

October 15, 2023
Sunday of the Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council



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 вѣки!

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 3, pg. 135 and 7th Ecumenical Council pp. 263 - 264

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., OCT. 15 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY of the FATHERS of the SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL DIVINE LITURGY Health & welfare of Msgr. Duker (80th birthday), offered by Prudy Peya
SUN., OCT. 22 8:30 A.M.	TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY after PENTECOST DIVINE LITURGY + Raymond Ozimok, offered by wife Phyllis Ozimok

How deeply is the Lord rooted in you?

This good seed is worthy of admiration. Rich and well-productive land brings forth fruit a hundredfold. They say that the best soils sometimes under cultivation produce a hundredfold, so this is a mark of every fertile and productive spot. One of the holy prophets said from the mouth of God, “And all nations shall congratulate you because you are a desirable land.” (Mal 3:12) When the divine word falls upon a pure mind skillful in cleansing itself from things hurtful, it fixes its root deeply and shoots up like an ear of corn. It brings its fruit to perfection being strong in blade and beautifully flowered.



(St. Cyril of Alexandria)

Happy Birthday Greetings:

October 17: Dorothy Hagan, October 20: Erin Zimmerman, October 21: Andrea Vargo

Wedding Anniversaries:

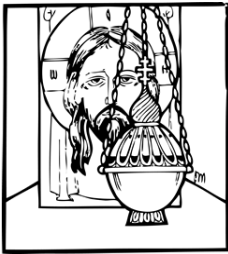
October 19: Darlene & John Simunick, Daniel & Erin Zimmerman
October 21: Daniel & Sarah Mingrino

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 – **October 15: JoAnn Hersh – October 22: Louisa Hersh**
Ushers – **Stand in as needed**
Troica Holder s – **October 15: R. Mudron – October 22: F. Hersh**



THIS WEEK’S SANCTUARY LAMP
October 15 - 21, 2023

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Dale Weber

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Butch & Judy Dzumba

Church Mice

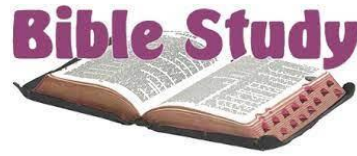


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Bible Study continues Wednesday, Oct. 25

The Story of Scripture, Part 1

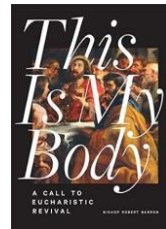
Beginning with Genesis, we are walking through 100+ of the most significant portions of Holy Scripture, which will give us an overarching view of the *whole, consistent story* of God's interaction with humankind in the Scriptures. The remaining dates are **October 25, November 22, December 13**. We are meeting at **6:00 PM**. Feel free to join even if you missed the first session. 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)



Please bring your Bible. Bibles will also be provided if needed.

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, and November 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 for \$2.00. You may also wish to purchase a book even if you cannot attend the book study.



Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration

St. John the Baptist Parish (201 E. Main St., Uniontown) will hold its **41st Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration** on **Sunday, October 29** from **noon - 5:00 PM**. A Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 AM concelebrated by Fr. Vasyl Symyon, with guest homilist, Fr. Mitch Pacwa. Ethnic foods for sale will include holubki, halushki, pirohi, pagach, kolbasi, and kraut. There will also be baked goods. Entertainment will include the Rusyn folk group "Rusynsky Betjare" throughout the afternoon. The celebration will also include a presentation on Rusyn culture & customs, a church tour, displays, craft sales, raffles, parish cookbooks, folk art demonstrations and children's activities. Admission is free.

20th Annual St. Matrona Cookie Walk

Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie) will be holding their 20th annual St. Matrona Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 9 from 10 AM - 2 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. For questions, email: smladiessociety@gmail.com.

A Note from Fr. Geoff

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is disheartening, to say the least, when we read or watch the news and see the manifold problems, conflicts, terrors, and sins of this world. For over a year and a half, the people of Ukraine have been living in a state of war. And since last Saturday, we have been hearing and reading of the terrors of the Israel-Gaza conflict. The details of these wars are gut wrenching and inhumane. The more we hear about such things, the harder they become to even comprehend. And these are just two of the many wars, terrorist insurgencies, and situations of violence that are happening in our world at the present moment.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells his listeners that there will be signs of the coming of the "end of the age." Among these signs, Jesus tells them, will be "wars and rumors of wars." (Mt. 24.3-14). Of course, it is nothing new for humanity. Man lifting up arms against his fellow man is almost as old as humanity itself. We read about the first murder in the Book of Genesis almost immediately after sin enters the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience (Genesis 4). When Cain killed Abel, the Lord said to him: *"The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground."* And the blood of the innocent dead continue to call out to God. In the New Testament, the author of the Book of Hebrews says, though, that Jesus Christ's blood, *"speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."* (Heb. 12.24) This better word is a word of *justice*, not vengeance; a word of *reconciliation*, not annihilation.

Brothers and sisters, as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, who shed his own blood for us, who had made ourselves his enemies, we stand witness to a better and more noble way. And while we do not have answers for why the Lord tarries when those who bear his image are being hurt and destroyed as humanity seems to consume each other, we do have his promise of the Kingdom to come. This Kingdom is already breaking into our world, and we are called to be the ambassadors and witnesses of it in our own time.

"It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of mountains... and all nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord...that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

"He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2.2-4)

Brothers and sisters, let us pray for peace. And let us walk in the light of the Lord, the Prince of Peace.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Geoff

The Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

The Seventh Ecumenical Council was held in 787 at Nicaea during the reign of the devout Empress Irene and her son, Constantine, in the time of Patriarch Tarasius. This Council finally confirmed the veneration of icons, justifying it by Holy Scripture, by the witness of the Holy Fathers, and by the undeniable example of miracles manifested through the holy icons.

Adding to examples of miracles previously cited, Bishop Constantine of Cyprus recounted this: One day, a certain shepherd from the town of Constantia drove his flock to pasture, and there saw an icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, all decorated with flowers by the faithful. “Why render so much honor to a rock?” said the shepherd, who had obviously been brought up in iconoclasm. He struck the icon with his iron shepherd’s cane and damaged the right eye of the image of the Mother of God. As soon as he turned away, he stumbled over that same cane and gouged out his own right eye. Thus injured, he returned to the city, crying out tearfully that the punishment of the Theotokos had befallen him. This Council also decreed that the holy relics of a martyr be placed, without fail, in the Antimension.

Three hundred and sixty-seven Fathers participated in this Council. May the Lord also have mercy on us and save us by their prayers! - *From the Prologue of St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

Fr. Robert Pipta Appointed Bishop of Parma

Father Robert Pipta, Rector of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, has been appointed by Pope Francis to be the next Bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma. He will be consecrated by Metropolitan William Skrurla, Bishop Nil Lushchak of Mukachevo-Uzhgorod and Bishop Kurt Burnette of Passaic. The consecration will take place on Wednesday, November 8, in Euclid, OH. Please keep Father Robert and the clergy and people of the Eparchy of Parma in prayer as they prepare for this new ministry!

There should be images in the churches of the faithful, especially the images of our Lord Jesus Christ and of the Holy Mother of God, of every kind of material, both gold and silver and of every color, so that his incarnation may be set forth for all. Let there also be painted the lives of the Saints and Prophets and Martyrs, so their struggles and agonies may be set forth for the stirring up and teaching of the people, especially of the unlearned.

St. Theodosius to the Second Council of Nicaea



“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

As we hear the Parable of the Sower, Our Lord presents to us the different types of earth — the path, the rock, the soil with thorns, and the good soil? And so, I ask you today, what type of soil are you? What is the condition of your heart?

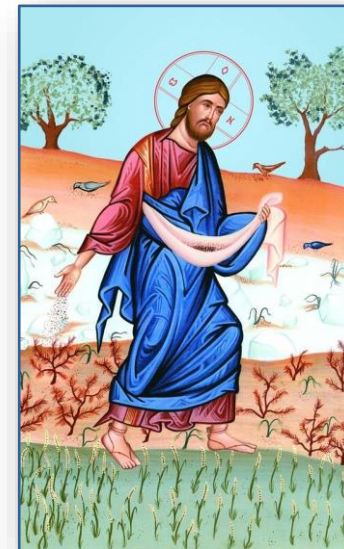
Are you like a path, that is hard, untilled, devoid of any fertility because it is constantly trampled upon? Are you closed to allowing the divine seed from finding any way into your heart and mind? If you find yourself to be a worn and beaten path, then drive away any flocks of birds that might come to snatch away the word of God. Then awake! And cultivate yourself through prayer, and the reading of the word of God — the scriptures, so that you may be like productive and well-tilled soil that will bring forth fruit to the glory of God and for your salvation.

If you are like the rock, that upon hearing the word receive it with joy but have no root and in time of temptation fall away; like those whose faith has not been proved and depends only on words and not applying your life to the living of the Gospel; like those who enter the Church, who feel pleasure in seeing many assembled together, but once you have left the Church, you have forgotten to live the Liturgy daily in your life; if you are like those who in times of trouble forget God and the Church, then do not despair, for today is the day of salvation. Today is the day to lift yourself out of your troubles and find refuge and shelter in Christ.

If you are like the soil whose seed is choked by thorns, whose life is choked and confused by worldly cares and desires; whose life is, as the prophet Hosea said “becomes a handful that can produce no meal” then today is the day to begin cleaning out the thorns. Today is the day to remove from your life — to tear up by the root — whatever is injurious and distances you from a relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

And if you are like the good soil, worthy of admiration, well productive and abundant in fruit, then take care. Beware that your fertile soil does not become dry, but water it daily with the Word of God, who said, “The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Word, come into come into our hearts and minds and cultivate our lives for His glory!

Amen.



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, Dan Pinchot

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.

Is the soil of our heart ready to receive the Word of God or are we rocky ground?