

# HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2022 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST FATHERS' DAY

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

**Sunday, June 19:** 8am Confessions

9am Divine Liturgy for all Fathers living and deceased

**Monday, June 20:** 9am 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> hour

4:30 Confessions, 5:30 Daily Vespers

**Tuesday, June 22:** Father's day off due to the feast on Friday

*Thursday, June 23: St. Pius, 4:30 Confessions, 5:30 Great Vespers,*

*6:30 Vigil Liturgy for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist*

**Friday, June 24:** 9am, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> hour, 5pm Confessions

6pm Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

**Saturday, June 25:** 8am Confessions

9am Divine Liturgy for the Intentions of the Parish

**Sunday, June 26:** 8am Confessions

9am Divine Liturgy for the deceased Fr. Brian Escobedo, by Michael Mehara

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.

**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 Tuesday, 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 2022 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 (Section 82)**

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 (Section 9)**

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?

**ALL REGIONAL SAINTS ARE BEING COMMEMORATED TODAY...** On this second Sunday after Holy Pentecost, our Byzantine Catholic Church asks us to remember in a special way all of the saints from our own specific nations and local areas. Last Sunday on the Feast of All Saints, the Church paid fitting tribute in general to all of the holy people who are with God – to all of the saints. And on this day, The Sunday of All Regional Saints, we pause in a particular way to pay honor to those saints – those holy people of God – who have come from our own community, regional area, or nation. In the Eastern European countries, the Byzantine Catholic Church paid special honor on this Sunday to all Slavic saints. Thus in the Carpathian Mountain region of Ruthenia, from whence our own Byzantine Catholic forebears emigrated, the Church properly made a remembrance on this day of all Ruthenian saints. Many of these holy people of God came from among our own families, our relatives and our friends who have already been called by God into total fellowship and eternal reward with Him. The vast majority of them are not proclaimed publicly as official saints, for their sanctity is known only to God. However, as we especially remember them today on this Feast of All Regional Saints, our Byzantine Catholic Church asks us to reflect upon the fact that it is by cooperating with the graces of the Most Holy Spirit that we are afforded the privilege of participating in the Divine Life of the Most Holy Trinity – our God – and this is what creates sanctity in us. As we pay honor to the memories of all these, our own particular saints, realize that their love for God and their imitation of the life of Jesus (especially the carrying of their daily crosses) as well as their fidelity to our Holy Faith and their tenacity to our cherished Byzantine Catholic heritage and traditions are a constant example for all of us! Let us strive to imitate their holiness and sanctity! In a very special way on this second Sunday after Holy Pentecost, let us fervently pray for the causes of sainthood for our four holy Ruthenian hierarchs. For the canonization of Blessed Theodore G. Romza, Blessed Paul P. Gojdich, and Blessed Basil Hopoko and the beautification of Venerable Alexander Chira!!!

**JUNE IS THE MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART...** This month the Church pays special tribute on this feast to our Lord Jesus Christ as the Lover of Mankind. The Son of God came to earth as a Man, suffered and died for us, and secured our eternal salvation all because of His unsurpassing love for us. Because of this love Jesus is also forgiving and merciful toward us. Jesus' holy heart is regarded as the symbolic expression of His divine love for all mankind. Such magnificent love demands a response from us. Let us always return Christ's love. We must love the Lord Jesus with our entire being! And in recognizing God's love for us through His Son Jesus Christ, the Church asks us to access and ever increase our own love for God and for all of our fellow human beings. During the month of June, the Church urges us to pay special honor to our Lord Jesus Christ because of His unending love for all of humanity.

**MARY HONORED AS THE SORROWFUL MOTHER...** Next week on the third Saturday after Holy Pentecost, we commemorate the Feast of the Compassion of the Most Holy Godbearer. Through this feastday, we acknowledge the Holy Virgin Mary's "suffering with" her Son Jesus, that is her compassion as she stood at the foot of the cross. Love moved the Most Pure Virgin Mary to share willingly in her Divine Son's sufferings for our redemption. We thus pay tribute to her for her "compassion" by which she endured all, joined in His sorrows and cooperated totally with her Son to secure our salvation. "O Most Holy Godbearer, save us!"

**MOUNT ST. MACRINA HOUSE OF PRAYER EVENTS FOR SUMMER 2022**

**Young Adult Weekend In-House Program** ~ Friday June 24, 7pm to Sunday June 26, Noon

Men and Women ages 18-40. With Sr. Barbara Jean, OSBM, and Team

**Registration due June 17. Space limited – Register early.** Offering: \$110, Scholarships available.

Proof of full vaccination and masks required.

Please call or email to register.

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**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*