

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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SUNDAY: OCTOBER 15, 2023

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Schedule of Divine Services

Sunday, Oct. 15: Sunday of the Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

10-10:45am Confessions, 10:23am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00 am Divine Liturgy

For Dolores Bacasa in honor of her 85th Birthday by Joseph Basaca

Monday, Oct 16: 11am Confessions through Campus Ministry

6pm Confessions, 7pm Divine Liturgy (shifted due to Father's travels)

In memory of Sam Meredith Sr. with Panachida by Mary Anne Meredith

Friday, Oct 20: 7pm Daily Vespers - Reader's Service

Saturday, Oct 21: 7pm Great Vespers - Reader's Service

Sunday, Oct. 22: Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

10-10:45am Confessions, 10:23am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00 am Divine Liturgy

For George Carr on the second anniversary of his passing, by Theresa Carr

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.

DEANERY PASTA DINNER TODAY: 3pm at St. Elias in Munhall.

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.

PLEASE NOTE: Father Michael and family will be out of town Friday through Monday visiting family.

AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY: The message of the Good News of salvation can be received with mixed responses by various people, and this is vividly demonstrated in Luke's gospel as Jesus relates a parable about the planting of seeds. In his epistle message, the Holy Apostle Paul accentuates the paramount role that FAITH in the Lord Jesus must play in our daily lives if we are to implement the gospel's teachings and then live by these standards.

~~~~~Our theme for this Twentieth Sunday after Holy Pentecost accentuates the UNSELFISH LOVE that is to characterize the interpersonal actions of Jesus' true followers. The observance relative to the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Nicean Ecumenical Council focuses our attention upon the deposit of the TRUE FAITH of the Church and how it is to be preserved, practiced, and transmitted. As love increases, faith becomes more fervent and truly dynamic. Genuine faith will influence every aspect of our lives.

**EPISTLE: Galatians 1:11-19**

Brethren: I assure you, the gospel I proclaimed to you is no mere human invention. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I schooled in it. It came by revelation from Jesus Christ. You have heard, I know, the story of my former way of life in Judaism. You know that I went to extremes in persecuting the Church of God and tried to destroy it; I made progress in Jewish observance far beyond most of my contemporaries, in my excess of zeal to live out all the traditions of my ancestors.

But the time came when he who had set me apart before I was born and called me by his favor chose to reveal his Son to me, that I might spread among the Gentiles the good tidings concerning him. Immediately, without seeking human advisers or even going to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before me, I went off to Arabia; later I returned to Damascus. Three years after that I went up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, with whom I stayed fifteen days. I did not meet any other apostles except James, the brother of the Lord.

**Hebrews 13:7-16 (for the Feast):** Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange

teaching. It is good to have our hearts strengthened by grace and not by foods, which do not benefit those who live by them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. The bodies of the animals whose blood the high priest brings into the sanctuary as a sin offering are burned outside the camp. Therefore, Jesus also suffered outside the gate, to consecrate the people by his own blood. Let us then go to him outside the camp, bearing the reproach that he bore. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him [then] let us continually offer God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have; God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind.

~~~~~In beginning his letter to the Christians of the church at Galatia, the Holy Apostle Paul presents his credentials in order to verify that he is a true messenger of the Good News concerning the redemption achieved by the Lord Jesus. In making this point, Paul thus seeks to establish the authenticity of his apostleship. He tells the Galatians that the gospel message which he is preaching came to him as a direct revelation from Jesus Himself. Paul's teachings about the Good News of salvation therefore bear the mark of DIVINE AUTHORITY, for his apostolic ministry is firmly founded upon this authority which comes directly from Christ. The central message of Paul's preaching ministry is that Jesus is the Son of God, Who became Man for our salvation. He died for our sins upon the wood of the cross and then resurrected in glory, thereby giving us access to everlasting life. To this very day, the Church, which is the Mystical Body of Christ continues to expound this gospel message, instructing the People of God about their eternal salvation. The Church perpetuates this ministry by virtue of that same divine authority that comes specifically from Almighty God Himself.

GOSPEL: Luke 8:5-15

A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear. Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. He answered, "Knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of God has been granted to you; but to the rest, they are made known through parables so that 'they may look but not see, and hear but not understand. This is the meaning of the parable. The seed is the word of God. Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of trial. As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.

John 17:1-13 (for the Feast): When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely."

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