

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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SUNDAY: OCTOBER 1, 2023

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FEAST OF THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS

Schedule of Divine Services

Sunday, Oct 1: Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost – – Protection of the Theotokos

10-10:45am Confessions, 10:23am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy

For the deceased Magdaline Carr (10 years), by Theresa Carr

Monday, Oct 2: 11am Confessions through Campus Ministry

Friday, Oct 6: 6pm Confessions, 7pm Divine Liturgy

For the deceased Magdaline & George Carr, by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Bacasa

Sunday, Oct. 8: Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10-10:45am Confessions, 10:23am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy

Alexandria Bacasa in honor of her 75th Birthday – by Theresa Carr

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 the church and leave it in the sacristy.

GROUNDS CLEAN-UP WEEK 2! Thank you to everyone that helped this past week! We will be working again this Saturday from 10am-2:30pm. Any and all help is appreciated!

CLERGY RETREAT OCT. 1-5: Fr. Michael will be out for the retreat. Prayers for our clergy are appreciated.

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.

DEANERY PASTA DINNER: Will be Sunday, October 15 at 3pm at St. Elias in Munhall. Please let Fr. Michael know if you plan to attend.

AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY: Our theme for this eighteenth Sunday stresses the Generosity that Jesus requires His followers to exhibit as they respond to His call to follow Him and proclaim the Good News of Salvation. ~ As Jesus encountered a funeral cortege that was proceeding from the town of Naim, He demonstrated His DIVINE AUTHORITY by miraculously bringing the dead young man back to life. Jesus thus gives us a foretaste of the New Life that awaits each of us in the final resurrection. This resurrectional theme was preached initially by the Apostle Paul, and the Church by Christ's same divine authority reechoes this message of eternal resurrection for us even today.

ON MONDAY WE REMEMBER THE HOLY APOSTLE, JAMES ALPHEUS. He was one of the Twelve, a witness of the true words and miracles of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, a witness of his passion, resurrection and ascension. After the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, it fell to James to preach the Gospel in Eleutheropolis and the surrounding area. He suffered in Egypt in the town of Ostracina, being crucified by the pagans.

The Feast of the Blessed PROTECTION of the Most Holy Godbearer is observed today. This major Marian holy day commemorates the historical events that occurred in 903 A.D. in the Byzantine Empire's capital city of Constantinople. A terrible epidemic afflicted the people and was decimating the population. Furthermore as the plague raged, Mohammedan hordes were preparing to launch their decisive battle against the faltering Christians and thus destroy the Byzantine Empire. The terror-stricken faithful gathered in the Church of the Most Holy Mother of God, situated in the suburb of Blachernae. It was in this very Church that the venerable robe of the Most Holy Virgin Mary was preserved from ancient times. The people fervently implored their Heavenly Mother to intercede with God in their behalf. After several hours of intensive prayer throughout the night, the Most Holy Godbearer appeared in a vision, extending her precious **VEIL** over the people as a symbolic gesture of her **PROTECTION** that she was to give them. Following this protection-event, the plague ceased immediately, and at daybreak the Christian soldiers defeated the Moslems and saved the city of Constantinople. In the Byzantine Catholic tradition, the Most Pure Virgin Mary is called "*the steadfast protectress of Christians,*" and with the protection feast, the Church continues to accentuate the ever-constant help that our Heavenly Mother always will provide when asked. The Holy Protection is the patronal feast of our Byzantine Catholic Metropolia in the United States. Let us beseech the Most Holy Mother of God to continue to watch over us Byzantine Catholics and to cover us with her *pokrov*—her **protecting veil**—as she provides all of us with her heavenly maternal protection! "*O Most Holy Godbearer, save us!*"

EPISTLE: II Corinthians 9:6-11

Brethren: Let me say this much. He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will reap bountifully. Everyone must give according to what he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver. God can multiply his favors among you so that you may always have enough of everything and even a surplus for good works, as it is written: "He scattered abroad and gave to the poor, his justice endures forever." He who provides seed for the sower and bread for the eater will provide in abundance; he will multiply the seed you sow and increase your generous yield. In every way your liberality is enriched; through us it results in thanks offered to God.

~~~ In his second letter sent to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul speaks of the concept of generosity, and of our obligation to give of our time, talents, and monies, in order that the Good News might continue to be preached everywhere. God ultimately gives us everything needed for this life and eternal salvation. However, the more we are enriched by God, the greater must be the scope of our generosity. We have an obligation to use the things given to us by God for His honor and glory and for the increase of His Kingdom here on Earth – the Church.

### **Hebrews 9:1-7**

Now [even] the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tabernacle was constructed, the outer one,<sup>2</sup> in which were the lampstand, the table, and the bread of offering; this is called the Holy Place. Behind the second veil was the tabernacle called the Holy of Holies, in which were the gold altar of incense<sup>2</sup> and the ark of the covenant entirely covered with gold. In it were the gold jar containing the manna, the staff of Aaron that had sprouted, and the tablets of the covenant. Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the place of expiation. Now is not the time to speak of these in detail. With these arrangements for worship, the priests, in performing their service, go into the outer tabernacle repeatedly, but the high priest alone goes into the inner one once a year, not without blood that he offers for himself and for the sins of the people.

### **GOSPEL: Luke 6:31-36, 10:38-42, 11:27-28**

Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit [is] that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful.

As they continued their journey, he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary [who] sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

While he was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed." He replied, "Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."