

# HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022 SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

#### **Sunday, June 12: SUMMER LITURGY SCHEDULE BEGINS**

8am Confessions

9am Divine Liturgy for Diane Vargo and her birthday, by Priscilla Fello

#### **Monday, June 13: 9am 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> hour**

4:30 Confessions, 5:30 Daily Vespers

#### **Friday, June 17: 9am, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> hour**

5pm Confessions, 6pm Divine Liturgy

for Mary Dzurichko and her birthday by Theresa Carr

#### **Saturday, June 18: 8am Confessions**

9am Divine Liturgy for

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

9am Divine Liturgy for all Fathers Living and Deceased

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.....**

As Jesus' followers, we're all called to Sanctity in God's sight. Many old testament people were perfected in such holiness through hardships and trials. Jesus Himself tells us that no earthly obstacle should impede us from imitating and following Him and thus attaining our goal of becoming a Saint.

### **THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER HOLY PENTECOST IS ALL SAINTS SUNDAY....**

With The Feast of All Saints our Byzantine Catholic Church solemnly commemorates the memories of all of the holy people of God. Each saint has a proper feastday throughout the year, but on this first Sunday after the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Church designates a common commemoration for all saints. The theme presented at the Divine Liturgy on this All Saints Feastday accentuates the sanctity or holiness in the sight of God to which all of Jesus' followers have been called. We thus pay tribute to all those righteous people who through the centuries have achieved holiness by following in their daily lives here on earth the footsteps of the Master, Jesus Christ – the Messiah, the Savior of mankind. We remember today all those saints who have been officially recognized and solemnly canonized by the Church as well as all those holy people who have not received this formal recognition and are known but to God. Since these people are truly with God, they are indeed numbered among His saints of heaven. And in remembering such holy men and women, the Church exhorts us not only to pay tribute to them, but most of all, to follow them and to imitate them in our quest for that same desired goal: holiness and sanctity in God's sight – sainthood for each of us!

**EPISTLE: Hebrews 11: 32 – 12: 2 (Section 330)**

Brethren: By faith (the Saints) conquered kingdoms, did what was just, obtained the promises; they broke the jaws of lions, put out raging fires, escaped the devouring sword; though weak they were made powerful, became strong in battle, and turned back foreign invaders. Women received back their dead through resurrection. Others were tortured and would not receive deliverance, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Still others endured mockery, scourging, even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawed in two, put to death at sword's point; they went about garbed in the skins of sheep or goats, needy, afflicted, tormented. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and on mountains, they dwelt in caves and in holes of the earth. Yet despite the fact that all of these were approved because of their faith, they did not obtain what had been promised. God had made a better plan, a plan which included us. Without us, they were not to be made perfect.

Therefore, since we for our part are surrounded by this cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every encumbrance of sin, which clings to us and persevere in running the race which lies ahead; let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who inspires and perfects our faith.

~~~~~In making a solemn commemoration today of all of God's Holy People or Saints, we read from this particular section of the letter written to the Jewish Christians of antiquity. The Old Testament is replete with examples of the faith that was exhibited by the righteous people of God. From being spiritually weak and frail, such people developed into mighty religious warriors precisely because of the hardships that they endured and the struggles through which they persevered. Though challenged many times with seemingly insuperable obstacles, these faithful people trusted in their God, and thereby they increased in holiness. Some of them were exposed to tortures, humiliation and indignities, yet their sanctity was perfected through such ordeals which they overcame with God's help. The New Testament offers as the ultimate Example with regard to faith: Jesus. He is the supreme Model, showing us how to fulfill perfectly the holy will of God. The Lord Jesus is the very Source and Goal of our faith. God is the Perfection of all holiness, and in our earthly quest for Sanctity, we look to Him in order to increase in holiness and faithfulness to God the Father.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 10: 32-33; 37-38, & 19: 27-30 (Sections 38 & 79)**

“Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.”

Then Peter said to him in reply, “We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

~~~~~With our observance of the Sunday of All Saints today, we are reading from this gospel passage written by the Holy Evangelist Matthew. Jesus declares that if any person publicly acknowledges Him in the world, this individual will receive Jesus' recognition in eternity before God the Father. On the other hand, anyone who places any earthly love or desire before his love of and his commitment to God is not worthy of God, neither in this life, nor especially in the existence that awaits each of us in eternity. In calling all people to follow Him, Jesus exhorts each of us individually to strive for holiness and perfection. The Saints or Holy People of God are precisely the ones who have taken the Lord Jesus' invitation seriously, trying to put into effect His mandates in their daily lives. This call to Sanctity requires that we follow faithfully in the Lord's footsteps throughout our lives. While He was here on earth, Jesus Himself gave us the example of complete holiness and true perfection in the sight of God. As His followers, we must ever strive by the graces of the Holy Spirit to emulate our Savior's example and attempt to imitate His own life and actions. Those who heed the call to holiness and follow the Lord Jesus in this life will be greatly rewarded in heaven!

## **NEW LITURGICAL SEASON: THE PETRINE FAST BEGINS TOMORROW.....**

After the celebration of the Pentecost feastdays and on the Monday that follows All Saints Sunday, the Church initiates a period of spiritual and liturgical preparation for the celebration of the eminent holy day commemorating the martyrdoms of Saints Peter and Paul, observed on June 29. This twenty-five day springtime lenten period is known as The Petrine Fast, in an allegorical way, we now are embarking upon a symbolic pilgrimage with the preeminent apostles Peter and Paul. We shall initiate this mystical journey in the Holy City of Jerusalem on All Saints Monday and then follow an ascetical route for twenty-five days that will end in the Eternal City of Rome on June, 28, the eve of Saints Peter and Paul. During this petrine fast season, we are asked to do some voluntary fasting on Wednesdays and required fasting on Fridays in preparation for the great holy day honoring the Apostles Peter and Paul.

**PARISH ANNIVERSARY** – Thank you all for your support and prayers which made this celebration a success! We would in particular like to thank:

Everyone who brought food, especially Gerald and Alexandria Bacasa for providing the entrees.

Everyone who helped clear the rummage sale and set up the hall, especially Theresa Carr, Cathy Warhola, Mary Dzurichko, and the Walickis.

The Revilak family for musical accompaniment during and after Liturgy.

The Ellsworths for organizing activities for the kids.

**RUMMAGE SALE** – The final counts are in: our rummage sales this season brought in over \$2000, which will be generously matched by the GCU. Many thanks to Mary Dzurichko and her team for making this possible!

## **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.

(724) 438-7149

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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*