

August 11, 2019
Ninth 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 V'iki!
Propers for this Sunday: pg. 161 - 163, Tone 8

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., AUG. 11 **NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
8:00 A.M. *Holy Rosary*
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
 For the Parishioners

The Lord's Day is the original feast day... a day of joy and freedom from work

THUR., AUG. 15 **DORMITION of the THEOTOKOS HOLY DAY, Obligation**
6:30 P.M. **DIVINE LITURGY, Blessing of flowers**

August 15, The Dormition of the Theotokos, is a Holy Day of obligation on which the faithful are bound in conscience to attend the Holy Liturgy and to abstain from their daily work.

SUN., AUG. 18 **TENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, post-festive day of the Dormition**
8:00 A.M. *Holy Rosary*
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
 For the Parishioners

"The Most Holy Mother of God prays for us ceaselessly. She is always visiting us. Whenever we turn to her in our heart, she is there. After the Lord, she is the greatest protection for mankind. How many churches there are in the world that are dedicated to the Most Holy Mother of God! How many healing springs where people are cured of their ailments have sprung up in places where the Most Holy Theotokos appeared and blessed those springs to heal both the sick and the healthy! She is constantly, by our side, and all too often we forget her."

- Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

Happy Birthday Greetings this Week:

August 17: Janice Gural

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the Week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

HOME – Margaret Barilla, Eileen Batcha, Natalie Jugan-Diaz, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Alice Haber, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Neil Jugan, Marion Malackanich, Josephine Maruhnich, Carole Panella, Mary Salamon

Hunter's Care Home (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

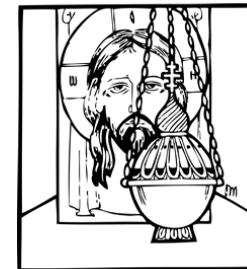
West Hills Health & Rehab Center (951 Brodhead Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108) – Margaret Klacik

Beaver Meadows (5130 Tuscarawas Rd, Beaver, PA 15009) - Paul Valiga, Angie Yuhasz

Epistle Readers – Aug. 11: Andrea Vargo – Aug. 18: Jo Ann Hersh

Ushers – Aug. 11: R. Dzumba/J. Yurosky – Aug. 18: J. Yurosky/E. Maruhnich

Troica Holders – Aug. 11: F. Hersh – Aug. 18: M. Bobanic



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

August 11 - 17, 2019

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:



The Parishioners
(Health and God's Blessings)

A Steward's Way

The life of a Christian steward models the life of Jesus. It is challenging and even difficult, in many respects, yet intense joy comes to those who take the risk to live as Christian stewards. Women and men who seek to live as stewards learn that "all things work for good for those who love God" (Rom 8:28).



After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her ministry in a spirit of fidelity and service; she responded generously to the call. We must ask ourselves: Do we also wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ and Christian stewards of our world and our Church? Central to our human and Christian vocations, as well as to the unique vocation each one of us receives from God, is that we be good stewards of the gifts we possess. God gives us this divine-human workshop, this world and Church of ours. The Spirit shows us the way. Stewardship is a part of that journey.

Flea Market Pack Up

The Flea Market is nearly all packed up. Some items were already donated. Other items were recycled for profit for our Church. The remaining items from the Flea Market are being donated to **Vietnam Veterans of America**.

*"Donations and charitable contributions of clothing, household goods, books, shoes, small appliances, electronics, and more **make a big difference in the lives of America's Veterans and their families**. The Vietnam Veterans of America sells your donated items to private companies by annual bid which generates the majority of the funding to support the local, state, and national programs of the Vietnam Veterans of America. **Your donations make it all possible** so we thank you for your support."*

Help is needed to move the boxes to the patio area for pick up. There are some very heavy boxes. Anyone who can help move the boxes is asked to come on **Tuesday, August 13 around 7:00 P.M.** The items will be picked up the next day.

The Fruits of our Hard Work: *Our Flea Market has raised money for our Church, will benefit the Vietnam Veterans of America charity, and helped local families. Thank you for all of your efforts. A final fundraising total will be published soon.*

Church Family News...

Do you have any news you would like published in our bulletin? Please send articles and/or pictures to: stgbyz@gmail.com

A NOTE FROM FR. GEOFF

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1.2)

Many thanks to all of you who came out for food, fun, and fellowship last Sunday at our parish picnic. A special word of thanks is due to all those whose planning, labor, and effort went into making it a successful and joyful event.

Erin and I were especially honored by the cake welcoming us to this community. We have been moved by the kindness and warm hospitality we have received from all of you and I look forward to the future with great hope and expectation that our good and gracious God will continue to work among us to bless us and make us a blessing to others.

This week we celebrate the Dormition (or the "Falling Asleep") of the Holy Theotokos. This feast commemorates the end of our Lady's earthly life and her entrance into the life of blessedness with our Lord in the heavens. While the Western Church has historically had some controversy over whether or not they believed that Mary died before her Assumption, in the Eastern Churches, we have always commemorated her "falling asleep," a euphemistic way of referring to her death. St. Andrew of Crete, in one of his homilies, says, "Death, natural to men, also reached her; not, however, to imprison her, as happens to us, or to vanquish her... It was only to secure for her the experience of that sleep which comes from on high, leading us up to the object of our hope" (Homily 1 on the Dormition).

And yet, just like the Western Church, we also celebrate her immediate Assumption into heaven. Both her soul and her body were taken up into heaven after her Falling Asleep, as our hymns for the Feast say: "For just as he kept thee virgin in thy childbirth, so did he preserve thy body incorrupt in the tomb; and he glorified thee by a divine translation, showing thee honour as a Son to his Mother."

The Dormition of the Theotokos is, for us, a sign of the blessed hope of the Life of the Age to Come. What has been done by God for the Holy Virgin is what has been promised for all the disciples of Jesus Christ. Just as the Virgin is the greatest symbol and archetype for our submission to God's will ("be it unto me according to thy word"), so the end of her life is a sign of the coming general resurrection of all the departed.

I wish you all the joy of the Feast! And I pray that our Lord would always be drawing us closer to himself, making us ever more ready and willing to say, with his Holy Mother, "be it unto me according to thy word!"

Yours in the Peace of Christ,
Father Geoff



Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

According to our Byzantine Catholic Tradition, flowers are solemnly blessed on the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15). From ancient times we have been taught that when Mary, the Mother God, fell asleep the whole company of the Apostles - except Thomas - was miraculously brought together in Jerusalem. Amid divine and heavenly praises they commended her soul into the hands of God and placed her body in a little tomb in Gethsemane. For three days a choir of Angels continued to sing above her tomb. And on the third day Thomas arrived. So that he could venerate the body that had given birth to Christ God, the Apostles opened the tomb. They found not the body of the Mother of God but the winding sheet and the most beautiful and sweet-smelling flowers. Mary's body had been taken up into the heavens by her Son. Flowers were blessed from the earliest times in both East and West. Over time seeds and herbs used for medicinal purposes were also blessed, in commemoration of the many healings and blessings that were bestowed upon the pilgrims at Mary's tomb. The *Book of Needs (Trebnik or Euchologian)* contains several possible prayers to bless seed, herbs and flowers, one of which is below:



O Almighty, God from before all ages, by Your word alone You created out of nothingness the heavens, earth, sea and all things visible and invisible. You commanded that the earth bring forth plants and trees to serve both man and animal, each according to its need. In your infinite goodness You ordained that these plants serve not only as food but also as medicine for the sick body. We beseech You, bless this seed, these herbs and these flowers and bestow upon them Your blessing and endow them with Your power. Make them to serve man and animal alike as a defense against all sickness and every defilement, for You are our God, and we send up glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

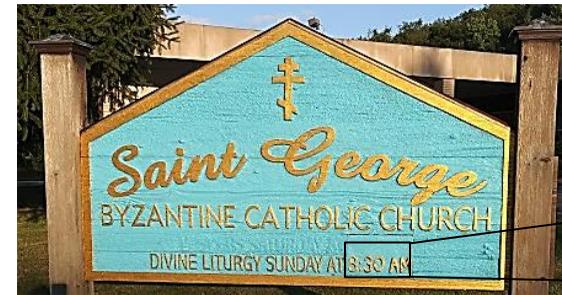
Blessing of Flowers and Herbs will take place at the Holy Day Divine Liturgy, **Thursday, August 15, 6:30 P.M.**

The Holy Spirit reminds us” not to reject the traditions of our elders, which they have learned from their fathers” (Sirach 8:9)

Glory to Jesus Christ ~ Glory Forever!

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- August 1 – 14** **Dormition Fast**
- August 13 & 15** **Walking Club, 7:00 A.M.**
- August 15** **6:30 P.M. Divine Liturgy, Dormition of the Theotokos, Holy Day of Obligation, Blessing of Flowers**
- August 20 & 22** **Walking Club, 7:00 A.M.**
- Aug. 31 & Sept. 1** **Otpust, Annual Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help**
- September 2** **Labor Day**
- September 8** **Nativity of the Mother of God Solemn Holy Day**
- September 14** **9:00 A.M. Liturgy, Exaltation of the Holy Cross Holy Day**
- September 15** **Catechetical Sunday**



Action Plan Progress
As part of our Action Plan, our Church sign has been re-painted and the Liturgy time is updated.

Did you notice?

8:30 AM

Walking Club

Walkers will meet again this week Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 A.M. to walk the ¼ mile loop and trails on our Church grounds (*Weather permitting*). **Bring your dog, bring the kids!** *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own, you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)



September 15, 2019 is National Back to Church Sunday! Who will you invite? DID YOU KNOW?

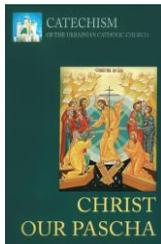
- Only 2% of Church - going people invite someone to Church in a given year. That means 98% of Church - goers never extend an invitation in a given year!
- The top “practical” reasons for hardly attending or missing Church altogether, 21 % said they don’t have time or they don’t get around to it.
- That 82% of the unchurched would be interested in coming to church if invited by a friend and yet in the last year only 2% of church members have invited someone!



Matthew 14:25-27 – Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." (From Sunday's Gospel)

"It is a ghost! And they cried out for fear." This is the way the Lord constantly deals with our fears. He does not hesitate to bring on worse things, even more alarming than before. They were troubled here not only by the storm but also by the distance from the land. Note that He did not too easily remove the darkness. He did not come quickly to their rescue. He was training them, as I said, by the continuance of these fears and instructing them to be ready to endure.

(St. John Chrysostom)



Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha – “The Freedom and Responsibility of Humankind” The Creator, having fashioned humanity freely out of love, calls us to love – the highest creative expression of a person. For this God grants us freedom. Human love flows from God as from a wellspring, for “God is love” (1 Jn 4:8). Freedom belongs to God’s image in humankind; therefore, his grace does not abolish our freedom. (#136)

85th Annual Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Aug. 31 & Sept. 1

This year, the Sisters of St. Basil the Great celebrate the 85th Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The Pilgrimage is a source of ongoing renewal and provides for the diverse spiritual needs of the many pilgrims who frequent this major unifying event in the life of the Byzantine Catholic Church. Its participants include clergy and faithful from across the country. The Pilgrimage offers the celebration of Divine Liturgy; opportunities for the Mystery of Reconciliation; Anointing of the Sick; Adult Enrichment Programs; activities for children, teens, young adults; and pastoral counseling. The Pilgrimage is the oldest and largest Byzantine Catholic Pilgrimage in the United States. The Sisters welcome all people of faith to share in this special ministry and in its many blessings. Location: 500 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

You are also God's building. Using the gift that God gave me, I did the work of an expert builder and laid the foundation...Some will use gold or silver or precious stones in building on the foundation...And the quality of each person's work will be seen when the Day of Christ exposes it.

I Corinthians 3:9-17

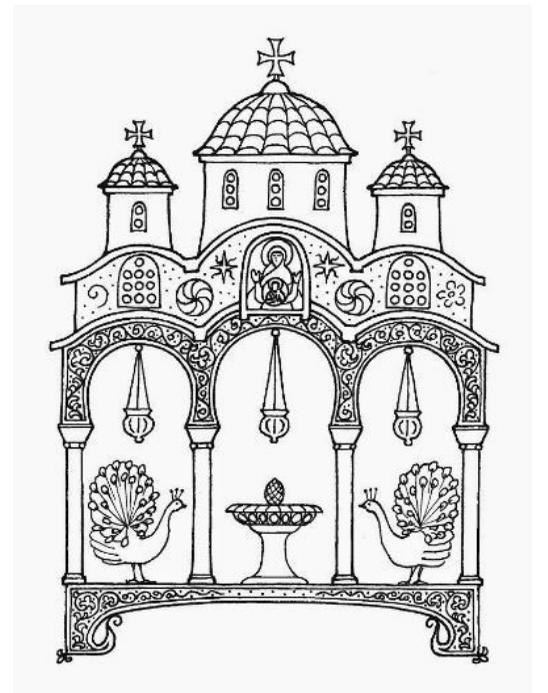
In today's Epistle reading, St. Paul speaks of various foundations on which people build their lives; gold, silver, wood, hay... Some foundations will survive, he says; others will not.

Every one of us is building a house called life. It is a lifetime job. Everything we think, do, and say goes into the structure to become part of our life house. One day – says Our Lord – this life house will be tested to see of what material it is made. The storm will come. And whether the house stands or falls will be due not to the weather but to the material that went into it, to the foundation underneath.

A story is told of a little boy who fell out of a boat and climbed upon a rock during a storm. After he was rescued, he was asked if he had been afraid. “Sure, I was afraid,” he replied, “I trembled all over, but never once did the rock ever tremble.”

In Psalm 18: 2 we read the following” “The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” Today let us ask ourselves: Are you building your life on this rock? Even though the Apostle Peter was drowning today we witness later on in Matthew 17:17-19 how Our Lord called Peter a Rock. It is on such believing, fully surrendered persons that Christ Our Savior has built His Church through the centuries. “You are Peter – a rock, and upon this rock I will build My Church.” The Apostle Peter's faith made him a rock.

What is important for us is a foundation that holds; a foundation that does not shake; a foundation that affords security in time of need, that solid foundation is none other than Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



Reflections on our Parish Picnic

Many people came together for our parish picnic, as should be done, and made it very special, inviting family and friends to join us as well. It was a beautiful day full of fellowship, good food, activities, and fun for all! We give thanks to God for our place of worship, for His innumerable mercies to us, for the intercession and protection of the Mother of God on our walk through life, for our parish family and our fellowship. **May we continue to come together as a parish family to give thanks and build our Church!**

Let us always remember: *God has entrusted St. George Church to each of us. We as a parish community are truly blessed with an incredible treasury of talented, dedicated, and hardworking people. It is our parish; we are one in the Holy Trinity with one faith, one church, and one destiny. Each and every one of us is responsible to God for its future! Let's use these resources to build up our Church and God's Kingdom!*



Thank you to everyone who worked to make our Parish Picnic very special!

See you next year!

Church Picnic Memories



Raffle Winners

Basket winners: Rich Mudron (x3), David Klacik, Kathy Kapaldo, Cheryl Szedney (x2), Dottie Hagan, Buch Dzumba, Eleanor Fedell, Judy Dzumba, Barb, Dave Olexa, Mary Elizabeth Olack, Diane Ketterer.

Money Tree: David Klacik

50/50: Eleanor Fedell

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652



PARISH WEBSITE: www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org

**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, David Klacik,
Louisa Hersh**

**E.C.F. coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh
Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff**

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation.....Before and after Liturgies
Holy Mysteries of Initiation.....Contact the church office
Holy Mystery of AnointingAsk prior to surgery or serious illness
Holy Mystery of MarriageContact the church office eight months prior to wedding
Religious Education Classes.....September through May, following Sunday Divine Liturgy
Pirohi Sales 2nd Friday of each month, Sept. through May
St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club..... Everyone welcome to participate

Together in the Holy Trinity ... One Faith, One Church, One Future!

BE A PART OF IT ALL!

