

October 29, 2023
Twenty-Second 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 5, pp.

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., OCT. 29
8:30 A.M.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST
DIVINE LITURGY
+ **Basil Bobanic**, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba

SUN., NOV. 5
8:30 A.M.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST
DIVINE LITURGY
+ **Raymond Ozimok**, offered by wife Phyllis Ozimok

Don't be a Swine!

If there is anyone among us who is wanton, swinish, filth-loving, impure, and willingly contaminated with the abominations of sin, God will permit him to fall into their power and sink into the abyss of damnation. It will never happen that those who love Christ will become subject to them. It will never happen to us as long as we walk in his footsteps, avoid negligence in the performance of what is right, desire those things which are honorable, and belong to that virtuous and praiseworthy lifestyle that Christ has marked out for us by the precepts of the Gospel.

(St. Cyril of Alexandria)



Please, remember to turn your clock 1 hour back this Saturday, November 4th, before you go to bed. Standard Time Resumes November 5th.

Happy Birthday Greetings:

October 26: Alexander Hersh

Wedding Anniversaries:

October 30: Shawn & Christine Cody, November 2: John & Anne Gural

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)

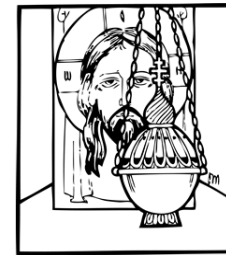
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers – October 29: Prudy Peya – November 5:

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holder s – October 29: R. Mudron – November 5:



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
October 29 – November 4, 2023

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Daughter, Linda & husband

Art Todd

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

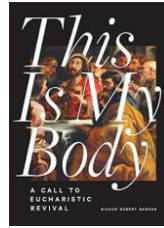
Church Mice



Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Book Study at St. Mary's starts TODAY

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.



The Story of Scripture, Part 1 Bible Study at St. George continues November 22 and December 13 at 6:00 PM

St. Nicholas Raffle

The Annual St. Nicholas Celebration benefiting the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril & Methodius is being planned to resume this year. Dinner information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, as we have done in previous years, there is a Metropolia-wide raffle in conjunction with the dinner. The raffle prize is **\$2,000 cash** and tickets are **\$10.00** apiece. Each parish has received 17 tickets to be sold. The winning number will be based on the PA Lottery Evening Pick 3 Number drawn on Monday, December 6, 2021. If you would like to purchase a ticket, see Fr. Geoff after the Liturgy. Please pay with Cash or with a check made out to the parish with "St Nicholas Raffle" in the memo line.

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.

Free Christmas Day Dinner in Beaver Falls

Christian Assembly in Beaver Falls will be hosting their 30th annual Free Christmas Day Dinner so that folks without family or friends will not have to be lonely or hungry on Christmas Day. They are looking for donations of new clothing: sweat shirts, sweat pants, blankets, gloves, hats, scarves, and socks for all ages, birth to adult. If you'd like to donate, please call their CARE Outreach ministry at 724-846-3751. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Darcy Casey at 724-333-1375.

A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I don't watch a lot of television, but recently a clergy friend of mine turned me on to the *Father Brown* series from the BBC. Based on a series of short stories by the English Catholic author G.K. Chesterton, the series follows a mystery-solving priest (Fr. Brown, played by Mark Williams who is better known for his role as Mr. Weasley in the *Harry Potter* films) and a small group of his parishioners who help him solve crimes, while the local police inspector always seems to get it wrong.

What strikes me most about the show are two things. The first is the reality of evil. When we think of evil, we tend to think that it's some big, scary thing that's foreign to us; something that good people wouldn't do or get caught up in; something "out there." But as the stories unfold, we see that very often the people who commit the crimes are caught up in events that seem bigger than themselves and carry them along, even though they are otherwise "good people." The reality of evil is that sometimes good people - people like you and me - can get caught up in wickedness. We are in need of a Savior.

The second thing that always strikes me is that the character of Father Brown quite frequently has a monologue in each episode where he implores the culprit to repent. He is always reminding them that there is time to do the right thing, to turn away from evil, and to come to justice. He is always caring for the culprit and letting them know that forgiveness and restoration with God are possible. In one episode he says, "Every human being, beyond doubt, is worth more than the worst of their actions." In other words, I find it a profoundly Christian series - which is always something surprising in the secular media.

In the Scriptures, St. Paul tells us that *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3.23). We may not all be murderers, but there is no one among us who is without sin (1 John 1.8). But thanks be to God that that is not the end of the story. What we have done wrong in our lives does not need to define us. We can repent and return to the Lord. *"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him"* (John 3.17). As God spoke through the Prophet Ezekiel, *"I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live"* (Ezekiel 33.11).

Thanks be to God, who in Jesus Christ does not condemn us (Romans 8.1). He took our sins to the Cross and crucified them there in his flesh that we might be forgiven, released from the power of sin, and raised up to new, divine life. All that remains is for us to bring him our emptiness to fill and our brokenness to mend.

Brothers and sisters, may we be given the grace of this blessed truth in our own lives. And may we always seek to treat others with the patience, tenderness, and grace that the Lord has given to us.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Geoff

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so He got into the boat and returned.



In today's Gospel reading we heard how the Lord cleansed a man possessed by a legion of demons, casting the evil spirits into a herd of swine, which ran violently down a steep place into the sea and drowned. Today let's focus our attention on the strange and almost puzzling reaction of the Gadarene people: for they were overcome with great fear and asked Our Lord to depart from their region even though He had worked such a great wonder.

The Gadarenes were a Gentile people, they were pagans, and they lived a lifestyle in accordance with their beliefs. They were a people enslaved to the devil, bound not so much by direct possession, as in the case of the man who dwelt in the tombs, no, instead they were bound indirectly through the passions, as one's who passed their lives in hedonism and worldly cares. And what is more they were used to this lifestyle, it had become habitual, addictive, and it even enslaved them. They saw in Jesus of Nazareth a threat. They saw that He was a person of great power, a Man of God, and that He had come to cast out their demons and to change their lives. The only problem was that they didn't want change, they were quite happy with their lives just the way they were. And because of this, they asked Jesus to depart from them. They preferred slavery to freedom, sin to godliness, earth to heaven, and death to life.

Now it's easy to point the finger and to say how foolish they were, but if we think about it, don't we often resemble the Gadarenes ourselves? How often do we refuse to allow Christ to exorcise our demons and cleanse us from our passions because we're afraid to lose those things which we care about, those things which make us happy, and those things which we've become used to, whether they are good, bad, or neutral? Let us not be unwise, like the Gadarenes. But instead let us live a life of repentance, setting our minds and hearts on God rather than the perishable things of this world. Let us ask Christ to cleanse us from our passions and to cast out our demons through prayer, fasting, and the Mystery-Sacrament of Holy Confession.

Demons are cruel, mischievous, hurtful and treacherous to those who are in their power. See how they hurried the swine over a precipice and drowned them in the waters? ... It will never happen that those who love Christ will become subject to them, as long as we walk in his footsteps, avoid negligence in doing what is right, desire that which is honorable, and follow the virtuous and praiseworthy lifestyle that Christ has marked out for us by the precepts of the Gospel.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Find the courage from God to tell everyone what good things God has done for you!

Blessed Theodore Romzha, October 31

Blessed Theodore Romzha was born in the Subcarpathia region of what is now the Ukraine on April 14, 1911. As a seminarian he was sent to Rome to study and was ordained a priest there on December 25, 1936. Completing his compulsory military service he served briefly as a pastor before being assigned as Spiritual Director and Professor at the Eparchial Seminary in Uzhorod in 1939.

These were difficult years for the Church in Subcarpathia as it experienced the invasions first by Nazi Germany and then the Soviet Red Army. In 1944 at the young age of 33 he was consecrated a Bishop and appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy of Mukachevo.



Bishop Romzha was informed that Subcarpathian Ruthenia will be again incorporated into post-war Czechoslovakia as an autonomous province. However, it soon became evident that the Soviets would not relinquish this politically strategic region. Consequently, on June 29, 1945, Subcarpathian Ruthenia was officially incorporated into the Soviet Ukraine. Thus the young and inexperienced Bishop Romzha found himself and his flock under Soviet atheistic rule.

The Soviets were unable to intimidate Bishop Romzha. Therefore, they decided to liquidate him. First they staged a highway accident. The horse drawn carriage in which Bishop was returning home from the rededication of the church in Lavki, near Mukachevo, was rammed by a military truck. Bishop Romzha was badly injured, but he survived the attempted murder. The passersby took him to the hospital in Mukachevo. In a few days he began to regain his strength. Then suddenly, early on the morning of November 1, 1947, he was found dead. The night before Bishop Romzha's death, the director of the hospital and a strange nurse, who promptly disappeared the next day, were seen entering Bishop's room about midnight. They poisoned him! The Soviet authorities announced that Bishop Romzha died from injuries suffered in his highway accident, but the people knew better. They knew that their intrepid Shepherd was mercilessly killed for refusing to join the Orthodox Church.

By his dedicated life Bishop Romzha highly glorified God on earth, and by his heroic death he gave living testimony to his Catholic faith, achieving the crown of martyrs. In him we, and our own Byzantine Rite, gained a powerful Protector in heaven.

Bishop Theodore Romzha was beatified as a Martyr for the Faith by Pope John Paul II on June 27, 2001.

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.

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised! Psalm 113:3