



JUNE 30, 2019
3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Liturgical Schedule

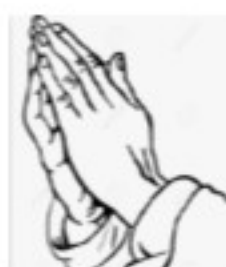
June 29 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm
+Alfred & Mary Crocker req by Steve & Judi Muchoney

June 30 (Sun) 3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Divine Liturgy 10:30am
+Nancy & John Voron req by Mary Cvejkus

July 6 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm
+John Fekete req by Fr. Donald Voss

July 7 (Sun) Divine Liturgy 10:30am
+Russell Prodan req by Ann Prodan

Our Tithe to our Parish—June 23, 2019 - \$1,426.00



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, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, Jude Bodnar, Marion Campbell, Steve Fekete, Kevin Ianni, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko Sr, Sue Sabol, Ruth Seech, Mary Soltis, Debbie Vasko



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 June 30 thru July 6 for the health and welfare of our parishioners.

The freedom our Founding Fathers fought so hard to attain was not intended to create a pandemonium. Rather, they intended to create a land where people could freely exercise their right to follow their faith, look to a higher law, and by ordering life around that higher calling, find a true freedom unlike anything in this world.

So as you celebrate our country and its freedom this week, go ahead and choose to eat a little too much. Have fun and celebrate our nation. But remember that we have true freedom by committing our lives and our country to following a higher calling. As Benjamin Franklin asserted, we will all be governed by something. Let's choose to be governed by the God who gives us a path to true and eternal freedom.



99TH ANNUAL GCU & BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY

Save the Date ...

The 99th Annual GCU & Byzantine Catholic Family Day will take place at Kennywood Park on **Thursday, 25 July 2019** from 10:30 am until the Park closes.

Parishioners may purchase prepaid, discounted ticket books and catered lunch tickets through the GCU Fraternal-Communications Department (1.800.722.4428, ext. 3809).

Deadline for ticket orders is **Monday, 8 July 2019.**

INDEPENDENCE DAY -- 2019



"Man will ultimately be governed by God or by tyrants." -Benjamin Franklin

On the day when we celebrate our nation's birth and the liberty we gained in winning independence, it's an ideal time to reflect upon what freedom means.

To many, freedom means, "I can do whatever I want, whenever I want."

Nothing could be farther from the truth.

The freedom we celebrate in this nation is a gift, but it is not a freedom that was established by allowing everyone to do whatever they wanted. Rather, true freedom comes from choosing to follow the higher laws of our Creator and receiving the grace granted to us through Christ.

In John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Satan had a brilliant plan for maintaining control over Hell. He simply allowed everyone there to believe that they were independent operators and could do whatever they wanted. He convinced them all that they were each in charge. The result? Absolute chaos. Literally, it was *pandemonium*, which translates to "devils everywhere." And it was the key to Satan maintaining his tyranny.

The same is true in our lives and in our country's founding. If we were to live our lives doing whatever we pleased whenever we pleased, we wouldn't have a free land but would be living in pandemonium. Had our Founding Fathers all set out on their own independent path, they never would have been able to form a unified front and win the war.

(cont.)

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Each Gospel writer gives us a different image or "portrait" of Jesus. For example, Matthew presents Jesus as the teacher, the New Moses, who will lead and teach as Moses did.

Matthew was writing to a Jewish Christian community around the year 85 A.D. The circumstances surrounding the community at that time were not all that positive. Times were not easy.

The Temple at Jerusalem had been destroyed ... the city of Jerusalem was crushed in their war against the Roman Empire ... the Jewish people themselves had been exiled from their homeland. They had rebelled against the Empire, and now they were paying the price for this rebellion.

Matthew was writing to give a message of hope. That hope was centered on the person and message of Jesus.

He compares and contrasts the old expectations of Israel (the Old Testament times) with their new fulfillment in Jesus.



In today's Gospel reading (Mt. 6:22-34), Matthew tells his readers not to worry. Rather they are to trust in God's care for them ... just as He cares for the birds of the air and the flowers of the field.

This is not simply a "whistling in the dark" or a "don't worry, be happy" attitude! It means that we should not be totally absorbed in the things of this world, in our possessions.

Food and clothing are important ... but they are just a means to an end. Our very life and body are our great gifts from God. We need to keep our priorities in order ... and be grateful for the gift of life.

If we keep a healthy vision, our whole life will be in order.