R	S	U				
A	C	R	S	E	L	D	E	R	S				
S	H	I	T	E	E	O	F	E	N				
C	E	S	T	F	S	U	F	F	H				
W	N	O	I	T	S	E	U	Q	O				
O	L	L	O	F	S	U	S	E	J				

A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Liturgy of the Byzantine Church is beautiful and deeply meaningful. And much of it scriptural. In the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom there are over 200 direct or indirect biblical references. We also read an Epistle and a Gospel at every eucharist. And there are other parts, such as the Prokeimenon (before the Epistle) and the verses of the Alleluia (before the Gospel) which are biblical quotations.

One place where Scripture appears in our Liturgy is in the "Antiphons" after the Litany of Peace. The word "Antiphon" specifically refers to the phrases: "Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us" and "O Son of God, risen from the dead, save us who sing to you, Alleluia!" But in between those antiphons we sing the words, "Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth...", "Be gracious to us, O God, and bless us...", and "Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord..." These are all lines from **Psalms 65, 66, and 94**. Originally, the *entirety* of these Psalms was sung in the Liturgy. By the modern age, they had become truncated into just one verse of each.

These are very appropriate Psalms to begin our worship with, because they are songs which enjoin us and encourage us to give God the praise that is due him. As we begin to come into the presence of the Lord in the Liturgy, it is as if we remind ourselves of the greatness of God and his worthiness of our worship. They are joyful psalms which encourage us to lift up not only our voices, but our hearts as we sing to him.

In Psalm 65, after encouraging us to "Shout joyfully to the Lord," we are reminded: "Come, see what God has done, how wondrous are his dealings with mankind." (vs. 5) Psalm 66 shows us the *universality* of God's reign: "[Let] his way be known upon earth, among all nations his saving help!" (vs. 2) And Psalm 94 invites us to bring our songs of praise to God:

*Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us acclaim God our Savior.
Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving; let us acclaim him with songs of praise.
For the Lord is a great God, a great King over all the gods.
In his hand are the recesses of the world beneath,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry lands shaped by his hand.
Come, let us worship and fall down before him;
let us kneel before the Lord who made us.
For he is our God and we are his people, the flock he tends. (Ps. 94.1-7)*

My brothers and sisters, as we worship him together; as we listen to his Word read and proclaimed; as we gather together to sup with him and to feed on his Body and Blood; let us remember his worthiness to be praised. And let us not forget that "we are his people, the flock that he tends."

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Geoff

(In some Bibles, specifically those published by Protesant organizations, the Psalms above will have different numberings: Psalms 66, 67, and 95)

Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross

THE Lord said, "If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake, and for the sake of the Gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the Kingdom of God has come in power."



What are the defining features of the followers of Christ? It's a three-step process: 1. denying ourselves, 2. taking up our cross, 3. following Christ.

1. How do we deny ourselves? By stopping being selfish, egotistical, narcissistic. In other words, by putting others ahead of ourselves. This does not mean that we do not take care of ourselves, rather we take care of ourselves by helping others. It's easy to become self-centered. Christ's followers work towards becoming Christ-centered.

2. What is the cross? In the times of Jesus Christ, crucifixion was the most horrific punishment possible. Roman citizens were urged to not even think about crucifixion. It was just a horrible, painful, and slow death. For Christians, the cross has become the sign of victory, a weapon that helps defeat evil.

To take up our cross means taking our life - with all its joys and happy moments, with all the pain and suffering, with all the flaws, and death - accept it and embrace it, as hard as it may be, and stumble towards God, in imitation of Christ. For Christ it was not easy also. He was beaten, ridiculed, and physically nailed to the cross.

A little side anecdote. There was a man who complained to Jesus that his cross was too much for him, there was no way he was going to finish the course, so to say. So Christ took him into a big storage room, full of crosses, and said, "Fine, pick any cross you like." There were crosses of all sizes. The man spent some time looking at them, but could not find one that he liked. Then he turns around and sees a cross by the door. Then he said, "I like this one. It looks like the cross that would fit me." And Jesus said, "That's the cross you left when you walked in here."

3. Following Christ does not necessarily mean more happiness or less suffering. In Christ, any happiness and suffering we experience will find its fulfillment. We can share our joy with those around us, especially those who are suffering, in this way co-suffering with them. And when we suffer, we can let others co-suffer with us.

We should take comfort in the fact that Christ saved us by suffering for us. Suffering is salvific.

Father Aleksey Paranyuk

For anyone who would save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will save it

The Gift of Christ

In order to pass on the faith of our Church, we must take hold of it ourselves! What are you doing to nourish your spiritual life and your knowledge of the beautiful faith of our Church?

Many special resources have been prepared for you for this new Catechetical year, based on the theme "**The Gift of Christ Poured Out for the Life of the World**". Please be sure to make use of these resources and share them with others.

Each month there will be a special reflection to help you dive deeper into the mystery of the Gift of Christ, particularly in the Mystery of the Eucharist. Today's handout is **The Gift of Christ Poured out onto the World**.

Our Church Library is also available FOR ALL to help in your on-going formation.

Formation Opportunity:

Live Webinar from www.godwithusonline.org, detailed below:

Wednesday, September 21st 8 - 9 p.m. ET

Watch from the comfort of your home!

God With Us Online will be launching their curriculum year on Wednesday, September 21st with a special webinar called **Stewards of the Mysteries: The Great Calling of Every Christian** with Bishop Nicholas Samra. GWU is thrilled to welcome Bishop Nicholas as we enter this year seeking a deeper understanding of our calling to pour out the gift of Christ to the world. Please make sure to join them, **AND INVITE OTHERS!**

Recordings of the live webinar will be posted online within days and can be watched any time after.

"We have an attraction – the faith of Jesus Christ according to our Eastern tradition – and we must have the 'courage to be ourselves' and to spread that word."

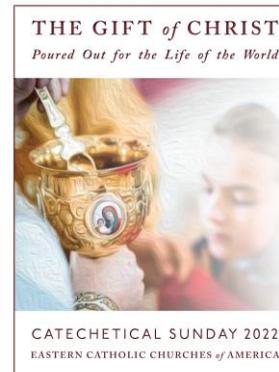
Most Rev. Nicholas Samra

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!**



Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!



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Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff

Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

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

The Gift of Christ poured out for the life of the world

