

February 16, 2020  
Meat-Fare Sunday  
Sunday of Last Judgment



**SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!*

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone: 3, pp. 135 – 137 and Meatfare Sunday: pp. 217 - 218

Divine Services Schedule:

**SUN., FEB. 16 MEATFARE SUNDAY, SUNDAY OF LAST JUDGMENT**

8:00 A.M.

*Holy Rosary*

8:30 A.M.

**DIVINE LITURGY**

Health & God's Blessings for John Simunick, offered by Connie & Francis Hersh

The Lord's Day is the original feast day... a day of joy and freedom from work

**SUN., FEB. 23 CHEESEFARE SUNDAY, SUNDAY of FORGIVENESS**

8:00 A.M.

*Holy Rosary*

8:30 A.M.

**DIVINE LITURGY, Rite of Forgiveness**

+ **Pete Yanchik**, in loving memory from his wife and family

**Next Sunday: Forgiveness Sunday**

Next Sunday, February 23, in our Liturgical calendar is the last Sunday before the Great Fast called Cheesefare Sunday. This Sunday is also called "Forgiveness Sunday" from the pious Eastern Christian custom of asking each other's forgiveness for discourtesy and disrespect before we begin together our journey through the Great Fast-Lent. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy we will recite the Rite of Forgiveness which asks each other for forgiveness.

**Happy Birthday Greetings this Week:**

February 22: Reaghan Cody

**Wedding Anniversaries this Week:**

None for the week

**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 those who are in need of our prayers:**

**HOME** – Eileen Batcha, Natalie Jugan-Diaz, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Alice Haber, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Josephine Maruhnich, Mary Salamon, John Simunick, Bonnie Taylor

**Hunter's Care Home** (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

**West Hills Health & Rehab Center** (951 Brodhead Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108) – Margaret Klacik

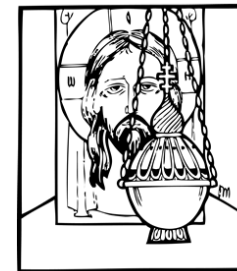
**Beaver Meadows** (5130 Tuscarawas Rd, Beaver, PA 15009) - Angie Yuhasz

**Brighton Rehabilitation and Wellness Center** (246 Friendship Cir, Beaver, PA 15009) - Carole Panella

**Epistle Readers:** February 16: Reaghan Cody – February 23: joanne Futato

**Ushers:** February 16: M. Bobanic/R. Mudron – February 23: R. Dzumba/F. Hersh

**Troica Holders:** February 16: F. Hersh – February 23: J. Yurosky



**THE SANCTUARY LAMP**

February 16 - 22, 2020

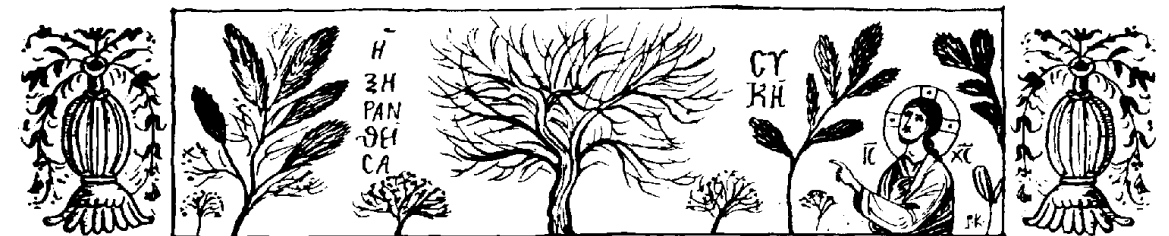
*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

**Juliana Raychevich**

*(Health & God's Blessing)*

Offered By:


Mom, Marge



*"Always remember that at the Last Judgement we are judged for loving Him, or failing to love Him, in the least person."*

— Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

D	R	E	G	N	A	R	T	S	S	GLORY	ANGELS	THRONE
R	S	L	E	G	N	A	N	T	E	SHEPHERD	HERITAGE	HUNGRY
E	F	E	T	E	R	N	A	L	S	FOOD	STRANGER	CURSE
										FIRE	DEVIL	VIRTUOUS
H	I	O	O	D	F	O	E	G	H			
P	R	T	O	E	G	A	L	U	G			
E	E	H	S	D	S	E	N	S	L			
H	E	R	I	T	A	G	E	I	O			
S	U	O	U	T	R	I	V	C	R			
C	E	N	I	Y	V	E	D	K	Y			
A	L	E	V	E	D	L	R	O	W			



**The Cross brings Life** – The Lord does not say that the coming kingdom is compared to this or that, as He has been speaking previously, but now openly shows Himself to be the Son of man, who “shall come in his glory.” If He has up to now appeared in a condition of dishonor, now he appears in a different role. He reproaches. He confronts. He sits upon his throne of glory. And he continually mentions glory. For his cross was drawing near, a thing that seemed to be a matter of reproach. So he lifts his hearers up and brings before their sight the judgment seat, with all the world gathered around him. (St. John Chrysostom)

**WELCOME** parishioners, visitors, and friends. We are glad that you have come to worship with us today and pray that your participation in our parish will be enriching to you. Following every Sunday Divine Liturgy, Fellowship Coffee and doughnuts are served! Please stay and join us.

*Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.*  
*Psalm 133:1*



## Lenten Soup Sale NEXT WEEK

There will be a soup sale just in time for your strict fast needs. We are selling delicious homemade vegetable soup **next Sunday, February 23** following Divine Liturgy. Our strict fast begins the next day, February 24. The soup is per \$8.00 per quart. There are order sheets in the Narthex and Center. **ORDER TODAY!**



## Lenten Resources:

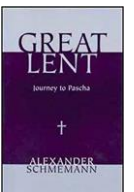
### Lenten Library



We have **Lenten Books and Resources** available for you to borrow from **our Church Library**. As we prepare to enter this Lenten season, let us ask the Lord to fill us with his love as we enhance our spiritual growth through commitment to prayer, reading Scripture, Reconciliation, receiving the Eucharist and trying to stay close to the Lord in our everyday lives.

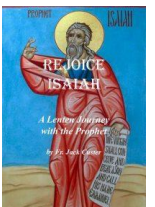
**Available to borrow: Great Lent by: Father Alexander Schmemmann**

“When Christ comes to judge us, what will be the criterion of His judgment? The Parable of the Last Judgment answers: love — a concrete and personal love for the human person, any human person, that God makes me encounter in my life. Christian love is the “possible impossibility” to see Christ in another man, whoever he is, and whom God, in His eternal and mysterious plan, has decided to introduce into my life, be it only for a few moments, not as an occasion for a “good cheer” or an exercise in philanthropy, but as the beginning of an eternal companionship in God Himself.”



### Lenten Study Group and Soup Suppers!

Beginning March 1, during the Great Fast, there will be a Study Group along with a soup supper, Sundays at 5:00 P.M. We will reflect on the book **Rejoice Isaiah, Spiritual Reflections on the Readings from Isaiah during the Great Fast**. This book was gifted to all parishioners this Christmas. There are extra copies for those who did not yet get one. So get your book ready or pick one up today and get ready for the best Lent ever. The Library and Church Store will be open at this time too. *Bring guests!*



Some helpful tips for reading **Rejoice Isaiah**

1. Read the introduction to the book before Lent begins.
2. Read the daily selection (*bible Verse*) from Isaiah before turning to the reflection of the day.
3. Reflect on the questions given each day. Jot down those you want to remember and/or discuss at the Study Group.

*Spiritual reflection, fasting supper, and fellowship*



# Lenten Services and Devotions:

During the Great Fast, Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts will be every Friday at 6:00 P.M. We will also have a Lenten Study Group and soup supper at 5:00 P.M. every Sunday (*info in bulletin*). The Holy Rosary that we pray each Sunday will be prayed with special Lenten devotions; this begins at 8:00 A.M. every Sunday before Divine Liturgy. (*Other Pre-Sanctified Liturgies will be at St. Mary in Ambridge every Wednesday at 6:00 P.M.*). Any services that are added as we go through our Lenten journey will be announced in the Sunday bulletin. **The Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts takes precedence over all other Lenten devotions.**

## Parish Lenten Prayer Project

During this upcoming Lenten Season, as a Parish family, we will dedicate to praying for those who have fallen away from the Catholic Church and for their return to the fullness of the faith through the intercession of the *Mother of God, Searcher for the Lost*. **Who will we pray for?** Those who have left because they have been hurt by the church, those who at some point in their lives made bad choices that have kept them away, and those who simply walked away, drawn by other things. We love them and so does God.

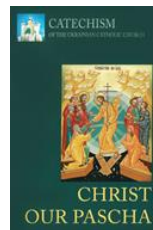


The *Searcher for the Lost* Icon and prayers will be set up in the Church. You can pray anytime you are in the Church, before and after Sunday and Lenten Services or anytime you are here. We will also pray before the Lenten Study Group. Take a copy of the prayer home to say daily.

*There are so many lost people and so many who need the Church.*

## Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

***The Three Orders of the Divine Liturgy.*** In our Church, the Divine Liturgy is served according to three orders, those of the bishops, Saint John Chrysostom and St. Basil the Great, and that of the Pre-sanctified Gifts. Ordinarily it is the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom that is celebrated. The liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated 10 times a year, namely: on all five Sundays of Great Lent, on Great and Holy Thursday, on Great and Holy Saturday and on the feast of St. Basil the Great. From Monday to Friday during Lent, as a sign of the anticipation of Christ's Pascha and the glorious second coming, the Church does not offer the Eucharistic oblation, that is, the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom or St. Basil the Great. (#393)



*Lenten Banks are now available in the Center*

## UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

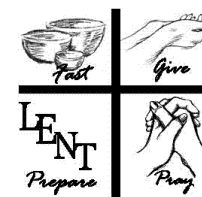
February 16, 23 ..... ECF classes is session  
February 22 ..... Archeparchy of Pittsburgh Church Music Day  
February 23 ..... Lenten Soup Sale (Info in bulletin)  
February 24 ..... Great Fast Begins  
February 24 – April 5 ..... Lenten Almsgiving Collection  
March 1 ..... Sunday of Orthodoxy, Blessing of icons  
March 1 ..... Lenten Study Group and Soup Supper, (info in bulletin)

## Visit the Church Store!

The Church store in the Center is open after Divine Liturgy every Sunday. There are more new items this week. Shop again this week! **We have icons, tote bags, egg wraps, jewelry, car items, and more.** Remember to shop at our store when you need a gift for someone or for yourself. There are many Lenten and Pascha items.

## Church Library and Reading Room OPEN!

Our Church Library is now back in the original Library room where you can relax and enjoy a comfortable reading area. Books are available to borrow on theology, Church history, spirituality, prayer, and more. Music and video resources will be available soon to listen and watch while you are there. If you have any suggestions or questions, please speak to an ECF instructor or Fr. Geoff. If you would like to make a donation, we are in need of a small book shelf and small tables or anything you think would be useful for the Library. The Library will be open every Sunday and on Saturday mornings. Be sure to utilize this important Ministry of our Church.



## Parish Lenten Almsgiving Collection

Our Parish Lenten Almsgiving collection will be from February 24 through April 5. Non-perishable food items will be collected for the St. Vincent De Paul Society Food Bank in Aliquippa. A donation area will be set up in the Parish Center and in the narthex of the Church.

*"If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

(Matthew 6:14)

*This upcoming Sunday is such a special day as we prepare for Lent. Forgiving others and softening our hearts is the first step in allowing Christ in the midst of our lives, with body and spirit knitted together in the Holy Spirit, right here and right now.*

# The Judge is at the Door

## A Liturgical Hymn

Alas, black soul!  
How long will you continue in evil?  
How long will you lie in idleness?  
Why do you not think of the fearful hour of death?  
Why do you not tremble at the fearsome judgment-seat of the Savior?  
What defense, then, will you make, or what will you answer?  
Your works will be there to accuse you;  
Your actions will reproach you and condemn you.  
O my soul, the time is near at hand!  
Make haste before it is too late!  
Cry aloud in faith: I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned against You!  
But I know your love for man and Your compassion.  
O Good Shepherd, in Your mercy deprive me not of a place at Your right hand.

(From the Vespers of the Sunday of the Last Judgment)

**Traditional Fast** - In the Great Fast, abstinence from meat, fish, dairy products, alcohol, and foods cooked in oil was prescribed for ALL days except days of mitigation. All Saturdays and Sundays, Wednesday to Friday of the Fifth Week, and the Prefestive Day and Otdanije (Post Feast) of the Annunciation were all mitigations for wine and oil. The Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) and Palm Sunday were general mitigations.

DELSSEB

HGRUNY

YHRTSIT

SGATRENR

PORISN

SOLUTION:

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5					7		
4							
8							6
	2			3			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

# Sunday of the Last Judgment

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory”  
(Matt. 25:31)

Today, we celebrate in our Holy Church the Sunday of the Last Judgment. We are presented with the Gospel reading in which our merciful Lord has warned us, His followers about the day when He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

What is the reason for this warning? Why did Christ foretell all these things? Did He want to scare us, to draw our attention to Him? Of course not! The only reason for this warning is that He loves us so much that He does not want to lose us because as the Son of God He knows all the consequences of being out of His glorious Kingdom. If we lead our lives irresponsibly and make no progress in our perfection, then we will not be able to enter the Eternal Kingdom of God, because for this to happen we have to WANT to be with Him. However, wanting in itself is insufficient. Our entire life has to demonstrate good proof of this desire.

Today’s Gospel reading emphasizes the necessity of life with Jesus Christ and that this life should be expressed not just externally, but foremost with our true feelings towards God and to our neighbor. Observe the parable of Jesus when He speaks to both sides on the Last Judgment Day, after dividing them into “sheep” (the good ones) and “goats” (the bad ones). For both sides He uses the same requirements. For life, which was followed by the saved ones (on the right hand of Christ), He said: you fed the hungry, gave drink to thirsty, took in a stranger who needed a place to stay overnight, gave clothes to the those who needed it, visited the sick in the hospitals, and visited those in prison. For the bad (on the left hand of Christ), He said you failed: to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to take in a stranger who needed a place to stay overnight, to give clothes to the those who needed them, to visit the sick in the hospitals, or to visit those in prison.

Why do you think these definitions will be used on the Last Judgment Day? Simply, because each of us is capable of achieving the above named things, but in order to do so we must demonstrate true love and compassion for our neighbor and the needy. If there is no true love in our relationship for others, we simply cannot fulfill these obligations. So, dear friends, the parable is quite clear about who will be called righteous and who will not. And remember that Our Lord expects nothing more than our sincere best efforts! Amen.



## A Note From Fr. Geoff Regarding Fasting and Abstinence

My Brothers and Sisters,

This Sunday is Meatfare Sunday, the day in which, by tradition, Byzantines say "farewell" to flesh meats until Holy Pascha. Next Sunday is Cheesefare, when, by tradition, we say "farewell" to dairy until we celebrate our Lord's Resurrection. These are pious and holy traditions which are encouraged. However, the canons of our particular Church require a less stringent fast. The canons obligate the faithful to certain observances, but you are encouraged to take on additional disciplines that will be beneficial to your spiritual life.

The fasts of the liturgical year are to be kept in accordance with the Norms of Particular Law of the Byzantine Metropolitan Church *sui juris* of Pittsburgh.

The faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe **Simple Abstinence** on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast. The law of **Simple Abstinence** forbids the use of meat, but permits the use of eggs and dairy products.

All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe **Strict Abstinence (Fast)** on **Pure Monday, February 24** (the first day of the Great Fast) and on **Great and Holy Friday, April 10** in honor of our Lord's life-giving death. **Strict Abstinence (Fast)** forbids the use and consumption of all meat, eggs, and dairy products.

Pastors and administrators, with just cause and taking into account acceptable reasons due to personal circumstances, may grant to the individual faithful - as well as individual families - dispensations, transferals, or commutations of abstinence and strict fast into other pious practices.

If you have questions or concerns about fasting practices, please do not hesitate to ask me. Our fasting practices are intended to draw us deeper into the mystery of our redemption and our intimacy with the Lord. I look forward to walking together with you through this Lenten journey as we prepare to celebrate together the glorious Resurrection of our Lord.

In the Love of Jesus,  
Fr. Geoff

## A Story about Fasting

Two young men were arguing about how they were planning to keep the Great Fast. Because the one ate cheese and meat occasionally during the fast, the other insulted and condemned him. An elderly priest, who had survived Soviet persecution, overheard them and addressed the young men:

"Why do you think that Lent is about specific kinds of food? Have you considered how much money you're spending to observe the fast? Does it make sense to replace meat and cheese with fish, seafood, and other expensive foods? When I was younger, I made an eggplant dish that followed the Lenten rules. I wasn't used to making the food and it took me over two hours to prepare it. I was frustrated, and I ignored my young son (he was five at the time) to try to prepare the food properly. In my frustration I was harsh with him when he interrupted my Lenten cooking. In the foolishness of my youth, I made the Lenten diet into an idol. It would have made much more sense to obtain affordable foods, to eat simply without overindulging, and to have invested that time in my son and my wife.

"The spirit of Lenten fasting is to observe it to the best of our ability, without calling attention to our fasting. We should not discuss what we are eating with others lest we are led into temptation to claim that someone has violated the fast for eating the wrong food. Fast to the best of your ability: eat simply and lightly and thank God for providing you with food and drink.

"If you're still concerned about food, ask yourself this: what does our Lord command us about fasting? He teaches us to fast without providing details on what we are to eat; the priority is to fast and to pray without calling attention to yourself. On each day, we say the holy prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian. What does this prayer say about food? Nothing. The prayer teaches us to seek a life of humility, to fast from lust of power and gossip, to confront our own transgressions and to learn how to avoid judging our brother. The point of Lent is to join the holy Apostle who says that he is the first among sinners, and to seek to become the servant of all, and not the ruler. Boys, you will do much better if you refrain from using your tongues to abuse others than you will from eating kapusta instead of kielbasa.

"Focus your energy on praying without seeking praise for your piety, on eating simply without seeking affirmation for keeping the fast, and especially for holding your tongue when the company invites you to join in piling on another's woes. Try it. You will find that it is much easier to eat a meatless sandwich than it is to keep your mouths shut. In fact, it would be better for you to eat that ham sandwich and give half of it to your brother who can't afford a sandwich, but is too embarrassed to admit it. That would be keeping the fast.

"Boys, I want to set you on the right path. Beware of making an idol out of Lent. I promise you that you will be disappointed in the end. Keep your eating and drinking simple, keep your mouths shut, and say your prayers quietly without seeking praise for your piety. If you do this, maybe you'll learn how to see that some of your brothers are hungry and need your fellowship as opposed to your slights and insults."

“Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy.”



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org](http://www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org)



**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, David Klacik,  
Louisa Hersh**

**E.C.F. coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh  
Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff**

- Holy Mystery of Reconciliation ..... Before and after Liturgies
- Holy Mysteries of Initiation ..... Contact the church office
- Holy Mystery of Anointing ..... Ask prior to surgery or serious illness
- Holy Mystery of Marriage ..... Contact the church office eight months prior to wedding
- Religious Education Classes ..... September through May, following Sunday Divine Liturgy
- Pirohi Sales ..... 2nd Friday of each month, Sept. through May
- St. George Ladies’ Guild & Men’s Club ..... Everyone welcome to participate



*“If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*  
*(Matthew 6:14)*