

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4815 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 - Rectory Phone: 412-687-1220

Administrator: Reverend Michael D. Kunitz, M. Div.

Email: FrMichaelKunitz@gmail.com

Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family

Altar Servers: Sub-Deacon Raphael Ruggiero & Emanuel Revilak

Website: holyspiritbycath.com - Email: holyspiritinformation@gmail.com

JUNE 9, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Schedule of Divine Services

Sunday, June 9: Third Sunday After Pentecost

8:23am Rosary, 8:45am 1st Hour, 9am Divine Liturgy

IMO Lawrence McGuire (Father) & Lawrence McGuire (Son) by Joseph & Dolores Bacasa

Monday, June 10: 8am Confessions, 9am Daily Matins

Friday, June 14: 8am Confessions, 9am Divine Liturgy

IMO Msgr. Duker + by Cathy Moyta

Sunday, June 16: Fourth Sunday After Pentecost – Father's Day

8:23am Rosary, 8:45am 3rd Hour, 9am Divine Liturgy

All Fathers Living & Deceased

Mary Dzurichko in Honor of her Birthday by Theresa Carr

All divine liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out a request form in the back of the church and leave it in the sacristy.

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.

A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE: Sunday, September 15, 2023 at St. Elias, Munhall

If you are celebrating your 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 Wedding Anniversary please provide your information on the sign-up sheet in the narthex, **by Sunday, July 14, 2023.**

STRENGTHENING DISCIPLESHIP: A retreat for young disciples walking in his footsteps. The Three Rivers Young Adult Group, in partnership with Sr. Barbara Jean, will be hosting a retreat at the House of Prayer, **June 21-23.** Additional details can be found in the Narthex.

AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY

The Apostle Paul tells the Romans that Christ has given us hope for salvation, but they must continue to trust that God will provide everything necessary for both this life and the next. Jesus asks us to identify our values and to discern our priorities. Above all else, we must seek God's kingship over us and ascribe to His holiness, and then all of the necessities for this life and for eternity will follow as a matter of course.

EPISTLE: Romans 5: 1-10

Brethren: Now that we have been justified by faith, we are at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have gained access by faith to the grace in which we now stand, and we boast of our hope for the glory of God. But not only that – we even boast of our afflictions! We know that affliction makes for endurance, and endurance for tested virtue, and tested virtue for hope. And this hope will not leave us disappointed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. At the appointed time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for us godless men. It is rare that anyone should lay down his life for a just man, though it is barely possible that for a good man someone may have the courage to die. It is precisely in this that God proves his love for us: that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Now that we have been justified by his blood, it is all the more certain that we shall be saved by him from God's wrath. For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him by the death of his Son, it is all the more certain that we who have been reconciled will be saved by his life.

~~~~The early Roman Christians are told that through faith in Christ, we have all entered into a new relationship of grace with God the Father. The Holy Apostle Paul indicates that each of us individually has been provided with peace from God through Jesus' redemptive acts. Thus, committed followers of Christ already have some experience of the love of God flooding through their hearts since the Holy Spirit has been given to them and is operative in them. No matter what happens in this life, we must have confidence and trust in the Lord. Even in times of troubles and trials, joy can be experienced, for Paul maintains that such deterrents develop a patient character and virtues. Adverse situations are to be confronted with a spirit of trust in God and a recognition of His constant love for us. We then can engender within ourselves a steady hope in God's plan for each of us, and

this hope in God will never disappoint us. We must ever hope and trust that through the redemptive mysteries of the Lord Jesus, God's plan of salvation for each of us is a certitude.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 6: 22-34**

“The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light; but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be in darkness. And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be. No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat [or drink], or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? So do not worry and say, ‘What are we to eat?’ or ‘What are we to drink?’ or ‘What are we to wear?’ All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil.”

~Today's holy gospel account centers about the theme of placing all trust in God alone. The Holy Evangelist Matthew records how Jesus taught that our Heavenly Father knows our needs even before we ask for them. If we desire the Kingdom of God and God's goodness before everything else, then all other necessities will follow as a matter of course. Jesus emphasizes this point about trust in God by directing His listeners to look at the birds in the sky. Such creatures never plant or harvest or even store goods away for the future. And yet our Heavenly Father provides all that is necessary for them. Are we not more valuable than the birds of the air – we, who have been created in the image and likeness of God? Will God then not provide for us, the epitome of His creation? We see daily how so many people are preoccupied with earthly, material things. Jesus cautions against this mundane preoccupation. He wants us, His followers, to concern ourselves with eternal matters – things that pertain to God and His everlasting Kingdom. Trusting in Him, we can be confident that He will provide every necessity for this life and for the eternal life to come.

**THE PETRINE FAST: PREPARATION FOR THE MARTYRDOMS OF THE APOSTLES**

During this petrine fast season, we now are making our springtime spiritual journey from All Saints Sunday to the end of June. On June 29th, we will observe the memorial of the martyrdoms of the preeminent apostles Peter and Paul, and then on June 30th, we will commemorate the martyrdoms of all of the Holy Apostles. In so doing, we follow the example of their lives, and we imitate the dynamic faith exhibited by the two apostolic leaders Peter and Paul, together with the eleven other Holy Apostles. It was they who, after the Pentecost event, received the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They used these charisms to produce the fruits of God's divine Spirit in their own lives as well as in the lives of those whom they encountered as they fulfilled the mission given to them by Christ. They became Jesus' Spirit-filled witnesses to the redemptive acts that He had accomplished as the Messiah and the Son of God, and they were His messengers of the Good News of salvation (the Gospel). In imitation of the praiseworthy apostles, we are to be the modern-day messengers of Jesus' Gospel and His witnesses in contemporary society. As we proceed with this penitential interlude of the Petrine Fast, we are traveling to Rome in a vicarious manner together with the principal apostles Peter and Paul, whose martyrdoms will take place there. Along the route of this arduous pilgrimage to the Eternal City, we must examine how well we witness to Christ and proclaim His salvific message to others. All of the apostles prayed, fasted, and exercised true charity in order to be receptive to the graces of the Holy Spirit. We must emulate them and do likewise. The Holy Petrine Fast begins after the Sunday of All Saints in order to emphasize that sanctity comes from the Holy Spirit, and like the venerable apostles, we too are called by Jesus to cooperate with the divine graces of God's admirable Spirit in order to become holy people – saints – for this is our vocation in life. Like the holy martyrs of the Church of antiquity, we must constantly proclaim His Good News of salvation and thus become fitting witnesses to Christ our twenty first century society and culture.

**PRAYER FOR OUR FOUR SAINTLY BISHOPS:** Please pray for the causes of our four Saintly 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