

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family

Sub-Deacon: Raphael Ruggiero

July 5, 2026

6th Sunday After Pentecost

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sun Jul 5: 6th Sunday After Pentecost

7:45 am Rosary, 8 am Divine Liturgy

6 pm Divine Liturgy with Panachida

IMO Sam Meredith Sr. by Mary Ann Merideth

Mon Jul 6: Feast of the Preeminent Apostles, Ss. Peter & Paul

6 pm Confessions, 7 pm Daily Vespers

Fri July 10: 6 pm Confessions, 7 pm Divine Liturgy with Panachida

IMO Canio Gabriel Verrico by Mery Ann Merideth

Sat July 11: 5 pm Confessions, 6 pm Great Vespers

Sun July 12: 6th Sunday After Pentecost

7:45 am Rosary, 8 am Divine Liturgy

6 pm Divine Liturgy with Panachida

IMO Stephen Hunnicut by Mary Ann Merideth

Divine Liturgies are open for intentions for this new year. If you would like to make an intention for a Liturgy, please call the office or fill out request form in the back of the church and give it to Fr. Michael.

ON-LINE GIVING: If you wish to make a monetary donation to our parish – you can do so on our website or by using this QR code. Remember every dollar helps support the mission of our parish community. Thank you.



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.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS/LITURGY ATTENDANCE FOR JUNE 14: \$ 1897.00

8:00 AM: 13

6:00 PM: 9

Total: 22

ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE: Will be **Sunday, September 20, 2026**, at St. Elias in Munhall. If you are celebrating your 10, 15, 20, 25 or additional years multiplied by 5 and would like to attend, please let Fr. Michael know by **Sunday, July 12**.

JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

May God grant you many happy and blessed years!

Sophia Kunitz 7/9

Judith Ann Mackin 7/25

Joseph Bacasa 7/27

Don't see your birthday or anniversary? Let us know so we can update the directory!

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: If you are interested in learning to lead Matins as a Reader's Service on Sunday before Liturgy, please see Father Michael.

ICONS AVAILABLE: There are several blessed icons in the church hall, there is no cost to take these home, though a free will offering for the benefit of the parish is welcome.

MORNING LITURGY COFFEE SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS: It is important that we spend time in conversation with one another. To make it truly a time of sharing – we ask everyone to sign up to host a Sunday. We look forward to seeing you!

EVENING LITURGY SOCIAL: At last week's liturgy there was enough interest that we are planning to have a social hour in the hall on the last Sunday of the month. The first one will be July 26, 2026. We look forward to seeing you!

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WORLD: Interested in receiving the Archeparchy's monthly newspaper? Speak with Mary Dzurichko about getting signed up with Archeparchial events.

EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES (ECF): Our ECF program has begun meetings on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 5:00 pm in the church hall. For more information, please see Eugene Yeo.

SAINT OF THE DAY: 7/5 **Our venerable father Athanasius of Mt. Athos**, hegumen, humble and peaceful, founded a coenobitic way of living in the Great Laura. Despite many trials, he was father to many monks who followed his ascetic model. (1003)

7/7 **Our venerable fathers Thomas of Maleum and Acacius, mentioned in "The Ladder."** Thomas was a general famed for courage and wealth. He was a huge man, a source of fear to his enemies. He came to know Christ, and left all behind to go into the desert. When people heard of this, they came to him, and Thomas cured their diseases. (10th century)

7/8 **The holy great martyr Procopius at Caesarea in Palestine.** Under the emperor Diocletian, he was taken from the city of Scythopolis to Caesarea and there in return for the excellent confidence of his answers he was beheaded by the judge Fabianus. (303)

7/10 The holy forty-five martyrs in Nicopolis in Armenia, Leontius, Mauritius, Daniel, Antonius, Anicetus, Sisinnus, and others, who under the emperor Licinius and the governor Lysias were tortured in many ways. (319) *The holy martyrs are commemorated at Compline.*

7/10 **Our venerable father Anthony of the Monastery of the Caves.** He was a hermit, who in the laura called "the Caves" followed the monastic life which he had learned on Mt. Athos. He was the founder of Russian monasticism.(1073)

7/10 **The holy Maronite Franciscan brothers: Francis, Abd-el-Mooti and Raphael Massabki, and eight others with them**, killed in Damascus in 1860. Passion of the blessed martyr Emmanuel Ruiz, priest, and his companions [Carmelo Volta, Peter Soler, Nicholas Alberga, Engelbert Kolland, Ascanius Nicanor, all priests; Francis Pinazo and John-Jacob Fernandez, friars] at Damascus in Syria, seven from the Order of Friars Minor and three faithful brothers of the Maronite Church [Francis, Abd-el-Mooti and Raphael Massabki]. When they were deceitfully handed over to the enemy by a traitor and afflicted with various humiliations on account of their faith, they ended their lives with the glorious death of martyrs. (1860)

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SECOND SONGS & STORIES FROM THE

MOUNTAINS: Saturday November 7th this year. If you're interested in volunteering to help out either in preparation for the event or during it, please speak with Fr. Michael. Please keep an eye open for more updates.

EPISTLE: Romans 12:6-14

Brethren: We have gifts that differ according to the favor bestowed on each of us. One's gift may be prophecy; its use should be in proportion to his faith. It may be the gift of ministry; it should be used for service. One who is a teacher should use his gift for teaching; one with the power of exhortation should exhort. He who gives alms should do so generously; he who rules should exercise his authority with care; he who performs works of mercy should do so cheerfully. Your love must be sincere. Detest what is evil, cling to what is good. Love one another with the affection of brothers. Anticipate each other in showing respect. Do not grow slack but fervent in spirit; he whom you serve is the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient under trial, persevere in prayer. Look on the needs of the saints as your own; be generous in offering hospitality. Bless your persecutors; bless and do not curse them.

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:1-8

He entered a boat, made the crossing, and came into his own town. And there people brought to him a paralytic lying on a stretcher. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Courage, child, your sins are forgiven." At that, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." Jesus knew what they were thinking, and said, "Why do you harbor evil thoughts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic, "Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He rose and went home. When the crowds saw this, they were struck with awe and glorified God who had given such authority to human beings.

A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL: To be a scribe in the ancient world was an incredibly important role. There existed almost no standardized education which was accessible to most people, so those who were able to learn to read and write possessed a rare skill which was vital for every civil, religious, or financial related occupation. Scribes were held in high regard all over the world because of the essential function they provided across complex civilized society. They could record financial transactions, copy religious texts, and help in the interpretation of legal decrees or official correspondence.

Jewish society was always quite unique in the ancient world as it emphasized a higher standard of literacy for purposes of religious observance as a rule more generally for its adherents than other religious systems of its time. While most of the Greco-Roman Pagan world had a working literacy rate of approx. 1-5% of its general population, Judeans in the first century could boast something closer to 5-10% (though estimates on this vary). Even with this raised rate of literacy, however, Judeans during the Second Temple period were still

incredibly reliant on Scribes as an essential educated class for everything literarily concerned from the mundane to the sacred.

It is in this context that we should understand the encounter of our Lord with the paralytic man. While being a Scribe did not necessarily entitle one to be a de facto authority on religious observance/scriptural interpretation, most people would have understood that the learned opinion of a man who was skilled with letters, like a Scribe, carried more authoritative weight than the opinion of the common rabble. The opinion of the Scribes towards Christ's comment, "Your sins are forgiven," as blasphemous would have been taken very seriously, especially at a time when the charge of blasphemy carried with it the connotation of a capital offence which demanded capital punishment as a necessary response.

For most of us, to be accused of something so heinous would prompt us to rush to a well-articulated defense. We might back pedal, try to refine our position, or even appeal to find someone more learned to come to our defense. Christ, on the other hand, demonstrates a deftness of wisdom which shut down all argument which could have been leveled against Him, especially from the mouths of the Scribes, who could boast a great amount of academic and theoretical knowledge but not much in the way of practical application. Our Lord commands the paralytic to stand and to walk, working a miracle which even today would astound and amaze. By making the paralytic to walk, He proved that He was the One who had the power to forgive sins.

We can often fall back on the opinion of "experts" when we are faced with new and challenging circumstances. But while it is good to turn to those who have worked hard to cultivate knowledge in their respective fields, we must also be attentive to their results. Our faith very often promotes teachings which can come across as crazy, unlikely, or even offensive to conventional sensibilities, but when we see the efficacy of God's providence in those precepts, it should force us to have hope and grow in faith.

Christ has the power to forgive of us of our sins, to heal us of our infirmities, and to give us motion in soul and body when we are frozen. In this confidence St. Paul encourages us to love sincerely, detest evil, and cling to goodness. We should not fear to act in the spirit of sacrificial love, to live in repentance, and to strive for justice and righteousness according to the unique call which God has given every one of us. We should not fear to live the Sermon on the Mount nor to be an embodiment of a Christ-like life, because it is Christ who teaches it, and it is Christ who does so teach with an unmatched authority, an impeccable perspective, a fathomless experience, and with a practical place which surpasses the "experts" of every age.

