



January 22, 2017

**36th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Divine Liturgy Schedule**

**Jan. 21 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm**

**Jan. 22 (Sun) 36th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**ECF Classes 9:00am**  
**Divine Liturgy 10:30am**

**Jan . 28 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm**

**Jan . 29 (Sun) Sunday of Zacchaeus**  
**ECF Classes 9:00am**  
**Divine Liturgy 10:30am**

**Jan. 30 (Mon) FEAST OF THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS**  
**Divine Liturgy 7:00pm**



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 Jan. 22 thru Jan. 28 for the health and welfare of all parishioners of St. Stephen.

**Our Tithe to our Church**

**January 15, 2017 — \$2,227.50**



*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.*

James Abraham, Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Rosella Busko, Marian Campbell, Ted Druga, John Fekete, Marie Klotz, Carl Magdic, Fran Mogush, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko, Maria Rusinko, Ed Suzina, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Cecelia Stephen, Margaret Weber, John Voron Sr.

**WELCOME**



This weekend we extend a very warm welcome to Fr Robert Pipta, the rector of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh. Fr Robert oversees the whole operation of the Seminary, the academics, the spiritual and liturgical life, the personal and pastoral formation as well as the administration and business of the Seminary. His presence among us reminds us that we should all be supporting the Seminary through our prayers and financial support.

The two seminarians, Miron and Paul, who are serving our parish this year, are fine examples of the type of men in the Seminary today and who will be the future leaders in our Church. Let us all remember them in prayer.



## POUSTINIA RETREAT

Okay ... what in the world is this? *Poustinia* is a Russian word that simply means *desert*. It is the most simple of retreats, but yet one of the most profound.

It is a time away where we are led into the desert much as the Israelites of old were led into the desert by the Lord. There they were completely dependent on him for food and for water, for the divine presence to keep them going. The People of God often looked back at this experience as the highlight of their life, the time of the most pristine relationship with God.

Before he began his public ministry, we are told that Jesus went into the desert for 40 days, and there he was totally dependent upon his relationship with his Father to sustain him.

In similar manner, Poustinia is a time away for us where we are introduced to this style of retreat and prayer. Then we are given 24 hours of total silence and solitude. Yes, we are left alone for 24 hours simply to be with the Lord. Our only companions are a Bible, and icon and a small loaf of bread and some water.

Does it sound a bit stark and even frightening? Absolutely, it is. And it is also the most intimate time that you will spend with the Lord. If your life seems to be fragile, scattered and without focus, this is the retreat for you.

It takes place at Mount Macrina House of Prayer, 24-26 February 2017, from 7:00 pm on Friday until 11:00 am on Sunday. Offering is \$75.00 and registration is due by 17 Feb 2017. Breakfast is provided on both Saturday and Sunday. For registration, please call 724.438.7149.



## THE BLIND BEGGAR

Have you ever watched a race such as a marathon or even the *Tour de France* with all the cyclists? Of course not all of us can participate in such events. But if we are interested in them, people often gather at the side of the road to cheer the participants on as they pass by.

Well, it was a bit like this in today's Gospel reading. Jesus and his disciples were going up to Jerusalem (where the shadow of the cross was already creeping towards them.). There was a group of people walking along with him, and it was usual for a teacher to teach as they went along, teaching as they were walking. The people listened intently because it was not always easy to hear what the rabbi was saying.

When they passed through a village near Jericho, it was common for the villagers to come out to meet them, to listen to the teaching, perhaps to walk along for a while, and this was their way of participating for at least a short time in this journey.

As they passed through this village, a blind beggar was sitting alongside the road. When he heard that it was Jesus passing by, he began to shout out: *Jesus, Son of David, have pity of me!* The people tried to silence him since they could not hear Jesus above his shouting. But the more they protested, the louder he shouted. Finally, Jesus took the man aside and healed him.



This tells us something about prayer. We need to be *persistent*. We need to have the faith and trust to continue to implore God and not give up easily. Yes, our God does hear us; but sometimes perhaps he wants us to stay close to him, and the only way we can do it is by being persistent in our prayer.