

October 23, 2022  
Twentieth 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 3: pp. 135 – 137

Divine Services for the Week:

**SUN., OCT. 23**      **TWENTIETH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**  
**8:30 A.M.**      **DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ **Joseph M. Haber**, offered by Sister, Darlene & John Simunick

**SUN., OCT. 30**      **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY after PENTECOST**  
**8:30 A.M.**      **DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ **Lori Dickey Stevic**, offered by Gretchen David

**Are you alive in Christ?**

The Lord compared the priests of the people with him who was clothed in purple. Nothing is more honored than purple clothing. He compared the disciples of the cross with Lazarus. There were none more lowly than Lazarus was. He revealed the names of his beloved ones through Lazarus, his beloved one. He also wished to reveal the name of his enemies through the words, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets.” It is not the case that all those living are alive, or that all those buried are dead.

*(St. Ephrem the Syrian)*

**During this respect life month, let us pray:**

*For those nearing the end of life: May they receive care that respects their dignity and protects their lives as they place their hope in the promise of eternal life;*

*Let us pray to the Lord: Lord have Mercy.*

**Happy Birthday Greetings:**

October 26: Alexander Hersh

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

October 30: Shawn & Christine Cody

**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)

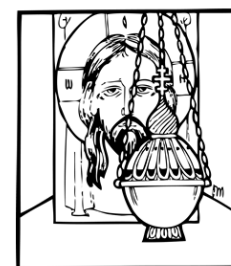
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

**Epistle Readers – Oct. 23: Louisa Hersh – Oct. 30: Joanne Futato**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – Oct. 23: R. Mudron – Oct.30: M. Bobanic**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**

October 23 - 29, 2022

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

**+ Lori Dickey Stevic**

*(In loving memory)*

Offered By:

**Gretchen David**

**PAUL HARVEY RIDDLE**

When asked this riddle, 80% of kindergarten kids got the answer, compared to 17% of Stanford University seniors. What is greater than God, more evil than the devil, the poor have it, the rich need it, and if you eat it, you'll die? If you are really “stuck”, press the shift key and you will get the answer. P.S. – You won't believe this, but this really does give you the answer!!!!

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

## **Free Adult Formation Opportunity:**

Live Webinar from [www.godwithusonline.org](http://www.godwithusonline.org) detailed below:

**Wednesdays, November 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 8 - 9 p.m. ET**

Watch from the comfort of your home!

God With Us Online will be presenting a free webinar with Rev. David Anderson, **O JOYFUL LIGHT, An Introduction to Evening Prayer** beginning Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The setting of the sun has always inspired the Church to turn to the Lord in prayer. In this time of year, as the sun is beginning to set earlier, how especially fitting it is for us to seek a greater love and understanding of the great tradition of evening prayer in the Church. Join GWU as Fr. David teaches us the importance and unique character of this special hour in the Church's life of prayer.

As usual, the webinar will open at 7:45 PM ET for our "pre-class tail-gate," and Fr. David will begin his presentation at 8 PM ET. We can't wait to see you! **PLEASE INVITE OTHERS!**

Register at [www.godwithusonline.org](http://www.godwithusonline.org)

*O Joyful Light of the holy  
glory of the Father Immortal,  
The Heavenly, Holy, Blessed  
One, O, Jesus Christ:  
Now that we have reached  
the setting of the sun,  
and see the evening light,  
we sing to God, the Father,  
the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
It is fitting at all times to  
raise a song of praise in  
measured melody to you, O,  
Son of God, the Giver of Life.  
Therefore the universe sings  
your glory!*

*(The hymn Phos Hilaron, sung  
at Vespers each evening)*

## **40<sup>th</sup> Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration**

On **Sunday, October 30**, St. John the Baptist Church in Uniontown, PA, located at 201 E. Main Street, is reviving its annual ethnic festival in the Parish Social Hall from **Noon to 6:00 pm**. There will be ethnic foods such as holubki, pirohi, halushki, kolbasi and sauerkraut, soup, potato pancakes, pagach, baked goods and much more. This annual event will include musical entertainment throughout the day and a speaker and/or video presentation on Rusyn culture and customs (program subject to change). A display of artifacts, authentic costumes, photographs, and documents, and assistance with genealogical questions. There will be pysanky, iconography, wood burning, bobbin lace making, and folk-art demonstrations, music, church tours, children's activities (including egg art, cookie decorating, coloring/craft projects, and storytelling), crafts, parish cookbooks, raffles, videos, and much more. Handicapped accessible. Admission is free.

For information call 724-438-1382 M-F 9 AM-3 PM, (leave message)

## **St. Matrona Cookie Walk**

Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie is hosting its 19th Annual St. Matrona Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 20, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (or until sold out). A variety of Eastern European holiday cookies, traditional favorites, homemade nut rolls & gluten free cookies will be available. Most cookies sold by the pound. No online orders. For questions: [smladiessociety@gmail.com](mailto:smladiessociety@gmail.com)

## **A Note from Father Geoff**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our Divine Liturgy, after the Trisagion, we come to the **Prokeimenon** and the readings from the **Epistles** and **Gospels**. The word "Prokeimenon" literally means "the thing that comes before" and is a verse from a Psalm which is used to prepare us to hear the first Reading.

Readings from Holy Scripture are among the most ancient of ways to worship the Lord. The Hebrew believers read portions of the Torah (the Law) and the Prophets in their synagogues. We see this in the life of Jesus when, at the beginning of his public ministry, he preaches in his hometown of Nazareth: *"He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me....'"* (Luke 4.16-18a)

The early Church's Eucharistic liturgy, they saw fit not only to celebrate the Lord's Supper, but always to precede the Eucharistic prayer with readings of Scripture. Saint Justin Martyr (ca. 100-160) was a Roman philosopher who converted to Christianity and became an outspoken defender of the Faith. In explaining the Sunday gathering of Christians, he wrote:

*On the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together in one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits. Then, when the reader has finished, the presider verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things.* (First Apology, chapter 67)

So we can see that already by the 2nd century, in one of the earliest references to Christian worship that we have, the "shape" of the Divine Liturgy is already in place. Readings from the Old Testament Prophets, the Epistles and the Gospels are a key part of the service. (As is the priest's "instruction" on these things -- the homily.)

When we hear the Scriptures proclaimed in worship, we are - in a mystical way - hearing from the Lord himself. (Our Western brothers and sisters even say, "The Word of the Lord" after the readings.) Every page of the Holy Scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation, is a proclamation of our Lord. Jesus Christ is, himself, the interpretive "key" or way to understand the Scriptures.

And even when we may not understand this or that part of Scripture, we are formed by the Lord in hearing and reading it. I once heard a story which illustrates this point - you can read it elsewhere in the bulletin ("The Boy and the Wicker Basket").

Let us listen attentively to the words of Scripture read in the Liturgies of our Church. And let us take time in our own private lives to read the Bible and ask for the ongoing guidance of the Holy Spirit. And by it may we be purified and drawn ever closer to Christ, the true, living, and eternal Word of God.

Yours in the Word,

*Fr. Geoff*

## *Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Who Is Your Lazarus?*

Today in the Byzantine Catholic Church, we read the famous teaching from St. Luke's Gospel about the beggar Lazarus and the rich man (Lk. 16:19-31). It is a difficult passage for we see a rich man in the torments of hell, begging for relief, pleading that his family be warned of their impending doom. Neither request is granted. It seems harsh and cruel. Where is God's mercy?



We find God's mercy at the beginning of the story. It says Lazarus was laid at the gate of the rich man. God saw this extravagantly wealthy man and said, "I want to save him." God devised a plan, "I'll have poor Lazarus lay at the rich man's gate, so that he sees the poor state of his neighbor daily, so that he can learn to pity a suffering human."

It was no accident that Lazarus was laid at this rich man's gate. God knew that if the rich man could open his heart just a tiny bit, give alms just once – that little gap in his cold heart would create an opening for more of God's love and grace to enter.

God is creative in his salvific ways. He doesn't need much – just the tiniest speck of goodness, the littlest inclination to do something good, and He comes rushing in with His grace, beginning salvation in our hearts.

Every day the poor Lazarus laid near the rich man's front door, wasting away, being harassed by animals, starving to death. And every day the rich man's heart grew colder and further from God.

It's as if God said, "If he will just show mercy one time, then I will have something to work with." But the rich man refused. He remained absorbed in himself, his own cares, his luxuries, and he disdained the poor Lazarus at his door.

Even after the rich man's death, there is no change of heart. He does not regret his lack of mercy but begins demanding that Lazarus serve him, bringing him water while he burns in hell. When that doesn't work, he again demands the service of Lazarus, that he be sent to warn the rich man's family.

Even in hell, the rich man views himself as superior to Lazarus. His heart has not changed in torments, he simply longs for his old luxuries and comfort. And, I must add, when we view others as lower than us, we are in an upside down, hellish state like the rich man.

I read these things and must ask myself sobering questions: who or what is the Lazarus that God has sent into my life? What people, situations, or circumstances have been sent my way to get me out of my own head, to get me to pay attention to the needs of others? Who rubs me the "wrong" way in order to get me to see that I am the one who is wrong, that I am living upside down with my head in hell?

God is creatively working out the salvation of each one of us, putting all the pieces in place, masterfully orchestrating the whole thing. But am I paying attention? Do I see my brother Lazarus in my life, whatever that might look like, or am I too absorbed in myself to notice?

*"If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not believe even if someone rises from the dead."*

## *The Boy and the Wicker Basket*

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out **Bible**. His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could.



One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?" The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was "impossible to carry water in a basket," and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water. I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

The old man said, "So you think it is useless? Look at the basket." The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean. "Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. **You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out.**"

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***Take time to read a portion of God's word each day; it will affect you for good even if you don't consciously retain much of what you have read.***

*(See Ephesians 3:1-4; Ephesians 5:17; II Timothy 2:15; II Timothy 3:14-17)*



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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, or by appointment

Holy Mysteries of Initiation ..... Contact the pastor

Holy Mystery of Anointing ..... Contact the pastor prior to surgery or in the event of illness

Holy Mystery of Marriage ..... Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

Pirohi Sales ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month

St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club ..... Everyone welcome to participate

Opportunities for Stewardship ... ..Church and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each month.

*“Do not turn your face away from any poor man, and the face of God will not be turned away from you.”*