

May 21, 2023
Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council,
Post Festive Day of the Ascension



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Christ is glorified! Exalt Him forever! - Christos Proslavlennyy! Velicajme Jeho vo v'iki!

Propers for this Sunday: pp. 196 - 202

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., MAY 21	SUNDAY of the FATHERS of the FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL, POAT FESTIVE DAY of the ASCENSION
8:30 A.M.	DIVINE LITURGY + Sr. Rose Elizabeth, offered by James Mudron
SUN., MAY 28	PENTECOST SUNDAY
8:30 A.M.	DIVINE LITURGY + Paul & Melda Gasper, offered by Francis & Connie Hersh



Next Sunday: Wear Green for Pentecost Sunday

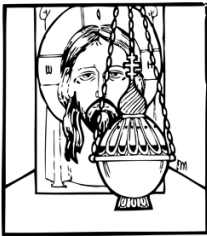
Since next Sunday is the Ruthenian “Green Sunday,” we are requested to wear something GREEN on that day and for the other Pentecost feast days. The green reminds us of the New Life that we have in the Spirit of God, and it is emblematic of the Springtime of spiritual rebirth and soul-rejuvenation that is bestowed upon us once again as we celebrate the Most Holy Spirit’s coming to us. Toward the end of this Divine Liturgy, the priest-celebrant will kneel down at the altar to begin the three prayers in honor of the all-glorified Trinity. We all then will be invited to join him in kneeling, thus signaling the end of the festive Paschal-Resurrectional-Ascensional season of standing. By our kneeling down, we usher-in the Pentecostal period of regular liturgical time.

Happy Birthday Greetings:
May 22: David Dohanich, May 25: Connie Hersh

Wedding Anniversaries:
May 20: Jonathan & Leanna Dohanich, May 21: Francis & JoAnn Hersh, 40 years!

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 Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)
Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

Epistle Readers – May 21: Dan Pinchot – May 28: Prudy Peya
Ushers – Stand in as needed
Troica Holders – May 21: M. Bobanic– May 28: J. Yurosky
If you would like to be a Trioca Holder, please see one of them following Liturgy.
We could always use the help!



THIS WEEK’S SANCTUARY LAMP
May 21 - 27, 2023
Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:
+ Phil Rossi
(In Loving Memory)
Offered By:
Ed & Isabel Maruhnich



Flea Market,
Haluski Sale,
Bake Sale
June 23 & 24
9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Creed Wordsearch

S D E C R U C I F I E D V D
J E S U S E V E I L E E D I
Q V S A I N T S P D P C E E
V I C Y T H G I M L A O T D
P E H A S C E N D E D M A V
O C R Z N G R D R E P M E F
N N I S A O E E S I R U S C
T O S B T I S C L Q I N J I
I C T A R O E A W X G I U L
U W E U R N T O V K H O D O
S R B A D E M H U K T N G H
C Z J E D E R E F F U S E T
P P D U C U V I R G I N U A
F O R G I V E N E S S Z W C

ALMIGHTY
AROSE
ASCENDED
BELIEVE
BURIED
CATHOLIC
CHRIST
COMMUNION
CONCEIVED
CREATOR
CRUCIFIED
DESCENDED
DIED
FORGIVENESS

JESUS
JUDGE
PILATE
PONTIUS
RIGHT
SAINTS
SEATED
SUFFERED
VIRGIN

Blessing of Graves at Mt. Olivet

As part of the Feast of Pentecost, there will be a Blessing of Graves at Mt. Olivet Cemetery on **Sunday June 4, 2:00 P.M.** We will gather at the Cross at the main entrance of the cemetery for a Panachida Service then proceed to bless the graves of our deceased loved ones. Come and pray for your deceased family members.

The Holy Spirit reminds us" not to reject the traditions of our elders, which they have learned from their fathers" (Sirach 8:9).



It's St. George Flea Market Time!

Our Flea Market, Haluski, and Bake Sale is fast approaching, **June 23 - 24**. Consider donating items you no longer need to our Flea Market, no clothing please. Items can be brought to the Center every Saturday from 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. or any time you are here. Ask family and friends to consider donating items to our Flea Market. We will need help with setting up the Flea Market beginning June 19. **We will also need bake sale items, so please consider baking. FLYERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO TAKE AND PASS OUT OR POST IN THE COMMUNITY. Your help with this event will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!**



A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul writes, "***I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.***" (Rom. 1.16) We use this word - "Gospel" - all the time. Of course, there are the four Books we call *Gospels*: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. But the word itself means "**Good News.**" And when St. Paul says the Gospel is the "power of God for salvation" he doesn't mean just the first four books of the New Testament.

So what is this "Gospel of Jesus Christ"? If someone were to say to you, *What is the Gospel?* how would you respond? What is the *Good News of Jesus Christ?* Many people over the centuries have tried to boil down the Gospel to its essence. And not everyone would word it the same way. So here's my attempt to boil it down:

The Gospel is that God has been fully and perfectly revealed in the person in the Person of Jesus Christ. He united humanity to God in his person; he died, descended to the dead, and came back to life again to forgive sins, to defeat Satan, to smash the gates of hell, and to destroy death. He sits at the right hand of God the Father interceding for us all, and has sent the Holy Spirit to enlighten us and advocate for us. In all of this, he offers perfect and sufficient *reconciliation with God* to all who call upon his name.

That's about as succinct as I think I can make it. The Gospel is "Good News" precisely because it means that, in Jesus Christ, every spiritual thing that is against us - sin, moral weakness, sickness, death, the demonic realm, hell - has been decisively dealt with and that friendship with God is offered to all of us. More than that, we have been made *children* of God and heirs of the eternal kingdom.

That is the Gospel which is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." That is why Jesus preached, "***Repent and believe the Gospel!***" Or, put another way, "***Change your mind! And believe the Good News that God is reconciling you!***"

Let us cling to this Good News. For, "***if God is for us, who can be against us?***" (Rom. 8.28)

Christ is among us!

Fr. Geoff

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Council of Nicaea

Does our Church believe that Christ is coming again? It certainly does. The Sunday after the holy day of the Ascension of our Lord is a good time to think about this Second Advent. The Ascension celebrates his going up to heaven, but now we must focus about his coming down at the end of the world as we know it.

Today's Gospel lesson gives us part of our Lord's farewell prayer as he bid good-bye to the apostles after the Last Supper. Before his prayer he spoke to his friends about his leaving. Christ said, "I go to prepare a place for you ... And I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, you may also be." Jesus said, "I will come again." On the day of his Ascension, Jesus took his friends to a mountain and rose up before their very eyes. They looked up as a cloud embraced him and took him from their sight. Still they gazed heavenward. Finally two angels appeared and said to them: "you men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go..." What did the angels say? They said Jesus shall come down again. The Nicene Creed expresses this belief in the coming of Christ: "and he shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead."

When a believing Christian dies and is carried to his resting place. The priest seals the grave, praying: "this grave is sealed until the second coming of Christ." The tomb of the deceased is sealed until Christ comes again to raise the dead. It seems quite clear that our Lord shall come again to earth.

The first time he came in all humility and poverty, born in a stable, with few people aware of his advent. The second time he shall come in all his glory and greatness, heaven poured out with him, and everyone shall be aware of his coming.

Why will Christ come? This is a significant question. He will come to raise the dead, and then he will judge mankind. The resurrection of the dead is the cornerstone of Christian belief. Without this happening and belief, our faith is in vain, useless and without merit to fret about it. Christ will also come to judge. We will have to render an account of our lives to him. He will give to each person his/her due reward.

+ Fr. George Papadeas



Be exalted above the heavens, O Lord

The Ascension of the Lord

The Icon of the Ascension is an icon of joy. It celebrates the meaning of this event for the Church and the world. The Ascension took place on the Mount of Olives. Thus, the mountainous background of the panel, dotted with images of scattered olive trees.

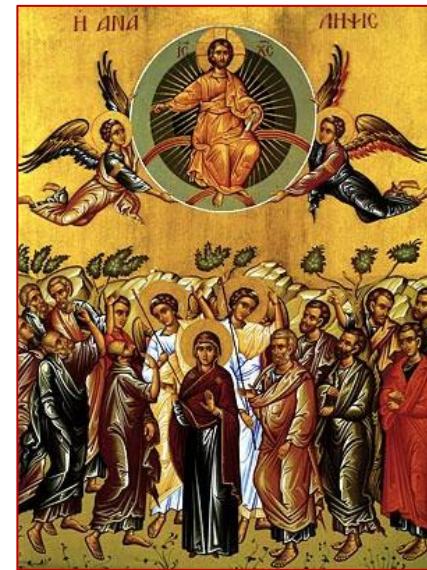
The figure of Christ ascending in glory is surrounded by a circular nimbus composed of various bands of color, symbolic of the heavens. This nimbus itself is supported by angels whose presence is yet another indication of the glory and divinity of Christ. It recalls the Old Testament image of God enthroned upon the Cherubim.

In the foreground of the Icon, the image of the Mother of God is seen surrounded by two groups of Apostles. Of prime importance is her position - directly below Christ. This entire grouping, the Mother of God and the Apostles, stands as an expression of the establishment and role of the Church. The Icon includes not only those who actually witnessed the Ascension. It also includes the Apostle Paul, in the Icon at the head of the group on the right, who historically could not have been there. What is intended is that the Church witnesses to this event.

The Mother of God, she who had once carried the Christ within herself and was therefore the temple of the Incarnate Son of God, stands here as a personification of the Church, the body of Christ, whose head is the ascending Savior. The gesture of her hands, uplifted in faith and prayer, expresses the role of the Church, ceaselessly interceding for the salvation of the world. The direction of movement of this whole group, their gestures, the focus of their eyes and postures, everything is directed upward: toward the Source of Life of the Church, its head Who abides in heaven. For:

He led them out near Bethany, and with hands upraised, blessed them. As He blessed, He left them, and was taken up to heaven. They fell down to do Him reverence, then returned to Jerusalem filled with joy. There they were to be found in the temple constantly, speaking the praises of God.

Our worship of the Father is one with Christ. Through the Church we are joined with Christ, our hope of glory.





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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.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.