

# HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## SUNDAY: AUGUST 27, 2023 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Schedule of Divine Services

**Sunday, August 27: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

8-8:45am Confessions, 8:23am Rosary, 8:45am 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour, 9:00am Divine Liturgy  
For Gerald & Alexandria Bacasa's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, by Theresa Carr

**Monday, August 28:** 10am Confessions through Campus Ministry

6pm Confessions, 7pm Great Vespers for the Feast

**Tuesday, August 29: Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist (Patron Saint of the Archeparchy)**

9am Divine Liturgy for the deceased John Petro, by Anne Petro  
5:30pm at St. Pius X in Carrick

**Friday, Sept. 1: Beginning of the Church Year**

6pm Confessions, 7pm Divine Liturgy  
For Janine Kunitz's Birthday

**Sunday, Sept. 3: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

8-8:45am Confessions, 8:23am Rosary, 8:45am 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour, 9:00am Divine Liturgy  
For Rosalie Yeo on her Birthday, by her Godparents

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

**PARISH FLEA MARKET:** Thank you to everyone that helped with yesterday's flea market. A special thank you to Mary Dzurichko for heading up the organizing and set up!

**SUNDAY LITURGY TIME SWITCH COMING!!**

The Sunday Divine Liturgy will resume its Fall-Spring time of **11:00 AM on September 10**. Please don't forget!

**GROUNDS CLEAN-UP:** It's time to sign up for our fall grounds clean up! Sign-up sheets are in the narthex with two sets of dates – please sign up for the dates you can help. We will select a final date based on how many people can join us. Thank you!

**AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY:** Jesus likened the Kingdom of God to a vineyard in which we are called to be workers who bring forth the proper produce. This "Kingdom" on earth was established by Christ: it is His holy Church. The Apostle Paul was called to nurture this Church and to guide it in its infancy. We also are to be laborers for the Church who must build-up, advance, and increase it while we are in the "vineyard" of this earthly life.

### **EPISTLE: 1st Corinthians 16: 13-24**

Brethren: Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, and act like men. In a word, be strong. Do everything with love. You know that the household of Stephanus is the first fruits of Achaia and is devoted to the service of the saints. I urge you to serve under such men and under everyone who cooperates and toils with them. I was very happy at the arrival of Stephenas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, because they made up for your absence. They have refreshed my spirit as they did yours. You should recognize the worth of such men.

The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the assembly that meets in their house, send you cordial greetings in the Lord. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

It is I, Paul, who sent you this greeting in my own hand. If anyone does not love the Lord, let a curse be upon him. O Lord, come! The favor of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love to all of you in Christ Jesus.

~~~~As the Holy Apostle Paul was preaching Christ's message throughout Asia Minor, he was increasing and advancing God's Kingdom. While he thus was establishing these new churches, he wrote to the Corinthian Christian community, telling them to remain firm in their faith. Paul terminates his first letter to the Corinthians by stressing that they should be steadfast examples of those who ascribe to the Kingdom of God, which is being established here on earth – His holy Church – and of which they are now a part. He exhorts them to guard against the forces of evil in the world and to stand with conviction in their faith, acting as mature Christian adults. As Paul concludes and sends his final greetings, he mentions by name some of his coworkers who are laboring like himself to establish the Kingdom of God. In a like manner even to the day, Jesus Christ sends His workers – the priests of the Church – to continue His work of bringing God's Kingdom to all peoples. The Church reaches for us today the words spoken about these men by the Holy Apostle Paul: "I beg you to recognize them as Christ's own ministers...You should appreciate having men like that!"

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 21: 33-42 (Section 87)**

“Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned. Again, he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.’ They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?” They answered him, “He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times.” Jesus said to them, “Did you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes’?”

~~~~The Kingdom of God is described by the Lord in terms of a parable in this gospel account which is taken from the Holy Evangelist Matthew. A landowner prepared a vineyard and leased it out to hired help. When vintage time approached, however, the workers never made a return to the owner for anything produced in the vineyard. In fact, they abused and drove away his representatives, and they even murdered the landlord's son when he was sent. In interpreting this parable, we can discern that God the Father is the owner of the vineyard, and it was leased to the Jews of the Old Covenant. When God's Son Jesus finally was sent into the vineyard, these stewards, who were to have produced the fruits of righteousness, killed him. Now stewardship has been entrusted to us, His people of the New Covenant. In this "vineyard of life," God has given us a task to accomplish for the building-up of His community – the Church. How well have we tended the vineyard, and what profits (recognition of His lordship, love and service) have been returned to God? We always must realize that if proceeds are not returned, the "Kingdom "will be taken from the "chosen people" and will be given to others who will produce the acceptable fruits. The workers must show progress!

## **UNIONTOWN PILGRIMAGE SEPT. 2-3 ~ THEOTOKOS: LOVING PROTECTRESS OF ALL**

The Sisters of St. Basil of Mount St. Macrina are hosting the 89th annual pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help over Labor Day weekend. There will be a variety of Divine Services offered, regular Confessions available, and specific events for a number of age groups. Whether you are able to attend a few hours or the entire weekend, please consider participating in this beautiful and edifying opportunity! More information can be found by calling (724) 438-8644 or by visiting [www.sistersofstbasil.org](http://www.sistersofstbasil.org)

**HONORING ARCHEPARCHIAL MARRIAGE JUBILARIANS** ~ If you are celebrating a milestone anniversary and submitted your information, don't forget this event will take place Sunday, Sept. 10 at 3pm, at St. Elias in Munhall.

## **HOLY DAY OBSERVED: THE BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**

On August 29th, our Byzantine Catholic Church will commemorate solemnly The Beheading of the Precious Head of Saint John the Baptist. With this major holy day, we thus memorialize the sacred martyrdom of Saint John, the honored prophet, glorious precursor, and revered baptizer of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. John's task was to prepare the Jews for the coming of the Messiah (Jesus) by calling them to repentance through baptism and by announcing that the "Kingdom of God" was already at hand. Jesus Himself referred to John as "the greatest of the prophets." John was the last old-testament prophet sent by God to the Chosen People of Israel, and he was the first of the new-testament prophets, preaching the baptism of repentance on the banks of the Jordan River. John the Baptist, thus, links the two testaments of the Holy Bible. It was toward the end of John's ministry that a great scandal occurred in Palestine in that King Herod Antipas, who ruled the province of Galilee, took his brother Philip's wife Herodias and married her. John the Baptist expressed his indignation and vehemently condemned the king's incestuous relationship. In retaliation, Queen Herodias sought to wreck her vengeance on John by having her daughter, Princess Salome, dance enticingly before Herod on his birthday. When the drunken king promised the sensuous dancing girl anything that she desired, Salome, at the instigation of her vindictive mother Herodias, asked for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Because of his complete compliance with God's will for our salvation, John has been honored by the magnanimous Father as a Prince of Heaven, and he now stands at the left hand of his Cousin Jesus Christ the King where he exercises his intercessory powers on our behalf. By tradition, a strict fast is maintained on this holy day out of reverential respect for Saint John's horrific decapitation. As a demonstration of our love for God, put forth the sacrificial effort to keep this fast for the intention of vocations for our Church and for the welfare of our Parish. This is of vital concern to us.

## **THE CONCLUSION OF THE CHURCH CALENDAR YEAR**

This Thursday, August 31st, will be the final day of the Ecclesiastical Calendar Year. As our Byzantine Catholic Church terminates each such year, it commends the year past to the honor of the Most Holy Mother of God. We pay tribute to her on this last day of the church calendar year, for we commemorate the historical discovery of her cincture, that is her belt or sash which was brought to the Byzantine capital city of Constantinople in the year 941. The All-Holy Virgin Mary is praised as the devoted Daughter of the forgiving Father, the merciful Mother of the salvific Son, and splendid Spouse of the sanctifying Spirit through her unique role as the Godbearer. Mary merited her queenship, and following the dormition event and her physical ascension into heaven, she now stands at the right hand for her Son Jesus Christ the King where she reigns as the Queen of Heaven. We thus extol the Most Pure Virgin Mary for her absolute and perfect fidelity to God and to His Son Jesus – her Child. As we terminate this old Ecclesiastical Year, we also begin the New Year under the protection of the Virgin Mary, our Heavenly Queen. O Most Holy Godbearer, save us!

## **THE BEGINNING OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR...**

Our Byzantine Catholic Church will begin the Ecclesiastical New Year on Friday, September 1st. For the Old Testament Jews, the new year began in the month of Tishri which was comparable to our month of September. This was the season of the harvest and the time for offering sacrifices of thanksgiving to Almighty God. According to the Jewish calendar's calculation of the history of creation, this present year is reckoned to be 5783. Christian tradition relates, however, that Jesus began His public ministry in the month of September, leaving His hometown of Nazareth and embarking upon a three-year period as an itinerant preacher. Therefore, the First Nicene Ecumenical Council (325 A.D.) decreed that the church calendar year with the cycle for the various Christian feast days should begin annually on September 1st. Consequently, in the Byzantine Empire, the civil year likewise began on the 1st of September, and this first day of the year was called the induction. Our contemporary computation of the civil calendar counts the years from the birth of Christ

and begins on January 1st, hence the present year of 2022. However, the Byzantine tradition, the Church's redaction of the liturgical year numbers the years from the inception of biblical history, this being the year 7531. Let us begin again this Church New Year with the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the Alpha and the Omega – the "A" and the "Z" – the beginning and the End of all things. Make a definite resolution of this to be a very good church year for your individual spiritual life and for our entire parish! A very Happy New Year is extended to all!

**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