

November 13, 2022
Twenty-Third 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 Иисусу Христу! Слава на вики!

Proprs for this Sunday: See Handout

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., NOV. 13	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST, Holy Father John Chrysostom DIVINE LITURGY + Joseph M. Haber, offered by cousin, Sandy Trevino
8:30 A.M.	
SUN., NOV. 20	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST Pre-festive day of the Entrance of the Theotokos DIVINE LITURGY + Deceased Parishioners
8:30 A.M.	
MON., NOV. 21	ENTRANCE of the THEOTOKOS HOLY DAY DIVINE LITURGY
6:00 P.M.	

Welcome Father Thomas Dansak

This morning and next Sunday, as Fr. Geoff is away, we are honored to welcome Fr. Thomas Dansak to be our celebrant for the Divine Liturgy. We are grateful he has joined us and we pray that he would be blessed as he ministers to us today. Welcome, Fr. Thomas!

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Happy Birthday Greetings:
November 15: James Mudron, November 16: JoAnn Hersh

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)

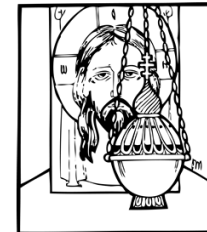
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers – Nov. 13: Dan Pinchot – Nov. 20: JoAnn Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Nov. 13: F. Hersh – Nov. 20: M. Bobanic



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

November 13 - 19, 2022

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

The Parishioners

Who is Your Neighbor?

The Lord teaches that the man going down was the neighbor of no one except of him who wanted to keep the Commandments and prepare himself to be a neighbor to everyone that needs help. This is what is found after the end of the parable, “Which of these three does it seem to you is the neighbor of the man who fell among robbers?” Neither the priest nor the Levite was his neighbor, but – as the teacher of the law himself answered – “he who showed pity” was his neighbor. The Savior says, “Go and do likewise.” (Origen)

Sanctuary Candles for 2023

The 2023 weekly sanctuary candle intentions are available for you to sponsor with your intention in memory of a deceased loved one or friend, or for the health and well-being of a friend or loved one. Please see Joanne Futato at the candle table in the narthex if you wish to sponsor the weekly candle.

Up Next...

New Free Adult Formation Opportunity:

Live Webinar from www.godwithusonline.org detailed below:

Monday, November 28th 8 - 9 p.m. ET

Watch from the comfort of your home!

God With Us Online will be presenting a free webinar,

CUTTING AWAY THORNS, Why Fasting Precedes the Feast

with Hierodeacon Moses Wright, on Monday, November 28th. Fasting at this time of year is a foreign concept to the world, but the Church knows that it is a sure means of preparing to celebrate the Feasts and great mysteries of our faith to the fullest. Join us as we discover a deeper “why” for fasting as we approach the Great Feast of the Lord’s Nativity.

Register at www.godwithusonline.org

St. Nicholas Celebration & Raffle

The GCU's annual Saint Nicholas Celebration for the benefit of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius has been scheduled for Sunday, December 4. As has been customary, in conjunction with the celebration, a raffle ticket with an all-cash prize of \$2,000 is now underway. Tickets are **\$10.00** apiece and each parish has received 17 tickets. Payment can be made in cash, or in a check *made out to the parish*. To purchase a ticket, please see Judy Dzumba.

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

Church Mice

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A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we continue, in these little bulletin notes, to reflect on various elements of the Divine Liturgy, last week, I wrote about the **Cherubikon**, that lovely hymn in which we "represent the cherubim." While the people are singing that hymn, the celebrant lifts up his hands, and prays the private **Prayer of the Cherubikon**.

This is a personal and profound prayer of the priesthood, in which the celebrant recognizes his own unworthiness to stand before the altar of God and to be an instrument of so great a Mystery as the Eucharist. He begins: *"No one who is bound by carnal desires and pleasures is worthy to come to you, to approach you, or to minister to you, the King of Glory. For to minister to you is great and awesome even to the heavenly powers themselves."*

But knowing one's unworthiness is only part of the picture. God's grace and loving-kindness fill out the rest of the picture: *"Yet, because of your ineffable and immeasurable love for all of us, you, unchanged and unchangeable, became man, were designated our high priest and, as Master of all, entrusted us with the priestly service of this liturgical, unbloody sacrifice."*

You see, none of us - bishop, priest, deacon, or layperson - are worthy to stand in the presence of God. None of us, in ourselves, without the grace of God - can be found ready and able to look upon the Lord. But in God's mercy, he clothes us with his righteousness. As St. Paul writes, *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."* (Rom. 3.23-24)

This is what we celebrate at the Eucharistic feast: the Paschal Mystery of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which God has reconciled us to himself (see 2 Cor. 5). And he gives us his very Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, to be our food and drink that he might dwell within and among us every day of our life.

And so the celebrant prays, *"Look favorably upon me, your sinful and unprofitable servant, cleanse my heart and soul of an evil conscience, and by the power of your Holy Spirit enable me, who have been clothed with the grace of the priesthood, to stand before this your holy table in the priestly service of your sacred and pure body and precious blood."*

Thanks be to God, who out of his gratuitous loving-kindness and mercy, has given us the grace to become his sons and daughters, and raises us up to the Divine Life by offering himself for our spiritual and physical nourishment.

Christ is among us!

Fr. Geoff

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

On this Sunday, a young lawyer comes to Our Lord and asks: “What must I do to gain everlasting life?” Jesus answers: “Love the Lord your God with your whole heart, your whole soul, your whole strength, your whole mind and your neighbor as yourself.” Then our Lord tells him the parable of the Good Samaritan. Whenever I read that particular Gospel from Luke it reminds me of a story I heard many years ago.

One day an old priest went to a younger confrere and said: “I hear Father that you want to love God more deeply. You desire to love the Lord with your whole heart, your whole soul and your whole mind.” And the young priest said: “You know, Father, I keep the Rule. I eat very little, I pray and I am silent. I work with my hands and I share my bread with the poor. I purify my heart. What else should I do in order to love God?” Then the old priest stretched out his arms in the form of a cross and from his fingers shot tongues of fire, and he said: “If you want, and only if you want, you can become a living fire.”

To become a living flame, that is, the Gospel proclaimed by Jesus. That is what St. Paul became. That is what many saints who have preceded us have become, people whose minds changed with the powers of Christ, people whose minds and hearts burned with the glory of the Lord.

When we consider a person such as St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, we would call her a “living flame.” She, whose eyes are alight with the same fire whether she looks at an abandoned baby or at Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. It’s the same fire. It is simply love. It is the love of God with one’s whole heart, mind and strength, which enables us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Love is the fire that the Son of God came to cast on the earth. It’s not some weak, sentimental type of love but one that bears the cross. This love is the fire that the Risen Lord pours into the hearts of those who follow Him, who hear His voice. It is the Holy Spirit who pours God’s love into us and makes us living flames enabling us to pour out our lives for others.

- Father Eugene J. Fulton

...He poured in wine, that is, the blood of His passion, and oil, that is, the anointing of the chrism, that pardon might be granted by His blood, sanctification be conferred by the chrism. The wounded parts are bound up by the heavenly Physician, and containing a salve within themselves, are restored to their former soundness.

The Evergetinos, Book Four



“You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, and with your whole soul, and with your whole strength, and with your whole mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”

Nativity Fast Nov.15 - Dec.24

Nativity Fast, or Phillip’s Fast, is the 40-day period before Christmas which is devoted to preparation for the coming of the Messiah. It begins on November 15th, the day following the feast of St. Phillip, and extends through December 24th. It is a period of fasting, prayer, Scripture reading, church attendance and participation in the sacraments to enable us to capture the full meaning of Christ’s coming.

The Church has traditionally taught four main ways to engage in Christian self-denial, no matter what our state in life. These are prayer, fasting, almsgiving and love. By actively engaging in these disciplines of discipleship during the time of the fast, we unite ourselves more perfectly to Christ as we celebrate the joy of the feast of His Nativity.

Below are some suggestions for ways to put into practice the four forms of Christian self-denial during the Nativity fast.

Prayer: Spend at least 15 minutes in the morning and evening in prayer each day. Pray the Jesus Prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." Display an icon of the Nativity in the prayer corner of your house or room and spend 10 minutes each day meditating on the saving mysteries surrounding the story of Christ's Birth. Receive the Mystery of Repentance (Confession) at least once during the fast.

Fasting: Abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays at the least. Fast from certain foods, such as soda, alcoholic beverages or candy. With each meal, eat only an amount that is sufficient for nutritional needs, without feeling full. Fast from select forms of entertainment (television, movies, radio, internet, novels, etc.). See below for customary fasting options.*

Almsgiving: Give your time, talent and/or treasure to a parish outreach or a special charity. Increase your parish tithe for the season. Clean out your house of any excessive items or possessions and share them with the poor and needy. Purchase gifts for homeless or needy children or families.

Love: Meditate on the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes and identify one or two of these to put into practice each week. Examine your conscience each night, asking for forgiveness from God and others as needed. Find opportunities to share your faith with others. Let us do at least a minimal fast of abstaining from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays, attending devotions, and doing some Scripture reading to prepare for the Nativity of Christ.

* During this fast it was the custom to observe a strict abstinence on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and a lesser abstinence (mitigation from wine and oil) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Ruthenian Metropolia has identified this period as a penitential season. This fast may be observed voluntarily, partially or in its entirety.



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PARISH EMAIL: stgbyz@gmail.com

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org

Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238



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 2nd Friday of each month

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

Opportunities for StewardshipChurch and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month.

How is the Divine Liturgy the first way in which we can begin to love our neighbor?