

August 27, 2023
Thirteenth 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 4: pp. 141 - 142

Divine Services for the Week:

- SUN., AUG. 27** **THIRTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Raymond Ozimok, offered by wife, Phyllis Ozimok
- TUE., AUG. 29** **BEHEADING of JOHN the BAPTIST HOLY DAY**
6:00 P.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
- SUN., SEPT. 3** **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST'**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Raymond Ozimok, offered by Pricilla & Scott Pharion

Light as a Feather - It is one thing to be broken but something else again to be crushed. Sizeable pieces of whatever is broken remain, but whatever gets crushed is reduced to dust and utterly eliminated. The stone does not break those who fall upon it, but those who fall on the stone break themselves. Their destruction, therefore, is not attributable to the stone's strength but to the violence with which they fall upon it. How hard do we hit the stone when we fall upon it? That is determined by the weight of our sins. But repentance can make us as light as a feather. Remember Isaiah 53:5 - *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.*

(Adapted from the Incomplete Homily on Matthew)

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)

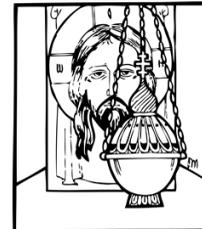
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers – August 27: JoAnn Hersh – September 3: Louisa Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holder s – August 27: F. Hersh – September 3: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
August 27 – September 2, 2023
Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:
+ Tom, Jack, & Elizabeth Seech
(In Loving Memory)
Offered By:
Sister, Mary Louise Olack

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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A Parish-Wide Thank You!

A word of thanks to the many, many hands that made possible last week's joint-parish picnic.



We were blessed to have good weather and good food. But far more blessed by the fellowship of sisters and brothers who love the Lord and love their parish who worked together to set up and take down, cook the food, prepare the fundraisers and the like. Let us all give thanks for the good work that was done. And even more, let us give thanks for each other!

Picnic Raffle Winners

- #1 Vera Bradley Basket: Mary Ann Popovich
- #2 Fall Wreath: Dianne Ketterer
- #3 Bath & Body Spa Basket: Connie Hersh
- #4 Lemonade Basket: Fr. Geoff
- #5 Pilgrimage & Picnic Set: JoAnn Hersh
- #6 Puppy Basket: Erin Mackey
- #7 Christmas Basket: Rich Mudron
- #8 Elvis Movie Basket: Dottie Hagan
- #9 Italian Basket: Deacon Tom Klacik
- #10 Christmas Gnome Basket: Isabel Maruhnich
- #11 Beach Party Ware: Mary Ann Popovich
- #12 Mickey Mouse Steeler Basket: Dan Tisak
- #13 Coffee Basket: Paul Lebanik
- #14 Snowman Pillow Basket: Erin Mackey
- #15 Wine Purse w/Pink Moscato Wine: JoAnn Hersh
- #16 Sunflower Basket: Fr. Geoff
- #17 Christmas Nutcracker Basket: Eleanor Fedell
- #18 Pasta/Italian Basket: Nell Farinelli
- #19 Patriotic Wreath: Caroline Gural

50/50 Raffle \$79.00: Jackie & Dan Pinchot

Money Tree: Mary Ann Popovich

Thank you to everyone who donated baskets to our Basket Raffle and to the GCU for donating the Money Tree. Thank you to everyone for participating in the raffles to benefit our St. George Church!



A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In all our liturgies in the Byzantine Church, the concept of **mercy** comes up over and over again. The response to the petitions to our litanies (ektenia) is "Lord, have mercy." Before we receive communion, we make reverences (bows) and ask the Lord for his mercy. Even after we have received communion, when the deacon (or priest) says "Having received the...mysteries of Christ, let us worthily thank the Lord," we say, "Lord, have mercy!"

The good thing about asking the Lord to have mercy is that it is a prayer that will always be answered. One of the prayers I was taught as a boy says that God's "property [or character] is always to have mercy." I was thinking about this the other day, as I read Psalm 135 [136 in Protestant Bibles]. It is the only Psalm in the Scriptures that reads like a litany: every verse of the Psalm concludes with "**For his mercy endures forever.**"

I find this truth to be a *great* comfort: God's mercy is not some method he uses. He is not being kind to us for a little while, so he can be severe later. God doesn't "use" mercy to save us. He **has** mercy. It is part of who he is. And because God is eternal and everlasting, the Psalmist can say, "**His mercy endures forever.**"

I'd encourage you to read this Psalm, and to use it as a prayer. We often talk about how merciful God is, but do we really let that belief seep deep down into our souls? Perhaps it's time we meditate on this beautiful truth, for our salvation is found in God's mercy toward us! Here is a portion of it:

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his mercy endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of Lords,
for his mercy endures forever.
To him who alone does great wonders,
for his mercy endures forever.
He remembered us in our low estate,
for his mercy endures forever.
And freed us from our enemies,
for his mercy endures forever.
He gives food to every creature,
for his mercy endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his mercy endures forever. [Psalm 135.1-4,23-26]*

Under the Mercy of our Lord,

Fr. Geoff

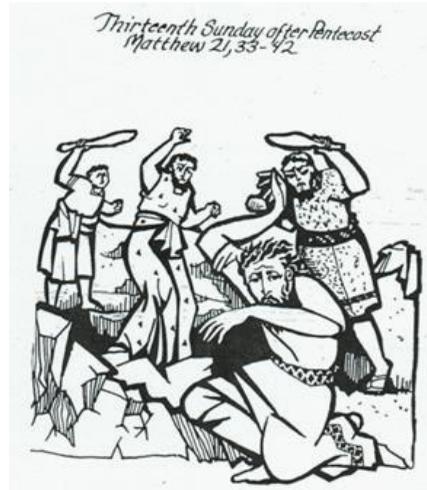
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

On this Sunday, Our Lord is telling us the parable about a vineyard, which sounds like one of the saddest parables. This parable is about how the Lord calls upon His people, waits for their answer, and sends His messengers. But the people don't want to receive them and listen to them; instead they rise against them. Finally, they rise against the Son Himself who was sent by the master. But the master from this parable didn't simply send his servants to the vineyard. He expected the tenants of this vineyard to give some fruit of their work to their master, landowner, because neither the land nor the vineyard belonged to them.

According to the patristic interpretation, the landowner who planted the vineyard is the Lord God and the grapes are the chosen people of Israel. The fence round the vineyard is the Law of Moses which protected the people of God from paganism and offensiveness. The tower and the winepress in the middle of the vineyard are the temple and a sacrificial altar, the tenants who were given the vineyard by the master, are the elders and priests whom the Lord entrusted His people. The servants sent by the master for the fruit who were then killed by the vinedressers are the prophets of God. The master's Son who was killed is the only begotten Son of God, having been put to death by the high priests and the Pharisees.

Since the coming of Christ, the new vineyard of God has been spreading all over the world. The whole mankind is included in this vineyard. And this new vineyard is the Church with the Apostles, Martyrs, Saints, Confessors, Venerable fathers and mothers – all those, who work properly in the Lord's vineyard. This is a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession as we read in 1 Peter: 2, 9.

At the end of the parable of the vineyard, Christ says: *"The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it was marvelous in our eyes?"* The stone rejected is of course the Rock of Faith, Christ Himself, for He was rejected and crucified. And yet He became the head of the corner and it is marvelous in our eyes. Let us too be rocks of faith then, and though the world will reject us, we too shall become heads of the corner, and it will be marvelous in the eyes of God and men. Glory to You, O God, glory to You!



"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, August 29

As forerunner of our Lord's birth, preaching and death, the blessed John showed in his struggle, goodness worthy of the sight of heaven. In the words of Scripture: *"Though in the sight of men he suffered torments, his hope is full of immortality."* We justly commemorate the day of his birth with a joyful celebration, a day which he himself made festive for us through his suffering and which he adorned with the crimson splendor of his own blood. We do rightly revere his memory with joyful hearts, for he stamped with the seal of martyrdom the testimony which he delivered on behalf of our Lord...Through his birth, preaching and baptizing, he bore witness to the coming birth, preaching and baptism of Christ, and by his own suffering he showed that Christ also would suffer.



Holy kinsman of the Lord, prophet, forerunner and Baptist John, pray to God for us!

BIBLE STUDY AT ST. GEORGE: THE STORY OF SCRIPTURE, PART 1

Beginning this September, St. George's will be offering an ongoing Bible study, entitled **The Story of Scripture: Part 1**. Beginning with Genesis, we will walk through 100+ of the most significant portions of Holy Scripture, which will give us an overarching view of the *whole, consistent story* of God's interaction with humankind in the Scriptures. The dates for this Fall will be **September 27, October 11, October 25, November 22, December 13**. We will meet at **6:00 PM**. It will be great if you commit to every session, but feel free to join at any time and miss if you need to. Let's dig into the sources of our theology and tradition together and see the mighty works of God! (We will continue with Part 2 in 2024)

Annual Uniontown Pilgrimage

The Sisters of St. Basil the Great at Mt. St. Macrina in Uniontown are hosting their 89th annual Pilgrimage in honor of our Lady of Perpetual Help on September 2 & 3. As is the tradition, the festivities will include Divine Liturgies, Vespers, Compline, the Blessing of Water at the Lourdes Grotto, opportunities for the Mysteries of Reconciliation and Anointing, and a Parastas, as well as many social opportunities.

For more information, visit sistersofstbasil.org/pilgrimage-program

Sanctuary Candle Intentions

There are many weekly sanctuary candle intention dates 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.

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 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.

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