

March 1, 2020
First Sunday of the Great Fast
Sunday of Orthodoxy



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: 5, pp. 146 and First Sunday of the Fast: pp. 221 - 222

Divine Services Schedule:

SUN., MAR. 1	FIRST SUNDAY of LENT, SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY
8:00 A.M.	<i>Holy Rosary</i>
8:30 A.M.	DIVINE LITURGY, Blessing of Icons Health & God's Blessings for John Simunick, offered by Francis & JoAnn Hersh

(At St. Mary: Wednesday, March 4, 6:00 P.M., Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts)

FRI., MAR. 6	SECOND FRIDAY OF LENT
6:00 P.M.	LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

Members of the family are encouraged to attend the services on the All Souls Saturdays for by their presence and by their personal prayers and receiving Holy Communion they strengthen the bond of love with their departed loved ones and indeed keep their memory everlasting!

SAT., MAR. 7	SECOND ALL-SOULS SATURDAY
9:00 A.M.	DIVINE LITURGY, Panachida, Hramoty, Koliva

SUN., MAR. 8	SECOND SUNDAY of LENT, Saint Gregory Palamas
8:00 A.M.	<i>Holy Rosary</i>
8:30 A.M.	DIVINE LITURGY + Joseph Olack, offered by Mary Elizabeth Olack



Please, remember to turn your clock 1 hour ahead this Saturday, March 7th, before you go to bed. Daylight Saving Time begins.

Happy Birthday Greetings this Week:

March 1: Raymond Ozimok, Andria Poiarkoff, March 3: Laurie Sirko,
March 4: Pressley Roush, March 5: Lena Maruhnich

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, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Josephine Maruhnich, Mary Salamon, John Simunick, Bonnie Taylor

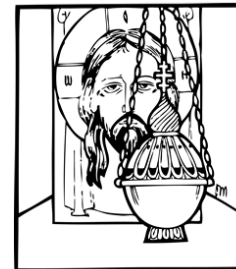
Hunter's Care Home (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

West Hills Health & Rehab Center (951 Brodhead Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108) – Alice Haber, 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: March 1: Prudy Peya – March 8: Reagan Cody
Ushers: March 1: E. Maruhnich/J. Yurosky – March 8: R. Dzumba/R. Mudron
Troica Holders: 1: M. Bobanic – March 8: J. Yurosky



THE SANCTUARY LAMP
March 1- 7, 2020

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Joseph Olack
(Health & God's Blessing)

Offered By:
Wife, Mary Elizabeth

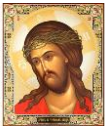
Are you following the Lord? – “To every thoughtful man there is a benefit” (*Proverbs 14:23 LXX*) ... and Christ implied more than this when He said, “He that seeks finds.” (*Matthew 7:8*) This is why I no longer wonder how it was that Philip followed Christ. Andrew was persuaded when he heard from John, and Peter was persuaded when heard from Andrews. But Philip, not having learned anything from anyone but Christ who said to him only this, “Follow me,” immediately obeyed and did not go back. In fact, he even became a preacher to others. For he ran to Nathaniel and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Laws and the Prophets wrote.” Do you see what a thoughtful mind he had, how assiduously he meditated on the writings of Moses, expecting the advent? For the expression “we have found” belongs always to those who are in some way seeking. (*St. John Chrysostom, Homilies on the Gospel of John*)

*The Great Fast is upon us. This wonderful time of repentance, fasting, prayer, alms-giving, and purification of soul and body is given to us by the Church and by Christ for **our benefit**. Let us take this Fast **seriously**, so that we may become ever more closer to Jesus Christ, so that we can be conduits of His Holy Spirit to those we encounter.*

Fr. Lewis M. Rabayda

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

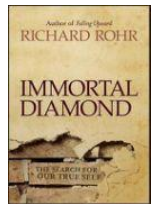
Today **Sunday of Orthodoxy, Blessing of icons**
Today **Lenten Study Group and Soup Supper, 5:00 P.M.** (info in bulletin)
February 24 – April 5 **Lenten Almsgiving Collection**
March 6 **Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts, 6:00 P.M.**
March 7 **Second All-Souls Saturday, Liturgy, Hramoty 9:00 A.M.**
March 8 **Lenten Study Group and Soup Supper continues, 5:00 P.M.**
March 13 **Pirohi Sale**



Visit the Church Store! - NEW ITEMS THIS WEEK! The Church store in the Center is open after Divine Liturgy every Sunday. *Look today!*

Church Library and Reading Room OPEN!

Our Church Library, now back in the original Library room, is open every **Sunday and on Saturday mornings from 9:00-12:00**. You can relax and enjoy a comfortable reading area. Be sure to utilize this important Ministry of our Church.



New Title: In his bestselling book *Falling Upward* (available in our Library), Fr. Richard Rohr talked about ego (or the False Self) and how it gets in the way of spiritual maturity. But if there's a False Self, is there also a True Self? What is it? How is it found? Why does it matter? And what does it have to do with the spiritual journey? *Immortal Diamond* likens True Self to a diamond, buried deep within us, formed under the intense pressure of our lives that must be searched for, uncovered, separated from all the debris of ego that surrounds it. In a sense True Self must, like Jesus, be resurrected, and that process is not resuscitation but transformation. *Immortal Diamond* shows how to navigate spiritually difficult terrain with clear vision and tools to uncover our True Selves and examines the fundamental issues of who we are and helps us on our path of spiritual maturity.

SAVE THE DATE: Evening Of Hope - On October 17, 2020 Bishop Milan Lach, S.J., will be hosting an **Evening of Hope** benefit event for the Eparchy of Parma at the Holiday Inn in Independence, OH. More information will be forthcoming in the future.

Pysanky Workshop - Our brothers and sisters at Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 220 Mansfield Blvd, Carnegie, invite you to join them for a Pysanky Workshop. Come learn to make traditional Easter eggs using beeswax & dyes. There is a general class (open to all ages) and an advanced class. Saturday, March 28, 2020 from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM. For reservations and information call Michael at 412-527-5359.

Candle offerings for Easter sign-up sheets are in the Center

Regarding Sickness

As news of the coronavirus continues to make headlines and the disease spreads, it is important that we not become unduly anxious. While we should be alert, as always, we do not need to become worked up and sometimes the language we hear makes us more worried than we need to be. There are certain common sense precautions we can take. Some basic things to keep in mind are that basic disinfectants are a good idea to use regularly around the house - bleach and Lysol and things like this. Washing your hands regularly with soap and hot, warm water is important as well. **It is a fundamental need to practice good hygiene by the frequent washing of hands.**

But also, *when you are sick, stay home!* Whether it's the coronavirus or any other flu, stomach bug, or other contagious sickness: stay home, get rest, drink fluids, and come back to the community when you're back on your feet. A recent memo from the Archeparchy to pastors and administrators reminded us to let you know that: **If you are sick, or even experiencing symptoms of sickness, you are not obliged to attend the liturgical services. It is even out of charity that you should not attend.**

Eternal Memory - We offer condolences to the family of parishioner Peter Haber, who fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, February 18. May God grant eternal memory to His departed servant Peter, *Vicnaja jemu pamjat!*

Lenten Study Group and Soup Suppers!

Begins Today! There will be a Study Group along with a soup supper, **TODAY** and following **Sundays** during Lent, **at 5:00 P.M.** We will reflect on the book **Rejoice Isaiah, Spiritual Reflections on the Readings from Isaiah during the Great Fast.** The Library and Church Store will be open at this time too. *This Bible study is the ideal companion for our spiritual journey through the Great Fast. Bring guests!*



Spiritual reflection, fasting supper, and fellowship

Lenten Library

There are free Lenten resources to take and Lenten Books for you to borrow from our Church Library.



Available to borrow: The Lenten Spring by Fr. Thomas Hopko

In his meditations, Fr Hopko draws on his long experience as a pastor and teacher, working with young and old throughout the country, to present to the modern reader the relevance of the Church's two-thousand-year-old tradition of preparing to greet our Lord's Resurrection. But in so doing he also makes extensive use of all facets of church tradition from all times, inspiring scriptural and liturgical passages from the Lenten services, the spiritual wisdom of the ancient saints and fathers, as well as the teachings of modern guides to the Christian life.

All Christians who undertake the yearly journey to the blessed Pascha of our Lord will find inspiration and guidance in these meditations. All can enjoy reading and rereading them and share in the profound thoughts of the author as they make their own spiritual way through this holy season.

Parish Lenten Prayer Project

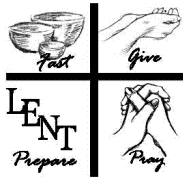
Are you participating?

During this Lenten Season, as a Parish family, we are 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 should you 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 are set up in the front of 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 copies home to pray daily. Pray here, pray at home.**

It's never too late to participate in the Great Fast!

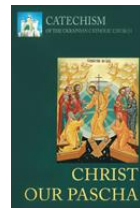


Parish Lenten Almsgiving Collection

Our Parish Lenten Almsgiving collection is going on now through April 5. Non-perishable food items are being collected for the St. Vincent De Paul Society Food Bank in Aliquippa. A donation area is set up in the Parish Center and in the narthex of the Church.

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts accentuates two elements: the preparation of catechumens for Baptism, and the repentance of the faithful. During this Liturgy, the community prays for and instructs the catechumens. In the second half of Great Lent it adds petitions for “those about to be illumined.” These are the catechumens who will be baptized at that year’s celebration of Pascha. The first part of the Liturgy, Vespers with Old Testament readings, has a distinctly didactic character. The readings from the books of Genesis and Exodus present to the catechumens, as well as to the baptized, God’s providence and care for his Chosen People. The book of Proverbs, in turn, offers the teachings of Divine Wisdom for daily living. Through these readings of the Old Testament and the prayers of the Liturgy, the catechumens prepare for enlightenment in Baptism. A symbol of this preparation and reception of the light of God’s Word is the blessing with the candle and incense, accompanied by the words “The light of Christ enlightens all.” This is a sign of Christ who triumphs over darkness, a symbol of the coming light of Pascha, and the baptism of the catechumens into the Death and Resurrection of Christ. (#401)



Repentance, Fasting, Prayer, Alms-giving

First Sunday of the Great Fast

We bow before your sacred image, O gracious Lord, and beg forgiveness for our offenses, O Christ our God.

Each of the Sundays of the Great Fast-Lent has its own special theme. In the course of Church history, almost each Lenten Sunday has obtained a second theme, a historical theme. Originally the Great Fast was the time for catechumens to prepare for baptism and entry into the Church. The Sunday spiritual themes were part of the early Christian catechesis.

Today, we arrive to the First Sunday of the Great Fast-Lent which is called in our Holy Church the Sunday of Orthodoxy. The historical theme for this Sunday is the final victory over the iconoclasts. What was Iconoclasm?

Iconoclasm was a heresy of the eighth century which taught that the veneration or relative worship of holy images is unlawful. Around the year 726 A.D. Emperor Leo the Isaurian published an edict which led to the destruction of holy images and the persecution of their defenders.

In the year 787 A.D., the Seventh Ecumenical Council declared that “both the figure of the sacred and life giving Cross and also the venerable images-are to be placed suitably in the holy churches of God...” The council stated further that the honor paid to them is only relative, that is, given for the sake of what they represent, not for the sake of images themselves, which are to receive veneration, not adoration. But in the year 814 A.D. iconoclasm broke out again through the instigation of the Emperor Leo the Armenian and his successors. This persecution lasted until the Empress Theodora became regent in the year 842 A.D. The final defeat of iconoclasm and the restoration of holy images to the churches took place on February 19th which in 842 A.D. happened to be the First Sunday of the Great Fast-Lent. This is why we still celebrate the victory of the true faith on this Sunday. The principal defenders of the teaching of the Church in this great struggle were St. John Damascene and St. Theodore the Studite.

As we celebrate this Sunday of “Restoration of Holy Images”, let us remember that during this Lenten journey we are called to recover within us the image of what it means to be an authentic human being, a genuine person created in the image and likeness of God. This season of Lent is the opportunity of repentance, recreation, and restoration of that image.



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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**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



“Fasting is like medicine. But like all medicines, though it be very profitable to the person who knows how to use it, it frequently becomes useless, and even harmful, in the hands of him who is unskillful in its use.”

- St. John Chrysostom