

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Altar Servers: Sdn . Raphael Ruggiero and
Emanuel Revilak

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, September 25: 10:45am Third Hour, 11am Divine Liturgy

for the deceased Carmella Fello by Priscilla Fello

4pm Confession, 5pm Divine Liturgy

Monday, September 26: Noon, Sixth Hour ~ 4:30pm Confessions, 5:30pm Vespers

Friday, September 30: Vigil for the Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos

4pm Confessions, 5pm Great Vespers with Litja

6pm Divine Liturgy

Saturday, October 1: 5:30 Great Vespers

Sunday, October 2: 10:45am Third Hour, 11am Divine Liturgy

for the deceased Magdaline Carr by Theresa Carr

4pm Confession, 5pm Divine Liturgy

Note: Father Michael will be at the annual Clergy Retreat after Liturgy 10/2 and will return 10/6.

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.

FIRST YOUTH EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASS: 9/27, 5:30 PM, HOLY SPIRIT

Catechism classes will be offered two Tuesdays a month starting at the end of September. This is open to all youth in grades Kindergarten through 12. This is a valuable opportunity to enrich the lives of our children, whether they are at a public school that does not teach religion, or at a Catholic school that does not understand what makes our tradition unique. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Fr. Michael.

Pope Francis' Advice for a Happier Life: "Be giving of yourself to others." People need to be open and generous to others because "if you withdraw into yourself, you run the risk of becoming egocentric. And stagnant water becomes putrid."

CAMPUS MINISTRY- The Archdiocese is starting a new campus ministry. If you know any college students in the Pittsburgh area, please give their names to Fr. Michael. If you are a college student, welcome! More information can be found on Facebook @ByzCatholic , or you are welcome to ask Fr. Michael.

UNDER THE PROTECTING VEIL OF OUR HEAVENLY MOTHER.....

On Saturday, as we begin this beautiful month of October, its Marian theme is established as we celebrate this solemn feast of our Heavenly Mother's indomitable protection that she mediates in our behalf before the celestial throne of her Divine Spouse—God the Holy Spirit. We beseech the All-Glorious Mother of God to shelter us always beneath her honorable protecting veil—her precious pokrov—in order that we may never become the spiritual fodder for our mortal enemy and interminable adversary, the devil and his demonic minions. As a tribute to the Most Holy Godbearer, the Ever-Glorious Queen of Heaven, the Church encourages us to pray the Holy Rosary every day. We solicit the maternal assistance of the Holy Protectress of Life to aid us in our resolve to emphasize the sacredness of LIFE in all of its stages from normal conception to natural death. O Virgin and Mother of Life: intercede in our behalf!

EPISTLE: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says: "In an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We cause no one to stumble in anything, in order that no fault may be found with our ministry; on the contrary, in everything we commend ourselves as ministers of God, through much endurance, in afflictions, hardships, constraints, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, vigils, fasts; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, in a holy spirit, in unfeigned love, in truthful speech, in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness at the right and at the left; through glory and dishonor, insult and praise. We are treated as deceivers and yet are truthful; as unrecognized and yet acknowledged; as dying and behold we live; as chastised and yet not put to death; as sorrowful yet always rejoicing; as poor yet enriching many; as having nothing and yet possessing all things.

GOSPEL: Luke 5:1-11

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him

Reflection From St. John Chrysostom: Homily 12, on 2 Corinthians

Now these things he says, to instruct us not to be disturbed at the opinions of the many, though they call us deceivers, though they know us not, though they count us condemned, and appointed unto death, to be in sorrow, to be in poverty, to have nothing, to be (us, who are in cheerfulness) desponding: because that the sun even is not clear to the blind, nor the pleasure of the sane intelligible to the mad. For the faithful only are right judges of these matters, and are not pleased and pained at the same things as other people.

For if any one who knew nothing of the games were to see a boxer, having wounds upon him and wearing a crown; he would think him in pain on account of the wounds, not understanding the pleasure the crown would give him. And these therefore, because they know what we suffer but do not know for what we suffer them, naturally suspect that there is nought besides these; for they see indeed the wrestling and the dangers, but not the prizes and the crowns and the subject of the contest.

What then were the all things which Paul possessed, when he said, "As having nothing, and yet possessing all things?" Things temporal, things spiritual. For he whom the cities received as an angel, for whom they would have plucked out their own eyes and have given them to him, (*Galatians 4:14-15*) he for whom they laid down their own necks, how had he not all things that were theirs? (*Romans 16:4*) But if you desire to see the spiritual also, you will find him in these things also especially rich. For he that was so dear to the King of all as even to share in unspeakable things with the Lord of the angels, (*2 Corinthians 12:4*) how was not he more opulent than all men, and had all things? Devils had not else been so subject to him, suffering and disease had not so fled away.

And let us therefore, when we suffer anything for Christ's sake, not merely bear it nobly but also rejoice. If we fast, let us leap for joy as if enjoying luxury; if we be insulted, let us dance as if praised; if we spend, let us feel as if gaining; if we bestow on the poor, let us count ourselves to receive: for he that gives not thus will not give readily. When then you have a mind to scatter abroad, look not at this only in almsgiving, but also in every kind of virtue, compute not alone the severity of the toils, but also the sweetness of the prizes; and before all the subjects of this wrestling, our Lord Jesus; and you will readily enter upon the contest, and will live the whole time in pleasure. For nothing is wont so to cause pleasure as a good conscience.

Citation for this week's reflection: Translated by Talbot W. Chambers. From Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, First Series, Vol. 12. Edited by Philip Schaff. (Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Publishing Co., 1889.) Revised and edited for New Advent by Kevin Knight. <<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/220212.htm>>.

HOLY DAY ON SATURDAY: THE NOBLE PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

The Feast of the Blessed PROTECTION of the Most Holy Godbearer will be observed solemnly on Saturday, October 1st. This major Marian holy day commemorates the historical events that occurred in 903 A.D. in the Byzantine Empire's capital city of Constantinople. A terrible epidemic afflicted the people and was decimating the population. Furthermore as the plague raged, Mohammedan hordes were preparing to launch their decisive battle against the faltering Christians and thus destroy the Byzantine Empire. The terror-stricken faithful gathered in the Church of the Most Holy Mother of God, situated in the suburb of Blachernae. It was in this very Church that the venerable robe of the Most Holy Virgin Mary was preserved from ancient times. The people fervently implored their Heavenly Mother to intercede with God in their behalf. After several hours of intensive prayer throughout the night, the Most Holy Godbearer appeared in a vision, extending her precious VEIL over the people as a symbolic gesture of her PROTECTION that she was to give them. Following this protection-event, the plague ceased immediately, and at daybreak the Christian soldiers defeated the Moslems and saved the city of Constantinople. In the Byzantine Catholic tradition, the Most Pure Virgin Mary is called "the steadfast protectress of Christians," and with the protection feast, the Church continues to accentuate the ever-constant help that our Heavenly Mother always will provide when asked. The Holy Protection is the patronal feast of our Byzantine Catholic Metropolia in the United States. Let us beseech the Most Holy Mother of God to continue to watch over us Byzantine Catholics and to cover us with her pokrov—her protecting veil—as she provides all of us with her heavenly maternal protection! "O Most Holy Godbearer, save us!"

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 Ave., 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

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE HOUSE OF PRAYER

Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer, 510 W. Main St., Uniontown PA. To register for programs or for more information, call (724) 438-7149 or email hpmsm@verizon.net

6:30-8pm, Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and Nov 7

Monday Evening Reading Series (In Person): "Developing Boundless Compassion," using the book Boundless Compassion: Creating a Way of Life by Sr. Joyce Rupp. Guides: Sr. Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OBSM, and Fr. Jo Ann Jankoski, D.Ed, LCMSW, MS, CCTP. **Registration due Sept. 26.** Scholarships available.

10-11:30am, Oct 15

Saturday Morning Reflection (In Person): "Mary and Eve: Two Women in God's Plan for Salvation". Hosted by Helenanne Hochendoner, MAT. **Registration due Oct. 8.**