

November 17, 2019
Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost



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: pp. 152 - 153, Tone 6

Divine Services Schedule:

SUN., NOV. 17 8:00 A.M. 8:30 A.M.	TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST <i>Holy Rosary</i> DIVINE LITURGY + Wilma Dobo , offered by Jim & Laura Corrado
WED., NOV. 20 6:00 P.M.	ENTRANCE of the THEOTOKOS HOLY DAY VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY
SUN., NOV. 24 8:00 A.M. 8:30 A.M.	TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST Post-Festive day of the Entrance of the Theotokos <i>Holy Rosary</i> DIVINE LITURGY + Wilma Dobo , offered by Francis and Connie Hersh

Welcome, Guest Celebrant

This Sunday, as Fr. Geoff once again will be traveling for Trinity seminary, our guest celebrant is Fr. Thomas Danscak. Welcome, Fr. Thomas! We're honored to have you with us.

Parish Almsgiving Collection

The annual Parish Advent Almsgiving collection is going on now through December 15. We are collecting non-perishable food items for the local food bank. A donation box is in the narthex and in the Center. *Thank you!*



Happy Birthday Greetings this Week:

November 18: Angela Yuhasz, November 19: Candace Stefanik,
November 22: Francis Hersh (Jr.)

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the week

Please pray for our parishioners and friends who struggle with sickness, pain, hardship, or any special need:

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

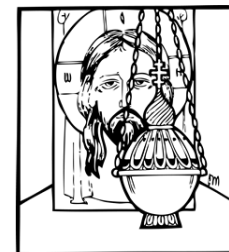
Hunter's Care Home (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

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, Bonnie Taylor

Epistle Readers: Nov. 17: Prudence Peya – Nov. 24: Joanne Futato
Ushers: Nov. 17: R. Mudron/M. Bobanic – Nov. 24: F. Hersh/R. Dzumba
Troica Holders: Nov. 17: R. Dzumba – Nov. 24: J. Yurosky



THE SANCTUARY LAMP

November 17 - 23, 2019

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ "Sis" Wilma Dobo

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:
A friend



As we run around purchasing, wrapping, and delivering gifts for other people this Christmas, we must ask ourselves seriously and soberly, "What gift am I offering to Him this Christmas?" As we are now in the home stretch heading towards the Feast of the Nativity as we count down now the hours until we are at the manger, we have to consider what gift we will bring to Christ at the Nativity. I have always liked the Christmas carol, "The Little Drummer Boy." I especially love the line "I have no gift to bring ... that's fit to give a king ... shall I play for you ... on my drum?" The realization that he has no material gift to bring - but that he has the gift of himself, his talent to offer - is so beautiful. The Little Drummer Boy feels almost sad at his meager gift. The baby Jesus receives this gift with joy: "Then He smiled at me." And then the Little Drummer Boy realizes that his gift was acceptable to Christ, because it was the gift of himself.

Church Family News...

Several of our Church family attended the Byzantine Spirituality Conference last Saturday, November 9. Attendees were treated to inspiring talks to help us personally grow in our Byzantine Catholic Faith and to help us overcome the challenges we face as a Church, equipping us to work together for our future! *Thanks to all who attended!*



Do you have any news you would like published in our bulletin? Please send articles and/or pictures to: stgbyz@gmail.com

A Note from Fr. Geoff

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We have now entered the Nativity Fast - or Advent - once again. This wonderful time of year is a time of penitence and preparation as we look forward to the celebration of Christmas. The decorations are already up in stores and the Christmas music is already being played on the radio. It seems that the world wants to speed forward to Christmas without taking the time to really reflect on its meaning.

And this is a challenge for us. We, who know that the true meaning of Christmas is not found in consuming more and more; who know that the meaning is much deeper than trees and decorations. We have an opportunity to take this time to try to *slow down*. It is particularly hard, in our contemporary culture, to slow down, especially at this time of year. December is busy. There are parties to plan and attend. There are decorations to put up. There are meals to prepare.

But even as we do all this, we do well to spend extra time each day in reflection. Ruminates on the meaning of this time. Here are some Scriptures that can be starting points for our meditations on the Mystery of God's Incarnation over these next five weeks or so:

- Isaiah 2:1-5, where the Prophet foresees the incorporation of the Gentiles (that's most of us!) into God's plan and foresees a day when war shall be a thing of the past
- Isaiah 11:1-10, which prophesies the coming of the Messiah
- Isaiah 35:1-10, prophesying a time when the sick will be healed, the barren places will be fruitful, and those dispersed will be gathered in
- Isaiah 40:1-11, which foretells of a time when mankind's sin will be forgiven and the glory of the Lord will be revealed
- Malachi 3:1-5, which foretells the coming of St. John the Baptist, forerunner of our Lord
- 2 Samuel 7:8-17, which is God's promise to King David that his dynasty will reign forever
- Micah 5:1-5a, foretelling that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem
- Luke 1:5-25; 57-79, which tells the story of the announcement and birth of St. John the Forerunner
- Luke 1:26-38 tells the story of the Annunciation to the Theotokos
- Luke 1:39-56 tells the story of the Visitation of the Theotokos and St. Elizabeth, and Mary's beautiful *Magnificat*, which echoes the Old Testament prophecies

It is my prayer that this time of preparation and reflection will be fruitful for each and all of you, and for our whole parish. Let us open our hearts to hear God's word afresh. Let us be open to listening for what the Lord is trying to teach us at this time. Let us ask for the grace of true repentance. And let us look forward with joyful hope not only to the coming of Christmas but to Christ's glorious Second Coming, when all the nations shall "beat their swords into plows and their spears into pruning hooks." (Isaiah 2.4)

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
Yours in Christ,
Fr. Geoff

S	H	E	L	B	A	R	A	P	T
A	E	G	D	U	J	O	I	L	O
H	C	R	O	W	S	T	E	C	M
R	I	N	A	D	O	A	R	A	H
E	R	F	D	H	A	R	S	E	G
H	A	R	V	E	S	T	C	O	E
T	V	E	D	N	E	I	R	F	D
O	A	S	R	R	A	B	I	T	U
R	E	E	H	T	O	R	B	O	J
B	L	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T

CROWD
SHARE
ARBITRATOR
RICH

MASTER
FRIEND
AVARICE
HARVEST

BROTHER
JUDGE
PARABLE
TREASURE

Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

This upcoming Thursday, November 21st, is the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple. The background story to this event is pretty important.

The righteous Joachim and Anna were devout Jews who loved God very much. They lived on only a third of their income, tithing and giving away the rest. Yet they had no child. They promised God that they would give their child back to Him, if He would grant them one, and He blessed them with the gift of their daughter Mary.

When Mary was three years old, her aged parents, Joachim and Anna took her on a three day journey to present her in the Temple in Jerusalem to fulfill their promise to dedicate her to the Lord's work. The Virgin was clad in royal garments and she was accompanied by a grand procession of her kinsmen each carrying a lighted candle. There were 15 steps leading up to the Temple. Her parents stood her on the first step, then Mary ran to the top. She was received by St. Zacharias, the father of St. John the Forerunner, as he was the High Priest at that time. He took her by the hand and led her into, not only the Holy Place, but into the Holy of Holies. This was the place that only the High Priest was to enter, only on the Day of Atonement. The only explanation is that he was moved by the Spirit of God. Joachim and Anna offered sacrifices to God, received the priest's blessing and returned home. Mary lived in the Temple for nine years. Her parents visited her often until they reposed. She wanted to remain in the Temple all of her days and never marry. The law had no provision for this. It was unheard of for a girl to vow perpetual virginity. So she was betrothed to Joseph. Joseph was an older man whose wife had died leaving him with small children to care for. He needed someone to help him care for the children and she needed someone to protect her in a society that had no place for a single woman. This allowed her to remain a virgin after she left the Temple at age twelve.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple signifies her total dedication to God and her readiness for her future vocation as the Mother of the Incarnate Lord. This is a feast of anticipation. As honor is shown to Mary, the faithful are called to look forward to the Incarnation of Christ, celebrated in a little more than a month by the Feast of the Nativity on December 25th.

To celebrate this Feast Day, we will have a Vesperal Divine Liturgy on Wednesday evening, November 20th, at 6:00 P.M.



WELCOME

*We extend a warm welcome to our 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! If you haven't in a while, we invite everyone to **STAY** and join us.*



Christmas Altar Candles

A sign-up sheet is now in the Center to donate altar candles for Christmas in memory of a deceased loved one or friend or for the health and well-being of a loved one or friend. Please sign-up by November 24.

Advent Day of Reflection

The Sisters of St. Joseph in Baden invite you to ease into the Advent season with an unhurried, prayerful day with them on Sunday, December 1, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Following a brief prayer service, you will have the option of private reflection or time to enjoy soft music, wine, and cheese. Bring your Christmas cards and addresses and get started! We'll even have some Christmas cards designed by our sisters available for purchase. This is a **free** event, but please register online at <https://www.stjoseph-baden.org/event-calendar/> or call 724-869-2151.

Do you love God? Or do you love your stuff?

It is true that a man's life does not come from his possessions or from have an overabundance of them. He is who is rich toward God is very blessed and has glorious hope. Who is he? Evidently, one who does not love wealth but instead loves virtue, and to whom few things are sufficient (see Luke 10:42). It is one whose hand is open to the needs of those in poverty, according to his means and the utmost of his ability. He gathers in the storehouses that are above and lays up treasures in heaven. Such a man will find the interest of his virtue and the reward of his right and blameless life.

(St. Cyril of Alexandria)

WHAT CAN WE DELIGHT IN?

Take delight in all things that surround us. All things teach us and lead us to God. All things around us are droplets of the love of God — both things animate and inanimate, the plants and the animals, the birds and the mountains, the sea and the sunset and the starry sky. They are little loves through which we attain to the great Love that is Christ. Flowers, for example, have their own grace; they teach us with their fragrance and with their magnificence. They speak to us of the love of God. They scatter their fragrance and their beauty on sinners and on the righteous.

- Elder Porphyrios

Upcoming Calendar of Events

November 17, 24 Youth ECF Classes, 10:15-11:30
Now through December 15 Annual Christmas Almsgiving Collection
November 20 6:00 P.M. Vesperal Divine Liturgy, Entrance of the Theotokos Holy Day
November 21 Entrance of the Theotokos Holy Day
December 1, 8, 15 Youth ECF Classes, 10:15-11:30
December 1 Christmas Market Opens
December 6 St. Nicholas Day
December 8 63rd Annual St. Nicholas Banquet
December 17 Advent Journey: A Pilgrimage through Prophecy, 6:00 P.M. (info in bulletin)
December 22 Annual Christmas Party (Details to follow)

Coming in December!

Advent Journey: A Pilgrimage through Prophecy

Join us here at St. George Church on **Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00 P.M.** for an adult ECF forum. We will "walk" through the Old Testament from the Creation and Fall of humanity, through the calling of Israel, the anointing of Kings, the Prophetic predictions of the Messiah, and end with the Annunciation to Mary and her Visitation to Elizabeth - showing how the coming of Christ is the fulfillment of all of the history of redemption.

*As the harvesters of the Lord's vineyard, it is **our duty** to be educated and well-informed of our Eastern Catholic faith in order to build up the Kingdom of God and to grow in our own personal relationship with the Most Holy Trinity.*

Byzantine Bakery

We are once again having a Christmas nutroll sale. Nutrolls need to be ordered in advance and are \$15.00 each. Orders will be ready for pick-up on Sunday, December 22. Order sheets are in the center and narthex. **Let us do the baking for you!**

Christmas Market

There will be a "Christmas Market" in the Center beginning December 1. There will be many nice items such as ornaments, lights, home décor, and other decorations.

ST. NICHOLAS ARRIVES on Sunday, December 8 following Divine Liturgy bearing treats and greetings for all in attendance.

The annual Christmas party for the parishes of St. George and St. Mary will be on Sunday, December 22. Details to follow.

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But God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

The Rich Man in today's Gospel reading was defined by his riches. His preeminent thoughts were about collecting, protecting and hoarding his wealth. He forgot that he would have to let it all go one day. Our Lord tells us that "where your treasure is your heart will also be." The Rich Man was so distracted by his material wealth that he could not see that the real treasure was not his possessions. The real treasure lay within. The real treasure within is eternal. Jesus called it "the Kingdom of heaven." That night the Rich Man had to face death and he was not ready for it...



Because we are out of touch with the kingdom of heaven we get lost in life. We lose sight of what matters. Today Our Lord asks us to detach from earthly things because this is how we come alive to what is real, to His presence, to the kingdom of heaven within us. And he does it with such words as these, "Do not resist the evil man, but if he strikes you on the left cheek turn and offer him your right." "If a man asks for your shirt, give him your coat as well." "If a man asks you to go one mile with him, go with him two." The Lord asks us to push the envelope and act in a way that is against our natural inclination to self-defense because this is how to deflate and eventually transform the ego that thinks only of itself. So when we are insulted Jesus exhorts us to bless! He commands us to love our enemies, and not in words only, but from the depth of our hearts. By doing the opposite of what seems natural to us, striking back, and taking revenge, cursing our enemies we allow what is negative and ungodly in us to die and what is positive and godly in us to rise.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." How do we become "poor in spirit". By detaching ourselves from everything that we hold on to so dearly. To be "poor in spirit" is to be free of attachments, to be free from things, to nurture relationships that are free and unencumbered by desires and expectations, to let go of our own self-definitions and to rest in the knowledge and experience of God who is "in all places, filling all things." As we continue our journey of the Christmas Lent we are to remember to let go of earthly things, possessions and the cares of this life and to be grateful to God in every situation. In this way we cleanse the inside of the cup, as Jesus said, and begin to shine like the stars of heaven from within. Amen.

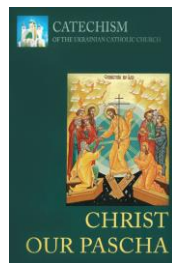
St. Philips Fast Nov.15 - Dec.24

"But you", He said, "Who do you say that I am?" Then Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Christ," he said, "the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:15-16.

"Who do you say that I am?" Was there ever such a penetrating question? Our answer to this question reveals not only who we think Christ is, but also who we are. Many of those who first heard Jesus ask this question were men and women of the Law. This is why they thought Jesus only a prophet. But Simon Peter could truly see Jesus for Who He Is. In his answer Peter revealed himself to be a man of God. What of our answers to the question of Jesus? What do our answers say about us? Are we men filled with the Holy Spirit? One of the most ancient titles Christians give themselves was "Christ-bearers." From the very first we have been aware that we are called "to bear the mysteries of God," to bear Christ to the world. As we prepare to greet Christ in His Nativity and His Baptism in the Jordan, we should look to our life. Do we bear Christ in all of our life, or only in those parts of our life we consider "religious" or "spiritual"? May our life during this season bear witness to the reality that "Christ is among us!" May our life answer that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

The Consequences of the Fall. The human intellect is also clouded as a consequence of sin, and humankind has forfeited communion with God – the highest Truth. As a result of sin, human beings cease to understand their own vocation and the destiny of the existence of all creatures to whom Adam himself gave names in Paradise (see Gn 2:20). (#151)



FREE resource available from our Library: (In the Center)

St. Philip's Fast for Families** ~ Activities for the whole family for the weeks of the St Philip's Fast from November 15 to December 24. **Please take one!

Make ready, O Bethlehem:

Let the manger be prepared, let the cave show it's welcome.



St. Philips Fast Nov.15 - Dec.24

During this fast it was the custom to observe a strict abstinence on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and a lesser abstinence (mitigation from wine and oil) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Ruthenian Metropolia has identified this period as a penitential season. This fast may be observed voluntarily, partially or in its entirety.

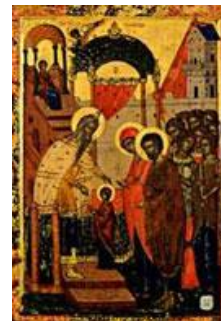
Fasting appears gloomy until one steps into its arena. But begin and you will see what light it brings after darkness, what freedom from bonds, what release after a burdensome life...

- Our venerable father Theophan the Recluse

To worthily meet our Lord and Savior, we should sanctify this pre-Nativity season of the Phillipian Fast. Sanctifying means spending our time in faith and in the service of God and in kindness towards our neighbor, especially those who are in need of our assistance. And we should think of what we would have been had Christ not come to our lowliness and poverty. Together with the whole of the Byzantine Church we should try to meet Christ as he deserves to be met and as it will, in His mercy, best serve our spiritual benefit!

2019 New Testament Challenge

Begun on November 15th (the beginning of the Advent/Nativity Fast), you are challenged to read through the entire New Testament (aloud) by Christmas! This is a great endeavor and exercise and you should join it! Read with your spouse as an Advent discipline! Even children can do this, and they have. You can do it, too. You won't be the same. We invite you to join in this 40 day offering and make more time for the reading of Holy Scripture this Advent. You can quickly catch up today (Weekends are used to catch up!). **Begin today!!! A copy of the daily readings is available at the library and narthex. PICK ONE UP TODAY!!!**



Entrance of the Theotokos, November 21:

Today is the prelude of God's benevolence and the herald of our salvation; for the Virgin openly appears in the Temple of God and foretells Christ to all. Let us also with full voice exclaim to her; Rejoice, Fulfillment of the Creator's plan!

Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!

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 AnointingAsk prior to surgery or serious illness
Holy Mystery of MarriageContact 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

O Christ the Savior, our true God, come to us and save us!