

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family
Sub-Deacon: Raphael Ruggiero

JULY 21, 2024

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Schedule of Divine Services

Sunday, July 21: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

8:25am Rosary, 8:45am 3rd Hour, 9am Divine Liturgy
IMO Harold Witzel Jr. on the 40th day since his passing, by Theresa Carr

Monday, July 22: 8am Confessions, 9am Daily Matins

Friday, July 26: 8am Confessions, 9am Divine Liturgy
IMO Msgr. Duker, by Jane Gobbie & Family
6pm Confession, 7pm Vespers

Sunday, July 28: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:25am Rosary, 8:45am 3rd Hour, 9am Divine Liturgy
IHO Judith Mackin on her birthday, by Priscilla Fello

All divine liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out a request form in the narthex and give it to Fr. Michael.

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.

FEAST OF THE GREAT PROPHET ELIJAH: was celebrated yesterday. There will be blessing of the vehicles after today's liturgy.

YOUNG ADULT EVENT FRIDAY, 7/26: The Three Rivers Theosis Young Adult Group will be hosting vespers and dinner for the feast of St. Panteleimon. All between the ages of 18 and 40(or so) are encouraged to attend.

PARISH MEETING NEXT SUNDAY! July 28 will be our next parish meeting. This meeting will address the state of the parish, projects and upcoming fundraisers for the year. All parishioners are asked to attend.

FLEA MARKET: Our next flea market will be Saturday, August 24. We will be taking donations through August 11. Remember we cannot accept books, electronics, clothes or holiday decorations. We will need volunteers for set up and pricing beforehand, as well as help the day of. Please see Mary D. on how you can help. **If you are able to help set up tables after Liturgy, please do!**

ART, WINE & WORDS: Sunday October 13, 2024 we will be holding a special parish fundraiser. This event will include an art auction, poetry & basket raffle. More details to follow. If you would like to be part of this one-time event, please see Natalia Rudiak or Lynne Walicki.

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17Brethren: [Apollos and I] are God's co-workers, while you are his cultivation, his building. Thanks to the favor God showed me I laid a foundation as a wise master-builder might do, and now someone else is building upon it. Everyone, however, must be careful how he builds. No one can lay a foundation other than the

one that has been laid, namely Jesus Christ. If different ones build on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or straw, the work of each will be made clear. The Day will disclose it. That day will make its appearance with fire, and fire will test the quality of each man's work. If the building a man has raised on this foundation still stands, he will receive his recompense; if a man's building burns, he will suffer loss. He himself will be saved, but only as one fleeing through fire. Are you not aware that you are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, and you are that temple.

~~~The foundation of every Christian's Life must be Jesus Christ. This is the main point advanced by the Holy Apostle Paul in this section of his first letter to the Corinthians. Paul compares a Christian to a house being built according to God's specifications. Each of us then becomes a builder, and we must endeavor to give this structure a distinctly Christian character. This is done when we observe the mandates and follow the teachings that have been given to us by our Divine Savior. This "house" (our life) is the very "temple of God" because God's Spirit permeates our being and dwells within us. This simply means that the Holy Spirit resides within every Christian, and we thus become His "living Temples." The Holy Spirit is the Author of all holiness, and because He makes His abode within each of us, we therefore must be holy by living in conformity with the teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 14: 22-34** Then he made the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening, he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. At once [Jesus] spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how [strong] the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God." After making the crossing, they came to land at Gennesaret.

~~~The Holy Evangelist Matthew records the incident of how Jesus walked upon the water and came out to the apostles who were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee during a storm. This is our sixth presentation of a miracle account during this summer series. Our Lord beckoned the Apostle Peter to come out to Him on the water. Peter indeed left the boat, and he attempted to walk on the water. He actually was walking toward Jesus - doing the impossible - when his faith grew faint, and he began to panic at the sight of the waves and as he heard the roar of the waters.

Peter then began to sink, and in desperation, he screamed for the Lord's help. Jesus had to grasp him and save him from drowning. There is a comparison that can be drawn from this incident and from the fact that it is the Lord Jesus who guides every Christian person through the "sea" of this Life: When life's storms begin to rage and perilous waves threaten the course that we are traveling, remember there is a Rescuer - a Savior - to Whom we can turn for help. He will calm the rough waves that buffet our lives, and He will bring us in peace to Himself as to a safe harbor. He is God's Son - the Lord Jesus - the eternal Bread of Life, which is His own Body.

PRAYER FOR OUR FOUR SAINTLY BISHOPS:

Please pray for the causes of our four Sainly 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