



ST. GEORGE'S DIVINE SERVICES

Saturday, Aug. 15

The Dormition of the Mother of God

Readings: 1 Cor. 15:1-11; Mt. 19:16-26

2:00 P.M. Wedding (St. George)

4:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (St. John, McKees Rocks)

Sunday, Aug. 16

Twelve Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: 1 Cor. 9:2-12; Mt. 18:23-35

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy/ Blessing of the Flowers

Supplications will be offered for+ **Petro Hodowanec**, given by Oleh & Motria

Supplications will be offered for+ **Joseph & +Pavlina Hamracej**,
given by Pyptyk's

Saturday, Aug. 22

The Holy Priest-Martyr Irenaeus of Lyon

Readings: 1 Cor. 16:13-24; Mt. 21:33-42

4:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy

Sunday, Aug. 23

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: 1 Cor. 16:13-24; Mt. 21:33-4

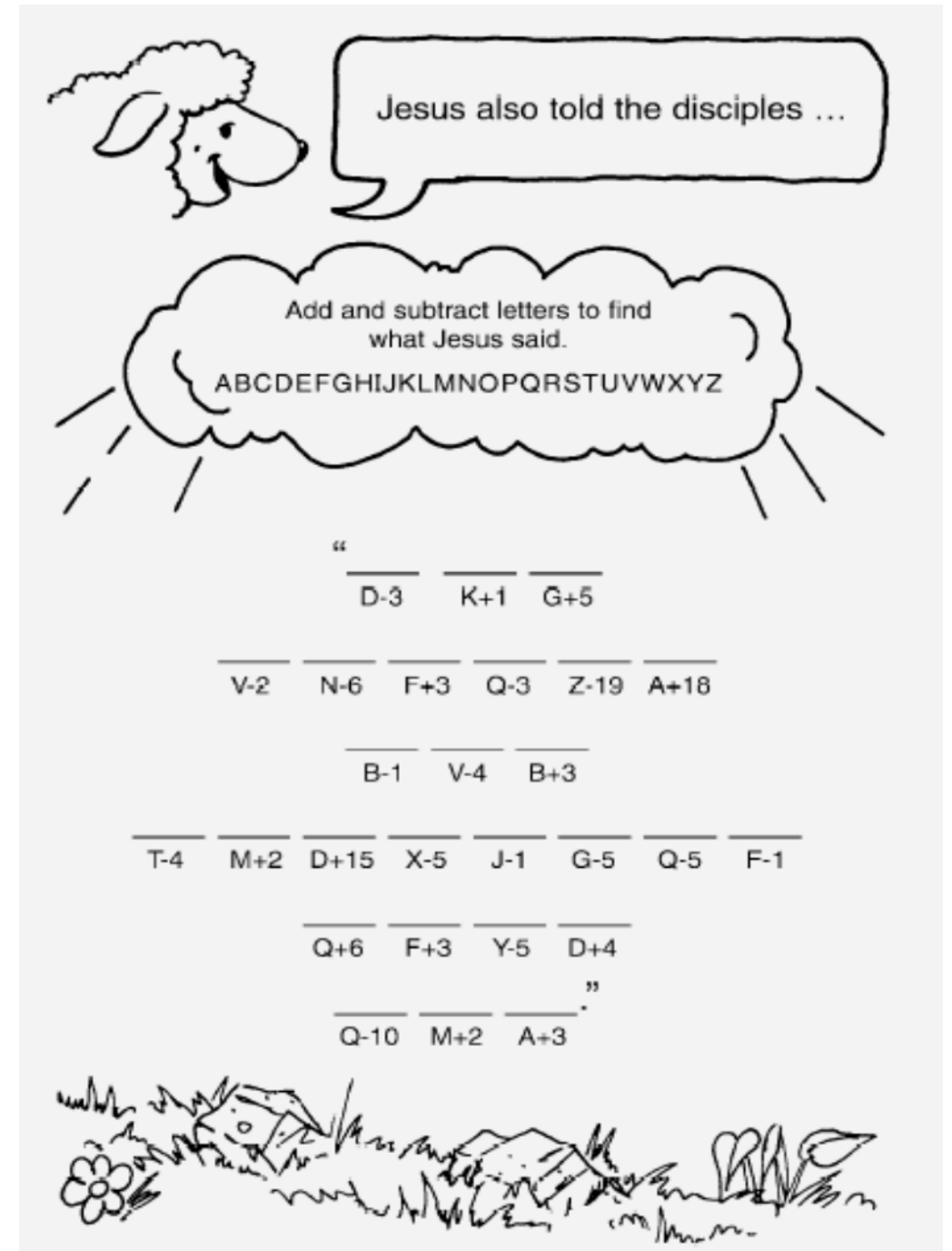
9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

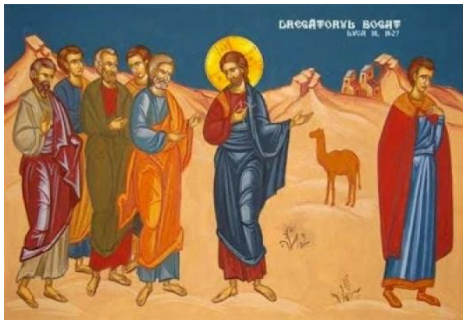
Supplications will be offered for+ **Eva Salo**, given by Andrew Salo

Supplications will be offered for+ **Michael Senko**, given by Victoria Senko

Eternal Candle:

Blessed Memory of +Nancy Spikula requested by Mark Spikula.





Letting Go Into Heaven -- St. Matthew. (19:16-26)

Today a rich, young man – a man who had all the material possessions he needed and all the religious pedigree possible according to the Law – approaches Jesus with a question: “What must I do to have eternal life?” He knew the answer Jesus would give (at least part of it). The Lord goes down a short list of the Ten Commandments. This is the law both of them knew

very well.

The Rich Young Man, while sure of his compliance, went on to ask, “What then do I lack?” Evidently, he felt something was missing; perhaps he had begun to recognize that in spite of his riches, he was poor. Then Jesus gets to the point, “Sell your possessions, give to the poor and come follow me.”

What stood in the way of the young man’s eternal life was his attachment to his riches. As we learn later, he would not be able to let go of it. An attachment is something we believe we cannot live without and be secure and happy. But there is not one attachment that lasts beyond death. The happiness they offer is fleeting. The security they offer is a delusion. To have eternal life we must let go of temporal attachments and place our faith in things that are eternal. “Follow me,” is an invitation for the young man to do this.

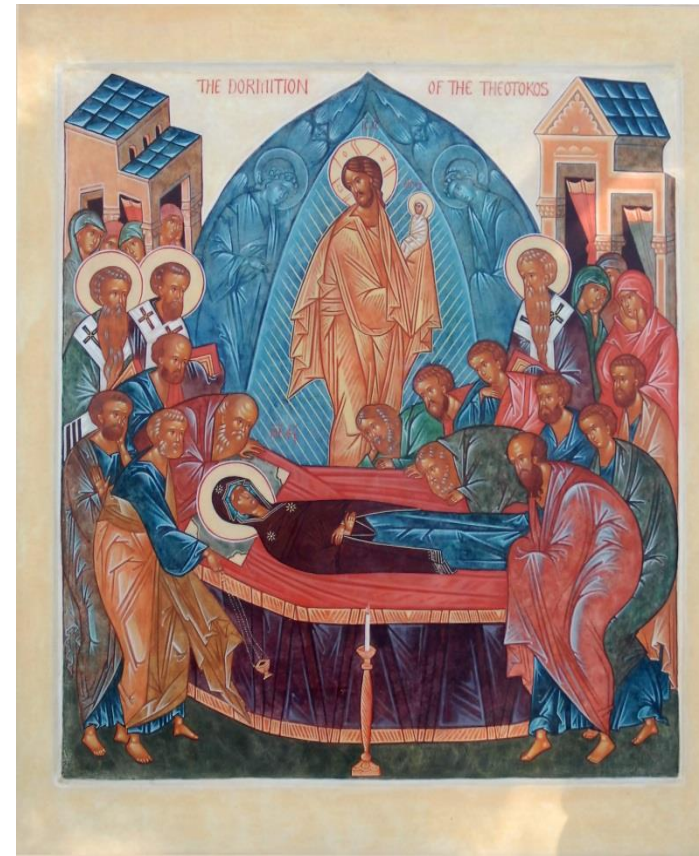
Jesus asked him to let go of his riches and take a flying leap into the unknown – an act that seems foolish, especially to our modern capitalist and consumer driven minds. But foolish is precisely what faith looks like to those who are attached to the false idea that there is any security in this world that can possibly be found. Why? Because death awaits us all, and possessions are subject to “moth and rust.”

Jesus wants the Rich Young Man to be reborn, to see clearly the cause of his ignorance, to put his attachments aside and follow him. He wants to show him a new way of life. He wants this for each one of us. Letting go of his riches would be for this young man like a spiritual baptism, from death to life, from slavery to freedom, from darkness to light, as it would be for us if we would do it. But he could not and went away sad just as we so often do.

It is necessary for us to look honestly at what we treasure the most, that is, what we think we cannot live without, what we think is the source of our security and happiness. If we are honest, we will see that all these things are fragile at best, passing away before our very eyes as everything temporal is. When all these things are stripped away, the clouds lift and then the light in us will dawn bright and clear.

When we discover that God has created us as light and to be light, and when we put away everything that diminishes or hides that light, the sun in the center of our souls will shine like a watch fire for the world to see.

Sermon (edited) preached by Fr. Antony Hughes, St. Mary Orthodox Church, Cambridge, MA; Sunday, August 31, 2014



August 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost, Post-feast of the Dormition; Transfer from Edessa to Constantinople of the Holy Icon “Not Made with Hands” of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, also Called the Holy Veil

Octoechos Tone 3

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

Announcement:

Congratulations!

As a parish family we offer our prayers and best wishes to the newlyweds Joseph and Jessica who were joined in Holy Matrimony at our Holy Church on Saturday, August 15th. May Our Lord bless you for many happy and blessed years!

Today: Blessing of flowers

As we continue to celebrate the Dormition of the Mother of God, we will have the Blessing of Flowers today, at the end of the Divine Liturgy. If you have brought flowers to be blessed on this special occasion, please place it in the center of the Church on the Tetrapod. Festal Anointing-Mirovanya will take place following the Dismissal.

Thank you!:

Thanks to Motria Hodowanec for ordering new pyrohy business cards for our customers. These cards come in handy and are used to pass out to current and potential customers.

St. George’s Parish Picnic

Please start marking your calendars for our St. George’s Parish Picnic which will take place on Sunday, September 21st following the Divine Liturgy. The picnic will be held on the parish grounds in front of the parish house. This will also be the official beginning of our new school year for our St. George’s Church School. Every year this has been a happy event for our parish family so please plan to be here, to have fun and to enjoy that Christian fellowship.

RaiseRight – Gift Cards with a Purpose:

Did you know that you can download the RaiseRight app on your phone and purchase gift cards for immediate use at a restaurant or store? There is also a local dining option that gives back 5% to St. George. See if your favorite restaurants are part of this program. Every gift card purchased helps St. George! You can set up an account easily at: <https://www.raiseright.com/> The St. George code is: M2MGCVH7NH2P. Please see Vicki Senko with any questions.

Welcome Back:

It was nice to have Alex Hladio back to cantor for us this past Sunday. He is back from Ukraine for the next year and we hope to see him at liturgy as his schedule permits.

Pyrohy:

With our success at the Taste of Pittsburgh Folk Festival, we are looking for ways to be creative on selling our delicious pyrohy. If you know of an event coming up or an organization that may be interested in purchasing our pyrohy, we would be happy to work with them. If so, please see Debbie Label, Patti Barr or Vicki Senko.

Again, a special thank you to Pittsburgh Folk Festival business sponsors:

- Ukrainian Selfliance of WPA Federal Credit union **(\$100.00)**
- Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home **(\$100.00)**

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 Aug. 9, 2026, was **\$736.00 + \$1,518.75**
(Collection: \$700.00, loose & candles: \$36.00, Folk Festival: \$736.75 and \$100.00 donation from Barbara Kunsak, Pyrohy: \$682.00)

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



Theological Reflection

In Matthew 19:16–26, Jesus encounters a rich young man asking, “What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” This question is not just about rules or rituals — it is about the soul’s hunger for God. The rich young man, though keeping the commandments, still senses a lack, a yearning that the Law alone cannot fill. This is a Gospel moment that speaks to every generation: the tension between what we have and what we truly need.

The Gospel places this teaching in the context of Jesus’ final instructions to his disciples before sending them out. It is a call to live simply, to trust in God’s provision, and to be free from the bondage of materialism. The rich young man’s inability to give up his wealth shows that possessions can become “idols”; we feel they are the measure of our worth and subsequently, the obstacle to true freedom.

Spiritual Application

Examine the Heart – The heart is the seat of our deepest affections. When we say, “I have kept the commandments,” we must also ask: “Have I kept the commandment to love God above all?” (Matthew 22:37–38)

Freedom from Possessions – Jesus’ teaching is not a call to poverty, but to liberation. True wealth is in the treasures of the Kingdom — God’s love, peace, and eternal life — not in bank accounts or possessions.

Trust in God’s Provision – The Gospel reminds us that God feeds us spiritually and physically. We are to nourish our souls with His Word and Sacraments, and to share our gifts with others.

Follow the Way of the Cross – Serving God means following Him, even when it costs us something.

Life Message

May we not be defined by what we own, but by what we give. May we not be bound by the fear of loss, but by the certainty of God’s love. In giving up what is ours for His sake, we find the true riches of the Kingdom — eternal life, peace, and communion with God.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You called on the rich young man to give up his wealth. Help me to give up what holds me back from You. May my heart be free, my life simple, and my love abundant. Amen.