

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Administrator: Reverend Michael D. Kunitz, M. Div.

Email: FrMichaelKunitz@gmail.com

Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family

Sub-Deacon: Raphael Ruggiero

October 27, 2024

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

Schedule of Divine Services

Sunday, Oct. 27: Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost, Feast of the Great Martyr Demetrius

10:25am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11am Divine Liturgy

IMO Michael Dubnansky by his brother & sister: Mark Dubnansky & Sandy Anderson

Monday, Oct. 28: 6-6:45pm Confessions, 7pm Daily Vespers

Friday, Nov. 1: 6-6:45pm Confessions, 7pm Divine Liturgy

Saturday, Nov. 2: 5-5:45pm Confessions, 6pm Great Vespers

Followed by "Theodore" documentary in the hall

Sunday, Nov. 3: Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

10am Sunday Matins, 10:45am Rosary, 11am Divine Liturgy

IHO Theresa Carr's Birthday by Joseph & Dolores Bacasa

There are still open intentions for Divine liturgies to the end of the year. Call the office or fill out a request form in the back of the church and give it to Fr. Michael. We are now accepting intentions for next year's liturgies.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: If you are interested in learning to lead Matins as a Reader's Service on Sunday before Liturgy, please see Father Michael. Matins are celebrated the first Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.

ART, WINE & WORDS FUNDRAISER IS NEXT WEEK - Sunday Nov. 3, 2024

Volunteer – sign up today! Sign-up sheet is in the narthex of the church.

We are selling tickets for the basket raffle today after liturgy.

Buy your ticket today \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door! Invite a friend or two!

Tickets sales thru Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/HolySpiritArtAuction>

Please see Natalia Rudiak or Lynne Walicki for details or with any questions.

ICONS AVAILABLE: There are still several blessed icons in the church hall, please feel free to take one home. There is no charge to take these home, though free will offerings for the benefit of the parish are welcomed.

SATURDAY, NOV. 2 – Special viewing of "THEODORE" a documentary about the Hieromartyr Theodore Romzha will be shown in the church hall following Great Vespers. Theodore Romzha who, by his courage, charity and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. Presented by the Three Rivers Theosis Byzantine Catholic Youth Adult Group.

ANNUAL MOLEBEN FOR OUR SAINTLY BISHOPS: The yearly prayer service for the advancement of the Causes of Beatification and Canonization for our four holy Ruthenian Bishops will take place on **Nov. 3 at Holy Ghost Church in McKees Rocks at 3pm.** Address 225 Olivia Street, McKees Rocks.

ANNUAL DEANERY PASTA DINNER: The Pittsburgh Deanery will be hosting its annual pasta dinner on Sunday, Nov. 10. It will take place at **St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church**, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, PA 15120, Phone # (412) 461-1712 on Sunday, **Nov. 10, 2024** from **3pm to 5pm**. A freewill offering will be taken to cover expenses. Any profit will be sent to the Priests' Pension Plan. A signup sheet will appear in the Church.

GCU 67th ST. NICHOLAS BANQUET: The 67th annual St. Nicholas celebration for the benefit of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius is scheduled this year for Sunday **Dec. 8th**. The evening begins with the Moleben to St. Nicholas at **Y3pm** followed by a Social Hour at **4pm** with dinner being served at **5pm**. You will find a signup sheet in the back of the parish for those desiring to go. Adult tickets cost \$45 and children ages 12 and under cost \$20. Reservations are due no later than Monday **Nov. 18, 2024**. Tickets for the annual Holiday Cash Raffle fundraiser put forward by the GCU are now available as well. Please speak with Fr. Michael if you are interested in selling or purchasing tickets. Ticket stubs must be returned by Tuesday **Dec. 3** to be eligible for the raffle prize.

EPISTLE: Ephesians 2:4-10

Brethren: God is rich in mercy; because of his great love for us he brought us to life with Christ when we were dead in sin. By this favor you were saved. Both with and in Christ Jesus he raised us up and gave us a place in the heavens, that in ages to come he might display the great wealth of his favor, manifested by his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. I repeat, it is owing to his favor that salvation is yours through faith. This is not your own doing, it is God's gift; neither is it a reward for anything you have accomplished, so let no one pride himself on it. We are truly his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to lead the life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance.

SCRIPTURAL LESSONS FOR TODAY'S DIVINE LITURGY

In this pericope from the Holy Apostle Paul's letter to the Christians at Ephesus, the idea is brought forward that we have received salvation because we have been showered with God's Generosity. Since Christians have been redeemed from sin through the salvific acts of the Lord, they thus have experienced the effects of Jesus' supremacy – His power which overcame the forces of demons and even triumphed over death. The Father's free and generous gift of salvation already marks us for a heavenly destiny, and His immense kindness is revealed through His beloved Son. None of us achieved or earned or merited redemption, rather it is God's grace that saves those who faithfully follow His Son. Because of His great love for us, God the Father brought us to a new life with His Son Jesus when we were dead, being held in the depths of sin. Therefore, we are truly God's own handiwork, recreated in Christ Jesus, and we must lead a life of good deeds worthy of this new existence that has been given freely to us through God's generosity.

GOSPEL: Luke 8:26-39

Then they sailed to the territory of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. When he came ashore a man from the town who was possessed by demons met him. For a long time, he had not worn clothes; he did not live in a house, but lived among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him; in a loud voice he shouted, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me!" For he had ordered the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (It had taken hold of him many times, and he used to be bound with chains and shackles as a restraint, but he would break his bonds and be driven by the demon into deserted places.) Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they pleaded with him not to order them to depart to the abyss. A herd of many swine was feeding there on the hillside, and they pleaded with him to allow them to enter those swine; and he let them. The demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran away and reported the incident in the town and throughout the countryside. People came out to see what had happened and, when they approached Jesus, they discovered the man from whom the demons had come out sitting at his feet. He was clothed and in his right mind, and they were seized with fear. Those who witnessed it told them how the possessed man had been saved. The entire population of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them because they were seized with great fear. So, he got into a boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had come out begged to remain with him, but he sent him away, saying, "Return home and recount what God has done for you." The man went off and proclaimed throughout the whole town what Jesus had done for him.

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