



August 15, 2021

**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS**

Parish Schedule

- Aug. 14 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm**
+Michael Andrejko req by Mike & Shirley Andrejko
Blessing of Flowers, Plants & Herbs
- Aug. 15 (Sun) TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS**
Divine Liturgy 10:30am
+Fr. Thomas Schaefer
Blessing of Flowers, Plants & Herbs
- Aug. 21 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm**
+Douglas Liebel req by Janet Belleveau & David Yarosik
- Aug. 22 (Sun) THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
Divine Liturgy 10:30am
+Ruth Seech req by Ray Seech

The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of August 15 thru August 21 for + the deceased of our parish.



Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.



Tillie Abraham, Ron Bishop, George Bodnar, Jude Bodnar,
Pamela Seech Dawson, Steve Fekete, Margaret Gegick, Kevin Ianni,
Ted Race, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko Sr.

OUR TITHE TO OUR PARISH
August 8, 2021 - - - - - \$1,071.00

**87TH Annual Pilgrimage
in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

The Pilgrimage, Sunday, Sept. 5, 2021, will be a one day, in-person event and will also be streamed live.

All liturgical services will take place at the Shrine Altar.

Boxed lunches/snacks will be available for purchase during the pilgrimage.

Weather permitting, liturgical services will be broadcast at www.sistersofstbasil.org.

- 11 a.m. Divine Liturgy for Vocations
- 1:30p.m. Children's Procession
- 4 p.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
- 7 p.m. Parastas

THANK YOU FROM MA'S PANTRY

This week we received a kind *Thank You* letter from the folks at Ma's Pantry for the \$800.00 donations that we sent to them for the "Day of Giving." This was matched by the Pittsburgh Foundation, and they were able to meet their goal. In their letter, they included this note:

In February, not long after your gift in January, a bedraggled, rain-soaked, mentally ill, homeless woman dragged herself into MA's Pantry. She was living crouched up against a building in the pouring rain in North Versailles. She had not eaten for 3 days. She was drinking rain water. A service station attendant told her how to get to MA's Pantry. Among other help she got was food, warm clothing and more. You did it! I can tell you she was most grateful.

THE DANGER OF RICHES

*Better a little with fear of the Lord,
than a great fortune with anxiety.*
(Proverbs 15.16)

Throughout the Scriptures, from the Wisdom literature to the Gospels, we hear the constant refrain ... warning us against the danger of riches.

Of course, most of us would like to take refuge in the consoling thought that this does not concern us ... because we are not all that rich!!! ... nor will we ever be!



Yet, the nagging question persists ... what does Jesus mean in today's Gospel reading when he says that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God?

Is Jesus simply against riches? Does he want everyone just to be poor? If so ... who will reach out to help if everyone is poor?

Nowhere in the Scriptures does it imply that wealth or possessions are evil in themselves. In fact, we often pray for

"an abundance of the good gifts of the earth ... and for all that is necessary". Possessions in themselves are neither good nor bad.

Rather, it is *how we view them* that is important.

If we *put our trust* in what we possess ... if our possessions are so important to us that they overshadow our relationship with God and with others ... if what we own begins to *own us* ... then it is in the way.

It is when our possessions become a blockage in our vision of life and our relationships with others ... that they truly become a hindrance to our salvation. This is what Jesus asks people to let go of ... so that they may embrace a wholesome relationship with God.

FEAST OF THE HOLY DORMITION



*The heavenly choirs encircled your holy body in Zion
while the choir of apostles,
assembling from the ends of the earth,
stood beside you, O Theotokos.
Along with them,
we also honor your holy memory,
O most pure Virgin.*

What a wonderful picture of the church!

The choir of the holy apostles ... having been gathered from the ends of the earth ... are now assembled around the bier of the Mother of God ... and we the faithful here on earth ... are also gathered with them ... to sing hymns of praise in honor of the Virgin!

Thus, our Services are termed "divine" ... for it is the gathering of the church here on earth together with those who are already in heaven.

When we gather for worship in our church, it is not only the group of people here at St Stephen Church who come together for prayer. Rather, we join with the whole host of those who are already in the Kingdom of heaven ... the Communion of the Saints ... and our worship here on earth is a replication of the continual hymn of praise that is being sung in heaven.

On this feast of the Holy Dormition of the Theotokos, we are indeed joined with the choir of the apostles and all those who come together to sing hymns in honor of the falling asleep of the Virgin.

In our worship, we are lifted up beyond our ordinary existence ... we see with new eyes ... we hear with transformed ears ... and our hymns of praise not only honor the Virgin ... they also transform us.