



ST. GEORGE'S DIVINE SERVICES

Saturday, July 25 **Dormition of Anna**
Readings: Gal. 4:22-31; Lk. 8:16-21
11:00 A.M. Baptism
4:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (St. John, McKees Rocks)

Sunday, July 26 **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**
Readings: 1 Cor. 3:9-17; Mt. 14:22-34
9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy
Birthday blessing upon Inna Hohosha, by parishioners
Supplications will be offered for+ **Michael Senko, given by Andy Salo**

Saturday, Aug. 1 **The Holy Priest-Martyr Hermolaus,**
***Beginning of the** Readings: 1 Cor. 4:9-16; Mt. 17:14-23
Dormition Fast* **4:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (St. John, McKees Rocks)**

Sunday, Aug. 2 **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**
Readings: 1 Cor. 4:9-16; Mt. 17:14-23
9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy
Supplications will be offered for+ **Stella Novak, +Robert Novak and + Bill Novak,**
given by family

Eternal Candle:

Blessed Memory of +Dan Spikula requested by Mark Spikula.

Jesus came to the disciples when they needed Him. He will come to you when you need Him, too.

Finish this poem by filling in the blanks with words from the list. You will use each word only once.

you	hand	fear	ahead	believe
come	heart	boat	still	inside

"Take heart, have no _____,"
the Lord Jesus said
To his friends in the _____
in the waves up _____.

"I am coming to help you;
I give you my _____.
Have faith and _____,
and you'll soon be to land.

"The waves will be _____;
the winds will subside.
My caring and love
you can feel deep _____.

"I'll always be with _____,
and when stormy times start,
Invite me to _____,
and to stay in your _____."

Don't Drown in a Sea of Despair (continue...)

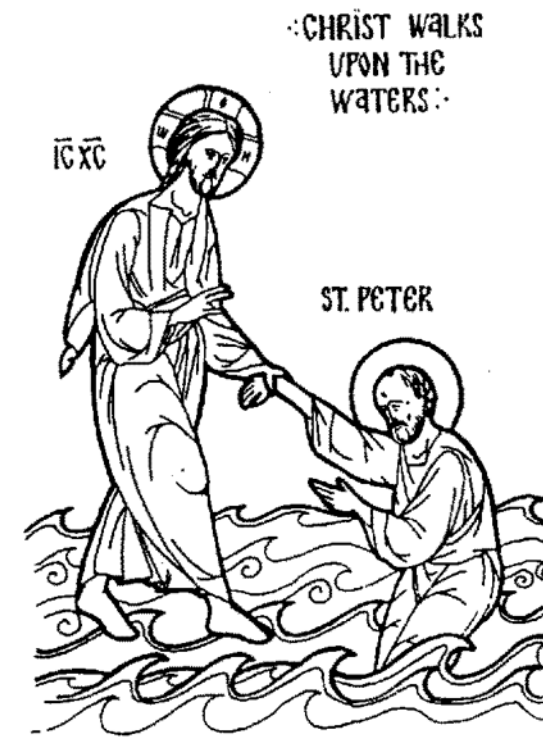
As St. Paul taught, “no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” No one and nothing else can have that place in our lives, for to ground our existence elsewhere is to commit idolatry. No matter how virtuous or appealing any project or ideal of this world may appear, it cannot keep us from sinking under the weight of our own sins. The darkness roots so deeply within us all, both personally and collectively, and nothing but the brilliant glory of the Lord can overcome it. Whether we know it or not, we inevitably sink like stones into the abyss whenever we make the foundation of our lives anything or anyone else than the One Who has conquered death itself. All good things have their place in God’s creation and we should despise none of them, but we will not fully embrace the healing of the New Adam until we ground every dimension of our life on Him, our one true foundation.

As St. Paul teaches, we are by no means self-made, self-sustaining, or self-defining. Our true identity is not determined by any merely human accomplishment, ability, or affiliation. Instead, “we are God’s fellow workers...God’s field, God’s building...God’s temple... God’s Spirit dwells in you.” Christ has made us members of His own Body, the Church. The very foundation of our life, of our identity, and of our hope is in Him, not in our achievements, possessions, characteristics, or inclinations. In order to avoid sinking like stones amidst the raging seas of our passions, we must mindfully turn away from whatever tempts us to reject our true vocation to become ever more beautiful living icons of God. If we surrender to those temptations, we will become just like Peter in being so overwhelmed by the wind and waves of worry and fear that we will turn our focus away from Christ.

Let us, then, remain constantly on guard against the temptation to entrust the meaning and purpose of our lives to anything or anyone other than the Lord. There is no way to do that without cultivating the habits of daily prayer and mindful protection of our hearts from embracing thoughts and desires that fuel our passions. The next time that you start sinking in the winds and waves, focus your attention on Him, as Peter did, saying “Lord, save me!” He alone can raise us up from drowning in the sea of our passions. We also must not pretend that we are so strong spiritually that we can simply wait until there is a crisis; no, we must attend to the health of our souls every day. We all remain too weak before our passions to focus fully on “the one thing needful” of hearing and obeying the Word of God.

We should all take a close look at our lives and identify the habits of thought, word, and deed that keep us so distracted, confused, and weak that we easily sink like stones under their weight. We need to build new habits to replace them. Instead of worrying about the future or despairing about matters beyond our control in the world, we should devote our attention to grounding ourselves on Christ in the present and to serving Him in our neighbors who need our assistance and companionship. If we remain so grounded on our one true foundation, we will never drown in the sea of despair.

Homily for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, Fr. Philip LeMasters, posted August 9, 2025



July 26, 2026

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost,
The Holy Priest-Martyr
Hermolaus and Those with
Him; The Holy Venerable-
Martyr Parasceve**

Octoechos Tone 8

Changeable Part: See the special insert
available in the church vestibule.

Announcement:

Dormition Fast

On Saturday, August 1st, we will begin in our Holy Church the Dormition Fast-“Spasiwka”. This Fast begins August 1st and ends on August 14th, and is a time of preparation for the Feast of the Dormition-Falling Asleep of the Mother of God. During this Dormition Fast-Spasiwka, plan to also attend the special Divine Services, honoring the Most Holy Theotokos.

RULES FOR AUGUST 1 TO AUGUST 14 THE DORMITION FAST - SPASEEVKA

The Dormition Fast, or Spaseevka in ukrainian, begins on the evening of August 1, 2015, after Vespers and will last until August 14, inclusive. **THE TYPICON PRESCRIBES PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING (WORKS OF MERCY). IN THE EPARCHY OF ST. JOSAPHAT, ALONE, WE ARE CURRENTLY OBLIGATED TO DO ANY KIND OF ACTS OF PENANCE (ABSTAINING FROM MEAT IS ONE OF THE POSSIBLE CHOICES) ON FRIDAYS AND ENCOURAGED TO DO ACTS OF PENANCE ON WEDNESDAYS AND ALL OTHER WEEKDAYS; ALL OTHER FASTING MAY BE CHOSEN ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.**

New Altar Server:

We welcome our new altar server, Caroline Manasterski. Caroline has been attending St. George with her father, Greg and her sister, Tara, our cantor. We are so pleased to have Caroline support our divine liturgy.

Pyrohy Production:

To prepare for A Taste of Pittsburgh Folk Festival, we plan to have a pyrohy session on Wednesday, July 29th. Production will start at 9:00 am. Our goal is to make a full batch of potato/cheese in the hopes that we sell out at the Folk Festival on August 1, 2026 which is being held at Our Lady of Victory Church in Beechview.

A Taste of Pittsburgh Folk Festival:

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, August 1 from 11 am to 7pm**. We have an opportunity to sell our delicious pyrohy at “A Taste of Pittsburgh Folk Festival” which is coming to Pittsburgh at Our Lady of Victory Church in Beechview. This will be a one-day event on Saturday, August 1st and includes many different ethnic food vendors, dancers and exhibits. St. George will be participating and we plan to sell pyrohy, stuffed cabbage and kielbasa and sauerkraut sandwiches. This is our first time participating in a festival in many years. We are excited as we have the opportunity to sell our delicious pyrohy during the slow months of the summer. There is going to be some costs associated with this event such as permits, supplies, vendor fees, banner, etc. We are calling on our wonderful St. George family to see if anyone would like to be a sponsor to support this event. We’ve had some recent unexpected expenditures at church with the tower and the boiler repairs and we are hopeful that this event will be a success to help offset some of these expenses. If you are interested in donating any amount, it would be very much appreciated. For any donation of \$25 or more, you will get a “free” admission ticket into the event.

Pilgrimage:

Earlier in the year, we had mentioned that some of our parishioners have expressed interest in deepening their spiritual faith by visiting a shrine. We are pleased to offer this opportunity on Saturday, August 15, 2026 in conjunction with the Feast of Assumption at the Basilica of Our Lady of Lebanon in North Jackson, OH. The shrine is about an hour and a half drive from church and this will be planned as a one-day trip. We are planning to carpool.

Parishioner’s Prayer List: Our parish’s listing for people IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS who might be suffering illnesses – especially, but not only, if they are unable to attend church services because they are shut-in either at home, or in hospitals and nursing homes. The names we have received are: Barbara Fedora, Thomas Kunsak, Kathee Shabla, Dorothy Waslo and Msgr. George Appleyard (The Willows, 1215 Hulton Rd, Oakmont, PA 15139).

Collection- May God bless you...

The total for Sunday of July 19, 2026 was **\$832.00**
(Collection: \$540.00, Pyrohy: \$165.00, Loose & candles: \$52.00, Folk festival donations: \$240.00)

Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!



Don't Drown in a Sea of Despair

Matthew 14:22-34

It is so easy for us today to become so focused on our worries and fears that we start to sink into a deep sea of despair. We live in a time of almost constant distraction in which we are bombarded with images and messages that make us anxious, angry, and depressed. We have been formed to ground our sense of wellbeing in serving cultural standards of success, including what we possess, how we look, and whether national events are unfolding in ways that we like. If the horizons of our hope extend no further than that, then we will

never have any true peace in our souls.

Today’s gospel provides a vivid example of what happens when we attempt to ground ourselves on the weak foundation of such illusions. St. Peter began to sink like a stone in a raging sea when he turned his focus away from the Lord to fear about where he stood in relation to the wind and the waves. By his own nature, there was simply no way that Peter could have avoided drowning, so he called out “Lord, save me!” And so the Savior did, by reaching out to Peter as He said, “O man of little faith, why did you doubt?” The stress of the storm revealed the weakness of Peter’s faith, which is not surprising because he had gotten himself into this situation by foolishly putting Christ to the test, saying “Lord, if it is You, bid me come to You on the water.” By his lack of humble trust, Peter literally got himself in well over his head. He had to learn the hard way that he had no other foundation, no other basis or hope for his life, than Jesus Christ. If left to his own devices, he would have sunk like a stone to a watery grave.

That is a destination completely different from the one to which our Lord calls us. The God-Man came to do nothing less than to transfigure us in holiness with His gracious divine energies. While we remain human beings by nature, Christ enables us to become like Him by our personal participation in His grace. We must not pretend to be isolated individuals looking for fulfillment in the conventional terms of this world, for Christ calls us to become persons united in love with Him and fellow members His Body, the Church. Such uniting love should transform our relationships with everyone we encounter and overcome all merely human divisions that do nothing but enslave people even further to their passions. We become more fully our true selves not in self-centered isolation or by identifying with divisive factions against other groups, but through growing in loving relationship with all who bear His image and likeness.

The contrast between humanity seeking fulfillment on its own terms and our Savior’s restoration and fulfillment of the human person is starker than the difference between night and day. It is truly the difference between death and life, between sinking to the bottom of a dark sea of sin and becoming resplendent with the radiant glory of God. When we call out to Him with faith from the depths of our hearts, as Peter did when he began to sink, He will illumine our darkened souls to receive His healing light.