

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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SUNDAY: MAY 21, 2023
SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Schedule of Divine Services

Sunday, May 21: 10:20am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00 am Divine Liturgy

For the deceased George Batko on the 25th Anniversary of his passing, by
Stephanie Yovino & the Ellsworth Family

Monday, May 22: 10am Confessions through Campus Ministry
6pm Confessions, 7pm Daily Vespers

Friday, May 26: 6pm Confessions, 7pm Divine Liturgy
For the intention of Juliet Golob in honor of her birthday, by Janine Kunitz

Saturday, May 27: THE FIFTH ALL SOULS SATURDAY
10AM Divine Liturgy
6pm Confessions, 7pm Great Vespers

Sunday, May 28: PENTECOST SUNDAY

10:20am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00 am Divine Liturgy
For the intentions of the Parish – Followed by Patronal Feast Day Celebration

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.

SUMMER SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE – STARTING SUNDAY, JUNE 3:

St. Pius: 3:30pm Confessions, 4:30pm Great Vespers, 5:30pm Divine Liturgy

Holy Spirit: 8-8:45am Confessions, 8:23am Rosary, 8:45am 3rd Hour, 9:00 am Divine Liturgy

PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO Saturday vespers at Holy Spirit over the summer.

PARISH MEETING: will be in the parish hall on Sunday, June 4th following the Divine Liturgy. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

THE APOSTLES FAST: will begin on June 5th and last until June 28th.
Please consider a fitting penance with your spiritual director or Fr. Michael.

AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY The commemoration of the First-Nicaean Council-Fathers reminds us of our obligation to PRESERVE THE FAITH, the religious patrimony entrusted to us. In His priestly prayer, Jesus prays for those given this sacred trust, and Paul exhorts the Ephesian presbyters to be mindful of this solemn duty. As current followers of Christ, we all share the responsibility of preserving and transmitting the deposit of our holy faith.

1ST READING: *Acts 20: 16-18 & 28-38*

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so as to not lose time in Asia, for he was eager to get Jerusalem by the feast of Pentecost if at all possible. Paul sent word from Miletus to Ephesus, summoning the presbyters of that church. When they came to him, he delivered his address:

“Keep watch over yourselves, and over the whole flock the Holy Spirit has given you to guard. Shepherd the church of God, which he has acquired at the price of his own blood. I know that when I am gone, savage wolves will come among you who will not spare the flock. From your own number, men will present themselves distorting the truth and leading astray any who follow them. Be on guard, therefore. Do not forget that for three years, night and day, I never ceased warning you individually even to the point of tears. I commend you now to the Lord, and to that gracious word of his which can enlarge you, and give you a share among all who are consecrated to him. Never did I set my heart on anyone's silver or gold or envy the way he dressed. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have served both my needs and those of my companions. I have always pointed out to you that it is by such hard work that you must help the weak. You need to recall the words of the Lord Jesus himself, who said, ‘There is more happiness in giving than receiving.’”

After this discourse, Paul knelt down with them all and prayed. They began to weep without restraint, throwing their arms around him and kissing him, for they were deeply distressed to hear that they would never see his face again. Then they escorted him to the ship.

~~~~~In our reading for today from The Acts of the Holy Apostles, the Holy Evangelist Luke reports how Paul, after his missionary endeavors in Asia, was hurrying now to be at Jerusalem for the observance of Holy Pentecost. At Miletus in Asia Minor, Paul met with the presbyters (priests) who were from Ephesus, which was nearby. The Holy Apostle Paul's moving message delivered to the elders of the Ephesian Church is thus recounted. He charges them to fulfill their solemn duty to PRESERVE THE FAITH over which they have been placed as sacred guardians. Paul exhorts these shepherds of the Church of God to take seriously their responsibility to cherish and transmit the faith intact and to guard it from those who would distort the truth and then, through corrupt and perverse teachings, lead others astray. Paul's message rings true even for us today. We must ever protect and preserve the deposit of the True Faith of Christ!

**GOSPEL:** *John 17: 1-13*

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.”

~~~~~The Holy Evangelist John presents us with Jesus' priestly prayer for His disciples, present and future. This prayer is offered by our Lord to His Heavenly Father for all of His followers in order that they would PRESERVE THE FAITH which He taught and which has been transmitted by His holy Church. In a specific way, Jesus is praying for His apostles and their successors. In general, however, He is praying for all of us "who belong to Him." For we, as true-believing Christians, are Jesus' modern-day disciples who still continue His work in our space-age world. The Lord provides for the welfare of His Church by choosing leaders—present-day apostles—who carry-on the preaching of the Good News of salvation, calling the whole of mankind to the New Life achieved by the risen and glorified Savior. These servants of today's Church are the bishops, priests, and other orders of the clergy. These men belong to Jesus in a unique and specific way. They are committed to follow in His footsteps, continuing His divine mission in the world.

SPIRITUAL OBLIGATION OF CONFESSION & COMMUNION: EASTER DUTY

In order to be a practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church, we are obligated to receive the two sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist at this designated season. This precept of the Church is called the EASTER DUTY, and the period for its fulfillment extends from the beginning of the Great Fast up until Pentecost Sunday. The Canon Law of the Church mandates that we make a worthy CONFESSION and then receive the real Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in HOLY COMMUNION during this sacred season. If someone hasn't already complied with this requirement of the Law of the Church, do not delay in going to Holy Confession and then receiving Holy Communion.

PATRONAL FEASTDAY CELEBRATION SLATED FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY:

We will honor the patronal feast day of our church with a **Pentecost Day Dinner on Sunday, May 28th**. The Solemn Pentecostal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 11am, with a festive Pentecost Dinner in the Church auditorium. We ask that each parishioner bring a special dish for the dinner. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. In this year of 2023, we also are observing the **116th Anniversary of the founding of Holy Spirit Parish, which took place in the year 1907**. As we celebrate a century-plus-sixteen years of our parish's existence, let us pray to God on our patronal feast day for His continued blessings!

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