

# HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4815 5TH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH PA 15213 (412) 687-1220

Administrator: Reverend Michael D Kunitz  
Holy Spirit Rectory  
4815 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15213  
(412) 687-1220  
FrMichaelKunitz@gmail.com

Email: holyspiritinformation@gmail.com  
Website – holyspiritbyzcath.com  
Cantor: Julia Revilak and Family  
Altar Servers: Sdn . Raphael Ruggiero  
Angelino and Emanuel Revilak

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2022**

**NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

## SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

**Sunday, August 7:** 8am Confessions

9am Divine Liturgy for Ruth Cavanaugh and her birthday by Mary Dzurichko

*Father Michael and Pani Janine will be out of town briefly between August 7 and 11. You will be able to reach them at ja9mtg@gmail.com. This will not impact Sunday liturgies.*

**Friday, August 12:** 5pm Confessions, 6pm Divine Liturgy for the Intentions of the Parish

**Saturday, August 13:** 8am Confessions, 9am Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, August 14:** 8am Confessions

9am Divine Liturgy for

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.....** The vicissitudes that each of us encounters throughout our life may produce storms that can almost drown us. Jesus, however, has given to us His Holy Spirit, and as the Spirit dwells within us, we are all His “living Temples.” We must never lose sight of the fact that God is ever with us. When perilous circumstances arise, we can always rely on the Lord Jesus. It is He who will calm the tumult and conduct us to safety.

**ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITY.....** Saturday, August 13 at the St. Pius parish hall, 1pm. The topic is “Byzantine Devotional Prayer.” All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**THE DORMITION FAST.....** August 1 began the Dormition Fast, a brief penitential season in preparation for the Dormition (Assumption) of the Blessed Mother on August 15. The faithful are generally encouraged to fast and abstain from animal products, wine, and oil on Wednesdays and Fridays. Please ask your spiritual director what level of observance is best for you.

This major feastday commemorates the Most Holy Virgin Mary's happy death together with the direct transposition of her body and soul into the heavenly realms. The All Pure Virgin Mary exemplified holiness and strict conformity to the will of God, and these attributes can be activated in us through prayer, fasting and confession. Although this summer Lenten season readies us for the dormition event, it popularly is called the Savioral Fast because it begins on the day (8/1) on which we commemorate the Savior's majestic cross - the very instrument that saves us. Furthermore, three feasts of our Savior are observed in August: the Procession with the Venerable Cross (Aug 1), The Holy Transfiguration (Aug 6), and the Feast of the Icon of the Lord's Sacred Face (Aug 16).

We will commence this spiritual journey of two weeks by joining symbolically with the twelve illustrious apostles who have been summoned to the Holy City of Jerusalem from the various comers of the world of antiquity for the impending death of the Most Holy Mother of God. As we thus travel vicariously up to Jerusalem for the dormition event, the penitential character of this Savioral fast period is reflected in the liturgical life of the Church. It is recommended to receive the Sacrament of Confession in preparation for this blessed Feast.

## **EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 39-17 (Section 128)**

Brethren: [Apollon 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 (Section 59)**

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 GREAT FEAST OF THE GLORIOUS TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD...** Yesterday, August 6th, we observed The Feast of the Splendorous Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ. This most prominent and illustrious holy day commemorates the fact that forty days before our Lord would hand in ignominious crucifixion on the desolate tree of the salvific cross of Golgotha, He took three of His apostles, Peter – the oldest – and the two brothers James and John – the youngest – to the summit of Mount Tabor. As He was immersed in prayer to His Almighty Father, His human form changed completely, and Jesus permitted these mere mortals to observe Him as the divine Son of God. His face glowed with the effulgence of the sun, and His garments became as white as snow. The apostles were so overwhelmed by the splendor and magnificence of His divinity that they fell to the ground in order to shield their faces from the divine energy emitted by Jesus as the Second Person of the Trinity. Moses and Elijah also appeared as genuine representatives of God's chosen people of Israel, and these two prominent old testament figures acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah, and they adored Him as the Son of God. This awesome occurrence confirmed the divinity of Jesus, and it prefigures the eventual happening that occurs each time that the Divine Liturgy is celebrated. We climb to the Mount Tabor of our parish church, and there we encounter Jesus Who in the Mystery of the Divine Eucharist transfigures Himself from ordinary bread and wine, produced from grapes and wheat flour, into the real Body and Blood of the eternal Son of God. Like the Holy Apostle Peter, we must proclaim before the Eucharistic Jesus at every Divine Liturgy: "Lord, how good it is for us to be here!"

**ECUMENICAL SERVICE.....** On September 17 we will host an ecumenical prayer service for an end to the conflict in Ukraine. We'll start in the parish hall and process around the church while praying the Akathist to the Precious and Lifegiving Cross.

9am: welcome, brief description of service

9:30am: service and procession

10am: optional light fellowship after the service concludes

**PARISH DIRECTORY.....** We're looking to update the parish directory. Please remember to fill out the directory information form found in the back (narthex) of the church. You can submit forms to Fr. Michael or Pani Janine.

**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