

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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JUNE 2, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Schedule of Divine Services

Sunday, June 2: Second Sunday After Pentecost

8am Morning Matins

8:23am Rosary, 8:45am 3rd Hour, 9am Divine Liturgy

IMO Siblings Michael, George, Charles & Ruth Bacasa, by Joseph & Dolores Bacasa

Monday, June 3: 9am Reader's Matins

Fr. Michael will be attending Clergy Days June 3-4

Friday, June 7: 8am Confessions, 9am Matins

5pm Confessions, 6pm Divine Liturgy

For the deceased John Rudiak, by Natalia Rudiak

Sunday, June 9: Third Sunday After Pentecost

8:23am Rosary, 8:45am 3rd Hour, 9am Divine Liturgy

For the deceased Father and Son Lawrence McGuire, by Joseph and Dolores Bacasa

All divine liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out a request form in the back of the church and leave it in the sacristy.

ST. PIUS SUMMER LITURGY SCHEDULE REMINDER! 3pm Confessions, 4pm Great Vespers, 5pm Divine Liturgy ~ REMINDER: There will be NO Saturday vespers at Holy Spirit over the summer.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: If you are interested in learning how to lead Matins as a Reader's Service on Sunday mornings before Liturgy, please see Father Michael. During the summer, Sunday Morning Matins will be celebrated the first Sunday of the month.

STRENGTHENING DISCIPLESHIP: A retreat for young disciples walking in his footsteps. The Three Rivers Young Adult Group, in partnership with Sr. Barbara Jean, will be hosting a retreat at the House of Prayer, **June 21-23**. Additional details can be found in the Narthex.

AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY: We hear how Jesus began to call His first apostles who would be His messengers, bringing the Good News of salvation to all peoples. Paul responded to this invitation and preached to the ancient Romans. Over the centuries, faithful men and women, even from our own families, have replied to Jesus' call to follow Him and to continue His salvific mission to carry the gospel message to the entire realm of humanity.

THE SEASON OF THE PETRINE FAST Today is the first Sunday of the Holy Petrine Fast, the springtime Lenten season of liturgical and spiritual preparation which is observed prior to the Feast of the Holy Preeminent Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul. This great holy day honoring the martyrdoms of these principal apostles will be celebrated solemnly on Saturday, June 29th. On the following day, June 30th, we then pay tribute to the memories of all twelve of the holy apostles. This variable period of fasting for this year of 2024 lasts for seventeen days, and in a mystical way, we are following along after Peter and Paul as they each travel from Jerusalem to Rome, where they will be martyred for the Christian Faith. We now commence the second week of the Apostles Fast, and we shall commemorate the memories of two specific apostles: St. Bartholomew, also known as Nathaniel, who was one of the original twelve apostles selected by Jesus, and St. Barnabus, the faithful companion of St. Paul, who assisted him in establishing several of the churches of antiquity. Let us strive to increase our daily prayers to practice more charitable acts and to do some voluntary fasting on Wednesdays and required fasting on Fridays during the Apostles twenty-five Days Fast as we anticipate the celebration in honor of the primary apostles, Sts. Peter and Paul. **"O Peter and Paul prominent apostles, pray to God for us who honor your holy martyrdoms!"**

EPISTLE: Romans 2: 10-16

Brethren: There will be glory, honor, and peace for everyone who has done good, likewise the Jew first, then the Greek. With God there is no favoritism. Sinners who do not have the law will perish without reference to it; sinners bound by the law will be judged in accordance with it. For it is not those who hear the law who are just in the sight of God; it is those who keep it who will be declared just. When Gentiles who do not have the law keep it as by instinct, these men although without the law serve as a law for themselves. They show that the demands of the law are written in their hearts. Their conscience bears witness together with that law, and their thoughts will accuse or defend them on the day when, in accordance with the gospel I preach, God will pass judgment on the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

~In this section of his letter written to the Christians at Rome, the Holy Apostle Paul speaks about God's judgment, and how this judgment will be absolutely just because it is based upon the law with which He has endowed all human nature. His natural law was given perfection in the person of Jesus. He is our Exemplar, and we who have received His message of salvation must pattern our lives after His teachings. God will judge all of us ultimately by measuring us up to His Divine Son, Jesus. The gentiles, who had no cognizance of the Mosaic Law of the Jews, could and did act morally and decently. This demonstrates that there is a certain natural law operating in their hearts. God has endowed all rational nature with this natural law which is in our consciences, and it condemns or excuses a person's actions. The followers of Christ are called to perfection, and Jesus extends this Call to each of us: to follow after Him and to live according to His teachings. Our response to His call will be echoed some day at our judgment before God's throne.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4: 18-23

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men," At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him. He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, *proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.

~In today's gospel pericope, the Holy Evangelist Matthew records how Jesus issued the call to the first apostles. Walking along the Lake of Galilee, Jesus happened upon two fishermen, Andrew and his brother Simon (Peter). Jesus invited them to follow Him, and He would make them "fishers of men." Immediately, they left their nets and followed after Him. Further on, Jesus saw two more fishermen who were brothers: James and John, the sons of Zebedee. The Lord called these two men, and in a similar manner, they also followed Him. These simple fishermen left all and came after Jesus. They became the first apostles – His messengers. He chose them to continue His ministry of preaching the Good News (Gospel) of salvation to all peoples everywhere. They responded positively to His invitation. Every time that Jesus gives this call, a response is demanded! The Lord continues to call men and women even to this very day just as He summoned the apostles on the shores of Lake Galilee. And, in general, He invites all of us baptized individuals to be messengers to this world in which we currently live. We too must respond! What is your response?

PRAYER FOR OUR FOUR SAINTLY BISHOPS: Please pray for the causes of our four Saintly Bishops and ask them to intercede for your specific intentions: O Almighty God, our Lord, we bless You, we praise You, and we thank you for all the graces which You, in Your infinite mercy have bestowed upon us. We are especially grateful for giving us four saintly and heroic Bishops: **Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, Bishop Paul P. Gojdich OBSM, Bishop Basil Hopko, and Bishop Alexander Chira**, who, by their courage, charity, and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. By their great sufferings, humiliating imprisonment, and violent death they gave living witness to their Catholic faith and glorified Your exalted name. Therefore, O Gracious Lord, glorify them in return by Your divine power and inscribe their names in the book of Your Saints. For you are holy, our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever, Amen. With Ecclesiastical Approbation Acknowledgment of answered prayers: Postulator's office, 54 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214, U.S.A.

PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS: **Saints Cyril and Methodius**, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen. St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen