

September 3, 2023
Fourteenth 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!*

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 5: pp. 146 - 147

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., SEPT. 3
8:30 A.M.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
DIVINE LITURGY
+ **Raymond Ozimok**, offered by Pricilla & Scott Pharion

(At St. Mary: Friday, September 8, 6:00 PM, Divine Liturgy for Nativity of the Theotokos Holy Day)

SUN., SEPT. 10
8:30 A.M.

SUNDAY before the EXALTATION of the CROSS,
Post-Festive Day of the Nativity of the Theotokos
DIVINE LITURGY
+ **John Dulick**, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba

Are you prepared to meet the Bridegroom?

The Father has made a marriage feast for his Son by joining the Church to him through the mystery of his incarnation. The womb of the Virgin who bore Him was the bridal chamber of this bridegroom, and so the psalmist says: "He has set his tent in the sun, and He is like a bridegroom coming forth from His bridal chamber." (Psalm 19:5-6) He truly came forth like a bridegroom from his bridal chamber who, as God incarnate, left the inviolate womb of the Virgin to unite the Church to himself. And so he sent his servants to invite his friends to the marriage feast. (*St. Gregory the Great*)

Happy Birthday Greetings:

None for the week

Wedding Anniversaries:

September 12: Daniel & Kathy Kapaldo

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)

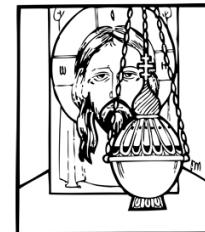
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers – September 3: Louisa Hersh – September 10: Joanne Futato

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holder s – September 3: R. Mudron – September 10: M. Bobanic



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
September 3 - 9, 2023

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ **Monsignor Simodejka**
(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:
A friend

Happy New Year!?! (Sept. 1)

Byzantine Liturgical New Year that is! The Church follows the computation of time according to the civil calendar year. However, in the Byzantine Rite, the liturgical year begins on September 1st, while the Western Churches begin their liturgical year on the first Sunday of Advent.

The Byzantine Church inaugurated the first of September as the beginning of the liturgical year in honor of the victory of Emperor Constantine the Great (d. 337 A.D.), over his adversary, Emperor Maxentius, in 312 A.D. Prior to Constantine, Christianity was constantly exposed to persecution. But with Constantine's victory, as attested to by St. Ambrose (d. 397 A.D.), the Church began a new life. So indeed, Happy New Year!

What are your plans for growing your faith this new Liturgical year?

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)

Book Study at St. Mary's in October & November

In June of 2022, the United States Catholic Bishops launched a three-year Eucharistic Revival which will culminate in a National Eucharistic Congress in 2024. Recently, Bishop Robert Barron, a well-known theologian, author, evangelist, and apologist, published **This Is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival**. On three consecutive Sunday afternoons, we will have a book study on this small but powerful and informative book. On **October 29, November 5 & 12**, we will gather at **3:00 PM** at St. Mary's. Each week we will discuss one chapter of the book, which is available at \$2.00. You may also wish to purchase a book even if you cannot attend the book study.

Historic Gathering of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America

You are invited to Participate!

Metropolitan Archbishop William, Bishop Kurt, and the Council of Hierarchs of the Byzantine Catholic Church invite YOU to attend the "Metropolitan Assembly" at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, New Jersey, on Friday, November 3 through Sunday, November 5, 2023! The theme of the Assembly is to "learn about our past and to prepare for our future!" Guest speakers include Dr. Paul Magosci, noted Author and Historian; Bishop Nil Lushchak of the Eparchy of Mukachevo; Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York; as well as other clergy and lay leaders. The Assembly includes lectures, discussions, fellowship, and a gala dinner with folk music and dancing. The fee includes meals, breaks, presentations, materials, and the gala on Saturday evening. The Assembly cost is \$250 for individuals and \$400 for couples. The Maria Theresa Foundation will underwrite the registration fees of individuals and couples between 18 and 35. For more information, contact the Assembly coordinators, Fr. Ed Cimbal, at 212-677-0516 or Fr. Yuriy Oros at 609-394-5004. The assembly website is <https://www.byzantineassembly2023.org>. The email is byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com. Hope to see YOU there!

A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the Byzantine tradition, September 1st is always our "New Year's Day" (the "Indiction"). Years ago, a friend of mine pointed out to me that our church year always begins with the Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8) and always ends with her Dormition (August 15). And I think this is a beautiful way for us to draw a connection between the Mother of God and the Church.

Many years ago, a book was published by the great Catholic theologians Hans Urs von Balthasar and Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI), entitled *Mary, the Church at the Source*. And I think that's a profound and beautiful reality of our faith: Mary is, in a very real sense, the Church at its *source*. Mary, after all, is the God-Bearer. And what is the Church other than that which bears Christ to the World? Mary is our Mother; as is the Church. Mary is a Virgin Bride. And St. Paul uses this same idea when he speaks of the Church, saying that Christ presents the Church to himself "*in splendor, without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*" (Ephesians 5.26-27).

In January, when we celebrate the civic New Year, it is typical to make resolutions. With the coming of the new Church year, I don't necessarily recommend resolutions necessarily. But I do think it may be a good time for us to look reflectively at Mary, the Mother of our Lord, and to think about her virtues; to remember that she was filled with God's grace and highly favored; that she said "yes!" to God without any hesitation; that "all generations" call her blessed; and that she goes before us as a mighty champion, a powerful intercessor, and a faithful guide, always leading us to her Son.

May this new Church year find us with renewed zeal to love, worship, and spread the word about the Son of the Virgin, our only Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Geoff

St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir Concert

On Thursday, September 14 at 7:00 PM, seminarians of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary will provide a concert of Orthodox hymns of the Holy Cross, entitled *The Holy Cross: The Weapon of Peace* at Trinity School for Ministry's Chapel (1123 Merchant Street, Ambridge). There is no cost to attend, and a light reception will follow.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

“Many are called, few are chosen”. At first this may seem to us to be a hard saying. And yet when we look around in this country and many other countries and see half-empty or even totally abandoned Churches, then we can see that this is true, for all are called to come to Church, but few choose to come and worship Christ. Today’s Gospel reading of the marriage-feast remains as true today as when it was first spoken.



If we ask those who do not come to Church why, they will give various answers... Some hide behind excuses, which mean only that their faith is not a priority for them: I’m too busy. I’m too tired. I’m seeing someone. I don’t like the other people. I’m buying a new car. Others at least have the merit of being honest: I have lost my faith! But whatever the reason given, ultimately there is only one reason why people do not come to Church - because they are ignorant of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Comforter, and the Spirit of Truth.

Every Sunday we are invited to a banquet, the banquet of the Kingdom of God, the Eucharistic meal, in which we are united in a sacramental way to the risen Christ, for our personal sanctification and the building of the Church. That is why we start our Liturgy by saying: “Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”. And at the Great Entrance with the gifts, the priest says: “May the Lord God remember in his Kingdom...” And prior to receiving Holy Communion we pray: “Remember me, O Lord, in your Kingdom!”

We can find many excuses not to come to this banquet. But if we really love the Bride, the Church, and if we really love one another, all these excuses become nonsense. When the priest invites the people to the Communion, he says: “Approach with fear of God and with faith!” We come to the Eucharistic banquet full of reverence, faith, and love. So that, after the Holy Communion, we can sing with joy and thankfulness: “May our mouths be filled with your praise, O Lord, so that we may sing of your glory, for you made us worthy to partake of your holy, divine, immortal, pure and life-creating Mysteries. Preserve us in your holiness that we may meditate on your righteousness all day long. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia!”

“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Nativity of the Mother of God, September 8

We extol you, O Most Holy Virgin, and we venerate the holy ancestors of God, and we celebrate your glorious Nativity!

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protoevangelion.



According to the story found in this book, Mary’s parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherds and their flocks. As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

Happy Labor Day

On this weekend, when we rest from our usual labors, Loving Father, we pray for all who shoulder the tasks of human labor - in the marketplace, in factories and offices, in the professions, and in family living. We thank You, Lord, for the gift and opportunity of work; may our efforts always be pure of heart, for the good of others and the glory of Your Name.

We lift up to You all who long for just employment and those who work to defend the rights and needs of workers everywhere. May those of us who are now retired always remember that we still make a valuable contribution to our Church and our world by our prayers and deeds of charity. May our working and our resting all give praise to You until the day we share together in eternal rest with all our departed in Your Kingdom as You live and reign Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

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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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 Stewardship Church and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month.

What are your plans for growing your faith this new Liturgical year?