

June 18, 2023  
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 Исусу Христу! Слава на вѣку!*

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 2: pp. 130 - 132

Divine Services for the Week:

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

**THIRD SUNDAY** after PENTECOST, Father's Day  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ For our deceased Fathers, Grandfathers, and Godfathers  
God's Blessings for our Fathers, Grandfathers, and Godfathers

*(At St. Mary: Saturday, June 24, 10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for St. John the Baptist Holy Day)*

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY** after PENTECOST,  
Leave-taking of the Nativity of John the Forerunner and Baptist  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ Margaret Klacik, offered by JoAnn & Francis Hersh family

**Father's Day Breakfast TODAY**

*Father's Day  
Breakfast*



Join us for a nice sit-down breakfast for Father's Day following the Divine Liturgy **TODAY**. Our hard-working cooks are preparing this delicious **homemade** breakfast in honor of our fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and those who play a fatherly role in our lives. Whether your father is with you or not, join us in their honor. *Everyone is invited!*

*Thank you to our cooking crew! Mnohaja lita!*

**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, Marian Yurosky

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

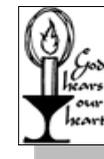
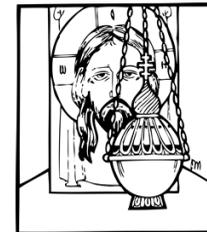
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

**Epistle Readers – June 18: Louisa Hersh – June 25: JoAnn Hersh**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – June 18: M. Bobanic – June 25: F. Hersh**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**  
June 18 - 24, 2023

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

+ Elizabeth Hodovanich

*(In Loving Memory)*

Offered By:

Daughter, Joanne Futato

***Trust in the Lord***

Jesus teaches us to trust in God our Father at all times and in all circumstances. St John Chrysostom, in his commentary on Matthew 6: 22-34, speaks to us about the meaning of the images used in this passage. Just when the lilies of the field are all decked out Jesus no longer calls them lilies but "grass of the field." He then points further to their vulnerable condition by saying "which are here today." Then He does not merely say "and not tomorrow" but rather more callously "cast into the oven". These creatures are not merely "clothed" but "so clothed" in this way as to be later brought to nothing. Do you see how Jesus everywhere abounds in amplifications and intensifications? He does so in order to press home his point. Then He adds, "Will he not much more clothe you?" The force of the emphasis is on "you" to indicate covertly how great is the value set upon your personal existence and the concern God shows for you in particular. It is as though He were saying, "You, to whom He gave a soul, for whom He fashioned a body, for whose sake He made everything in creation, for whose sake He sent prophets, and gave the law, and wrought those innumerable good works, and for whose sake he gave up his only begotten Son." **This is a powerful message.**

# St. George Flea Market This Week

**MANY NICE ITEMS HAVE BEEN DONATED!** EVERYONE please PRAY, come, and bring your friends to our Flea Market THIS FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 23 & 24. Also tell EVERYONE you know about our Flea Market! Come and browse, stay for lunch, and take home some baked goods. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there!



## Bakers Needed for Flea Market Bake Sale!!

Our Bake Sale is very popular and we are in need of a nice selection of baked goods. Please consider baking for our Bake Sale if you are able. You may bring your baked goods any time by Friday morning. Thank you for your help and support with this major fundraiser.

## Social Media Advertising

**Many nice items have been donated to our Flea Market. We now need to get the customers here!** If you are on social media at all, Facebook, Instagram, etc., please take a flea market flyer and post a picture of it on your page and on any community or flea market/garage sale groups you are a member of. This will be an immense help for our sale.

## Flea Market Table Set-up

**TODAY following the Father's Day breakfast, WE WILL NEED HELP PUTTING UP THE TABLES FOR THE FLEA MARKET. All who are able, please plan on helping with this set-up. It can be done very quickly when we are all here! Thank you for all your help!**

**Setting up & pricing: Monday beginning at 9:00 A.M., and each day until finished**

**Work the Flea Market: Fri. & Sat. 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**Come and help!**

## A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today is a day we set aside to consider our fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, spiritual fathers, and other people who may have served as father figures in our lives. Fatherhood is such a profound vocation in part because God chose to *reveal himself as "Father"* in the Scriptures. All the way back in Exodus, God claims his people as his children, when he says to Moses, "*Say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: Israel is my firstborn son.'*" (Ex. 4.22). And then, when the people of Israel were wandering in the wilderness, Moses told them, "*You saw how the LORD your God carried you, just as a Father carries a child.*" (Deut. 1.31) In the New Testament, Jesus tells St. Mary Magdalene, "*I am ascending to my father and your father, to my God and your God.*" (John 20.17)

So, at its *best*, fatherhood is an icon of God's provision and care for his people. Of course, fathers are not perfect. I am a biological father, a godfather, and a spiritual father, and even my best attempts at parenting come with flaws. And, of course, some people have had traumatic experiences which make understanding God as "Father" difficult.

But, as Pope Francis reminds us, the revelation of the Fatherhood of God is a source of great comfort: "*What I can tell you with absolute certainty is that you can, with total security, throw yourselves into the arms of your heavenly Father, the God who gave you life and who continues to give you life at every moment of the day, and He will be there for you, while also fully respecting your freedom. For Him, you are precious; you are not insignificant. You are important to Him.*" (From *Christus Vivat*)

So today, let us give thanks to those fathers in our lives who have shown us, in many small and great ways, something of the love, security, and provision of God; those for whom we are precious and significant. Let us give thanks to God for them! *Mnohaja lita!*

Yours in the Heavenly Father,

*Fr. Geoff*

## A Prayer for Fathers

*O Eternal and Almighty God, the Heavenly Father of us all: we pray to You on this festive day for all of our fathers. We commend them to Your paternal protection, and we beseech You to always look favorably upon them in order that they may always behold the joy of their children and their children's children. Fill them with that same paternal love that You, our Eternal Father, show toward your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. And, grant that all of our fathers may ever be sustained in those same paternal qualities that You, as the Father of the human race, show toward all of us, Your children. We implore You, O Heavenly Father, on this special day honoring all of our fathers, to graciously hear us and have mercy on them.*

## Third Sunday after Pentecost (Epistle)

*“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through Our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1)*

What does Saint Paul the Apostle mean by “we have peace”? He is speaking about behavior and everyday living. He spoke before about faith and the impossibility of salvation without it. Through good works, he is telling us how to behave now - how to show our life with the faith. “Peace with God” means not to go back and commit sin, not to go back to the old life of just pleasing the body without pleasing God.



But how can we not return to sin? Saint Paul is saying “we have been liberated through Christ from our sins, and also through Him we can keep away from sin. To gain peace with God is one thing, but to keep it is another.”

According to Saint Gregory Palamas there are three types of peace:

1. Peace towards ourselves.
2. Peace towards our neighbors.
3. Peace towards God.

Another saint says: *“Peace is a liberation from our desires. It cannot be achieved except through the Holy Spirit.”* Christ has done the difficult thing. He has brought us the peace with God. But it is up to us to keep it. We were away from Him, now we are close to Him.

Saint Paul in his letter goes on to promise us much more, which people normally do not like to talk about. He said “and that is not all we rejoice about. We can rejoice about our sufferings”. We rejoice not only in our faith, but also in our sufferings. These sufferings can lead us to inner beauty. Even though sufferings can seem heavy, they can bring happiness and peace, if we have the right attitude. This right attitude is born in us through LOVE. According to the Church fathers, it is God’s love which unites us to God: The love which He loved us with. The love which He showed for us when His Son Jesus died for us; did so while we were still sinners; reconciled us to our Creator; and saved us, making us His children and His heirs to His kingdom of eternity. It is our job to accept His love in our hearts, to commune with His love, and to radiate His love in all we do all our life. On this Sunday we pray that God’s Peace, and His Love, be with us always. Amen.

### **Birth of John the Baptist, June 24**

**The Nativity of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John**, who, while still in the womb of his mother, was filled with the Holy Spirit. He exulted in joy at the coming of the salvation of humanity. His own birth foretold the Lord Christ. Such great grace shone forth in him, that the Lord himself said concerning him that no one born of woman was greater than John the Baptist.

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His justice, and all the rest shall be given you besides*

*About Byzantine Catholics...*

## **Inside Our Churches: God's Kingdom on Earth**



Byzantine Catholic churches are designed to manifest, or make present, in their architecture and arrangement, the presence of the Kingdom of God on Earth. The sanctuary, located behind an icon screen, manifests Heaven, the dwelling place of God. The Holy Table makes present, in a particular way, Heaven, and manifests the Lord’s banquet table to which all are called. On the Holy Table are placed the Book of Gospels and the Holy Gifts during the Divine Liturgy, and in the center of the table stands the tabernacle (artophorion) containing the reserved Eucharist.

Shining forth from heaven, the divine light transfigures and ‘defies’ the figures depicted in the icons placed on the icon screen (Iconostasis), transforming them by God’s uncreated energies into bearers of the divine nature. Icons, whether depicted on the icon screen or elsewhere, are therefore a graphical depiction of the saving energies of God and their tremendous transformative and transfigurative power – they are a graphic and tangible manifestation of salvation in Christ, of what transfigured life looks like, and where our lives are hopefully leading us. Unlike other religious art, icons are also a participation, here and now, in the event or person depicted in the icon – icons make present these events and persons for us. We therefore show icons the same respect we would for the event or person represented in them, because these are, in reality, present before us in the form of the icon. When we venerate icons, our veneration is therefore directed at the event or person depicted, and not at the picture itself or the wood on which the icon is painted. Icons are venerated, but are never worshipped, for worship belongs to God alone. In fact, in venerating the persons depicted by icons, we are in fact rendering glory and praise to God, who by His great mercy and love has transfigured these persons and made them holy.

The main body of the church, or nave, is the gathering place of the assembly, the Body of Christ. Its walls are covered with icons which make present the reality of the communion of the entire Body of Christ, in heaven and on earth – and, therefore, of our communion with the saints of God throughout the ages. When we celebrate the Divine Liturgy, we are co-celebrating with the heavenly hosts of angels and saints – and the iconography that surrounds us in the nave manifests this reality for us in a graphic way. The nave, then, manifests the fullness of the reality – in heaven and on earth -- that is the Church, the Body of Christ. Standing in the nave as the Church, we look forward to the sanctuary, as we, in our individual lives in this world, and collectively as the Church, look forward to the ultimate coming of the Kingdom of God. During the Divine Liturgy, the Kingdom of God is revealed and made manifest to us, to the Church, and we approach the sanctuary to receive communion with God, and thereby to experience here and now the Kingdom of God on Earth. The design of the church building, therefore, reflects our understanding of the Church, and the central facets of our Christian faith regarding the meaning and goal of our lives. The church building manifests our Christian faith in graphic terms and allows us to participate in that faith in a tangible way with all of our senses, with our entire person.

# ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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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** ..... 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.

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