

### *He Who is not With Me is Against Me*

When our Lord spoke in parables, He often used allegory familiar to His listeners. In today's Gospel reading, the vineyard represents Israel; the vineyard owner represents God; and the managers (the tenants) of the vineyard represent the political and religious leaders of the time. Just as the responsibility of the vineyard managers was to produce a profit for the vineyard owner, so was it the responsibility of the religious leaders in the time of Jesus to bring God's people to fruitfulness in knowing, loving and serving God. But, they failed in this, just as the vineyard managers in the parable failed to bring a profit to the vineyard owner.

In response to this, the vineyard owner sent his servants to the vineyard, just as God sent the prophets into the world. However, like the

prophets, the servants in the parable were rejected, mistreated, ignored, even killed. Finally, the vineyard owner sent his son to reason with the managers, but they killed him out of jealousy. Jesus, too, was rejected and ultimately crucified at the hands of devious and jealous men.

Are we, at times, like the managers of the vineyard who rejected the Son? How often do we knowingly distance ourselves from God and His commandments? There is a pride in the human heart that urges us to take control of our own lives even if it means disobedience to all that we know to be right and true. Our Lord tells us that "he who is not for Me is against Me." (Matthew 12:30) When we act in such a way we really are no different from the tenant farmers in the parable.

### THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of the Wicked Tenant Farmers (Matthew 21:33-42)*

## **ST. GEORGE ROMANIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL**

EPARCHY OF ST. GEORGE IN CANTON

1123 44<sup>TH</sup> St NE, Canton, OH 44714

Website: stgeorgeoh.org

Tel: 330-492-8413 FAX: 330-493-9963

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**Most Rev. John Michael Botean, Bishop - 330-493-9355**

**Very Rev. Ovidiu Marginean, Rector - 330-492-8413**

**Very Rev. Iuliu Muntean - 330-493-9355**

**Fr. Deacon Remus Orian – 330-809-2500**

**Schedule for Holy Days of Obligation:** Vigil Vespers: 6:30 p.m.

**Day of Feast:** 10:00am and 6:30 p.m.

**Confessions: See calendar or at any time by request.**

**Ann Fosnaught, Secretary 330-492-8413 or annf@rcdcanton.org**

### **August 30, 2020**

## **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**This Sunday: Epistle 1 Cor 16:13-24**

**Gospel Matt 21:33-42**

**Next Sunday: Epistle 2 Cor 1:21-23, 2:1-4**

**Gospel Matt 22:2-14**

### **Weekly Liturgy Schedule**

Monday 8/31

No Divine Liturgy

Tuesday 9/1

8:30am Divine Liturgy: For the youth of St. George Cathedral

Wednesday 9/2

8:30am Divine Liturgy: H/S Barbara Greavu

Thursday 9/3

8:30am Divine Liturgy: H/S Fr. Ovidiu Marginean by Jacobs Family

Friday 9/4

8:30am Divine Liturgy: For the living and deceased members of the Ladies Auxiliary

Saturday 9/5

No Divine Liturgy

**Sunday 9/6**

**10:00am Divine Liturgy**

*Church Bulletin donated in August 2020 by ...*

All scheduled services will be held and can be viewed and prayed with at [stgeorge.click2stream.com](http://stgeorge.click2stream.com). Make sure to click on the volume to unmute at the bottom right hand corner. Also, we are every Sunday on St. George Cathedral Facebook.

### Sunday Collection: August 23, 2020

Loose	\$5.00
Sunday envelopes	\$814.00
Aid to Church in Central and Eastern Europe	\$105.00
Candles	<u>\$88.00</u>
Total	\$1,012.00

### Donations

In memory of John Dragos who loved the Festival and especially loved helping to cook at it. By Suzie Dragos

\$100.00

From the Hoge and Sissea Families in honor and memory of the families.

\$2,500.00

Someone lit a candle and prayed for you last Sunday:

In memory of all Zagan Family Members	The Zagan Family
+Husband Dan Cseak	Natalie Cseak
+All family members and angel +Trisha	Del and Sandy
H/S All family members	Del and Sandy
Special Intention for Family	Doru Jacobs
H/S Virginia Rogers	Bob and Barbara Greavu
H/S Father Radu	Bob and Barbara Greavu
Special Intention: Psa Adina Titonea	Bob and Barbara Greavu
Health and Salvation	Mihai and Elena Florea
Special Intention	Mihai and Elena Florea
+Octavian Greavu, in memory of his life	Anonymous
H/S Stella Lazar, Mircea's sister	Tony Orlando
+Frank Orlando	Tony Orlando
+John, husband	Suzie Dragos

H/S Stella Lazar	Suzie Dragos
H/S Maria Poplacean	Suzie Dragos
H/S Lil Lupsor	Suzie Dragos
H/S Veronica Maier	Mom and Family
For my new parishes	Fr. David Misbrener
H/S Martin and Elizabeth Misbrener	Fr. David Misbrener
For the Martyrs of the Romanian and Ukrainian Greek Catholic Churches	Fr. David Misbrener
+Grandparents	Fr. David Misbrener
For vocations to the priesthood and religious life	Fr. David Misbrener

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### **Special Announcement:**

**Please pray for:** Carol Hoge, Veronica Maier, Sr. Agnes Scalero, Earl Adkins, End to Corona Virus attack, Clore Family, Georgeta Barcutian, Grace Mary Fein, Barbara Greavu, Connie McAdams, Suzie Dragos, Doris Rotar, Virginia Rogers, Stella Lazar and all who need our prayers.

**Sick and homebound:** Magdalene Florian (Florida), Alex and Theresa Gonyias (Home), Ann Stimer (Home), Maria Poplacean (Canton Regency Rm.#256), Aurelia Lupsor (Canton Christian Home) Natalie Cseak (St. Joseph, Louisville), Eugene Popa (St. Joseph, Louisville) and Irene Pontones (Chapel Hill Retirement Community)

**For holy Baptism** contact the parish office at least one month prior to the date requested.

**For First Reconciliation** contact the parish office when your child turns 7.

**For Weddings** contact the parish office at least six months prior to the date requested.

**To guarantee announcements for the bulletin**, they need to be given to the office by Wednesday prior to the Sunday bulletin. Thank you!

To facilitate **accurate counting**, please use separate checks/cash for the special collection, candle and Sunday collection envelopes. Thank you for your attention to this detail!

Please let the office know if you have an upcoming surgery, illness, etc., so we can put you on our prayer list. Thank you!

**Altar Candelabrum** for August 2020 is donated by **the Craciun Family for the health of Mrs. Georgeta Barcutian and Mrs. Mary Cornea.**

**Left Iconostasis Candelabrum** for August 2020 is donated by **Earl and Amparo Adkins for health.**

**Right Iconostasis Candelabrum** for August 2020 is donated by ...

**Blessed Virgin Mary Candelabrum** for August 2020 is donated **Dave and Debbie Murari.**

If you would like to sponsor a candelabra for any month of the year in honor of a living member or in memory of any loved ones that have passed away, please get in touch with the Church office and Ann will be able to schedule it for you. Thank you for your continuous support of the Church!!!

**Prescura for August 2020:** Amparo Adkins, Suzie Dragos, Elena Florea, Ann Fosnaught, Maria Marcu, Debbie Murari, Jacqui Oprean, Virginia Rogers, Patricia Wendt, Dodi Zbuka and Psa. Gabriela Marginean.

## **Announcements**

For the sick and homebound, St. George Cathedral offers a **live stream** of the Divine Liturgy which can be found at the following website: [stgeorge.click2stream.com](http://stgeorge.click2stream.com). Please make sure that you turn on the sound at the bottom right hand corner of the screen.

**Amazon** donates a percentage of your purchases to the charity of your choice when you go to smile.amazon.com. As you are shopping online, you can go to choose the St. George Cathedral. Thank you for using smile.amazon.com!

Mary, Queen of heaven and Earth chapter of **Magnificat**, a woman's ministry modeled after the Visitation, invite you to a breakfast on Saturday, September 19 at Walsh University, Barrette Center. Join us in a special time of fellowship and sharing. Alexandra Andrews will be the guest speaker. Cost

\$22 mail in\ \$23 online. Go to [magnificatstark.weebly.com](http://magnificatstark.weebly.com) to print out a reservation form or to pay online. Make checks payable to Magnificat of Stark County and send with the completed reservation form to Sally Corning, 4205 Cleveland Ave SW, Canton OH 44707. Reservations cannot be accepted after September 12. Open seating. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with breakfast at 9 a.m. Physical distancing is required, and guests are asked not to congregate and masks are recommended. Meals will be served buffet-style, but the server will place all items on your plate. It will be an optional mass at 8 a.m. in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel at Walsh University for further information called Joan Spieth at 330-933-8778.

### **Benefit Dinner for the nuns of Christ the Bridegroom Monastery**

will be hosted on Saturday, November 7th, at a new location: Saint Elias Melkite Catholic Church in Cleveland. There is no cost to attend the dinner, but registration is required by October 26. Adults 21 and older may attend. Enjoy buffet dinner, entertainment and an evening with the nuns and their guests. Learn more about and support the nuns and their life of prayer and hospitality. Donations given at the event or designated ahead of time will be doubled by matching donors. If an in-person event is not possible, a live online event may be held. For more information and to register my please visit [www.christthebridegroom.org](http://www.christthebridegroom.org) or call 440-834-0290.

### **Parish events:**

**Thank you to all who helped and supported the Romanian Heritage Curbside Fest!** A financial report will be coming soon.

### **To Tickle Your Funny Bone 😊**

To make it possible for everyone to attend church next Sunday, we are going to have a special "No Excuse Sunday."

Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say "Sunday is my only day to sleep in."

There will be a special section with lounge chairs for those who feel that our pews are too hard.

We will have steel helmets for those who say, "The roof would cave in if I ever came to church."

Relatives and friends will be in attendance for those who can't go to church and cook dinner, too.

Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick on Sunday.

The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who have never seen the church without them.

## **Word of Life**

"No sin or crime is greater than God's mercy. The sacrifice of the Cross reveals that Christ's greatest desire is to forgive those with a repentant heart."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

"Death Penalty: Catholic Q&A

For those who are imprisoned,  
especially those condemned to death:  
May they be treated with the respect due  
to every human person;

Let us pray to the Lord, Lord have mercy.

## **Happy Birthday! *La mulți ani!!***

George Marcu – August 30<sup>th</sup>

Ioana Apan – August 30<sup>th</sup>

Isabella Cammel – September 1<sup>st</sup>

Allison Vought – September 1<sup>st</sup>

Ann Stimer – September 2<sup>nd</sup>

Josiah Muntean – September 3<sup>rd</sup>

Very Rev. Ovidiu Marginean – September 4<sup>th</sup>

	Mon 8/31	Tue 9/1	Wed 9/2	Thu 9/3	Fri 9/4	Sat 9/5	Sun 9/6
	Deposition of the	Isabella Cammel's Allison Vought's Church New Year Ven. Father Simeon	Ann Stimer's birthday Mamas, martyr. H. Abstinence	Josiah Muntean's Hieromartyr	Very Rev. Fr. Ovidiu Hieromartyr Babylas, Abstinence	George and Patricia Zechariah, father of	Miracle of the 14th SUNDAY AFTER
5am							
6am							
7am							
8am							
9am		Liturgy: For the youth of St. George Cathedral 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: H/S Barbara Greavu 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: H/S Fr. Ovidiu Marginean by Jacobs Family 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: For the living and deceased members of the Ladies Auxiliary		
10am							Divine Liturgy 10am - 11:30am
11am							
12pm							Coffee: 11:30am - 12:30pm
1pm							
2pm							
3pm							



THE GOSPELS DEPICT St John the Baptist as the “forerunner” or herald, announcing the immanent coming of God’s saving work in Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of Mark, for example, we hear John say: *“There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit”* (Mk1: 7, 8).

John’s work as herald of our salvation was not limited to announcing the beginning of Christ’s ministry in Galilee. Our troparion for today’s commemoration mentions that John baptized the Lord Jesus. Then, it continues, “You have fought for the sake of truth and proclaimed to those in Hades that God, who appeared in the flesh, has taken away the sins of the world and bestowed His great mercy upon us.” John’s ministry continued after death, as he announced to the dead in Hades that Christ’s coming was close at hand.

### **The Story of John’s Struggle**

We read the story of John’s final fight “for the sake of truth” in Mark’s Gospel. *“For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife; for he had married her. Because John had said to Herod, ‘It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife’”* (Mk 6:17, 18).

John languished in prison because Herod had a superstitious fear of the prophet. He revered John as a holy man, but could not

bring himself to follow the Baptist’s teachings.

*“Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief men of Galilee. And when Herodias’ daughter herself came in and danced, and pleased Herod and those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, ‘Ask me whatever you want, and I will give it to you.’ He also swore to her, ‘Whatever you ask me, I will give you – up to half my kingdom”* (Mk 6:21-23).

What followed has frequently been retold in literature, music, painting and sculpture. Prompted by her mother, Salome asks for the head of John: *“I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter”* (v. 25).

Because of the oath he had sworn in the presence of his guests, Herod agreed and had John beheaded, making possible the prophet’s ministry in Hades.

### **Our Observance of John’s Death**

Because John, whom the Lord Himself had called the greatest man born of woman, was killed as a result of Herod’s birthday revels, the Byzantine Churches observe today as a strict fast: no parties, no luxury foods, no drink. We see where these things can lead.

A number of popular local customs have risen to mark the day among various Eastern Christians. People may:

- Avoid eating anything on round plates, since Salome asked for John’s head *“on a platter”* (Mk 6:25). Use bowls instead.

- Avoid eating any round fruits or vegetables (they resemble a head);
- Avoid eating anything that requires use of knives or anything that cuts;
- Avoid eating or drinking anything red (they remind us of blood).

A contemporary way to observe this commemoration might be to fast and pray for those who have died senselessly at the hands of others through terrorism, armed conflicts or senseless violence. Think of them as John’s “companions in suffering.”

### **Did John Witness in Hades?**

As the Gospels affirm, Jesus was still alive when John was executed. But the New Testament does not teach that John witnessed to Christ in Hades. How and when did this concept enter our tradition?

Origen of Alexandria, the foremost commentator on the Scriptures in the third century, explained that John the Baptist had died before Christ, “so that he might descend to the lower regions and announce His coming. For everywhere the witness and forerunner of Jesus is John, being born before and dying shortly before the Son of God, so that not only to those of his generation but likewise to those who lived before Christ should liberation from the death be preached, and that he might everywhere prepare a people trained to receive the Lord” (Origen, *Homily on Luke 4*).

Those in Hades would “receive the Lord” upon His death as we read in the New Testament: *“Christ also died for sins once*

for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit; in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly did not obey..." (1 Pt 3:18, 19). A number of the Apostolic Fathers such as Saints Polycarp of Smyrna, Ignatius of Antioch, Irenaeus of Lyons, and Clement of Alexandria all taught that Christ had descended into Hades. We find the same teaching in the Syriac Fathers Jacob of Sarouj, Aphrahat the Persian and Ephrem the Syrian as well as the Greek Fathers Athanasius the Great, Basil the Great, Gregory Nazianzen, John Chrysostom, Cyril of Alexandria, Maximus the Confessor and John of Damascus.

Our most common icon of the resurrection depicts Christ emerging from Hades leading out by the hand Adam and Eve (and, by implication, the human race). In many icons John the Forerunner is beside Him, at the head of those who had died before Christ and were now brought to eternal life by Him.

### From the Service of This Day

Come, you people, let us praise the prophet and martyr, the baptizer of the Savior; for, as an angel in the flesh, he denounced Herod condemning him for committing most iniquitous fornication. And thanks to iniquitous dancing, his precious head is cut off, that he might announce in Hades the glad tidings of the resurrection from the dead. He prays earnestly to the Lord that our souls be saved.

Let us celebrate the memory of the severed head of the Forerunner, which poured forth blood upon the platter then, but now pours forth healings upon the ends of the earth (*Liti Stichera*).

The beheading of the Forerunner was an act of divine providence: the occasion for him to announce the coming of the Savior to the souls in Hades. Let, then, Herodias lament and weep, for she has asked for murder, preferring the present life and its pleasures to eternal life and God's law (*Kondakion*).

August 29

The Beheading of St John the Forerunner



# The Forerunner in Hades