

November 24, 2019
Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Post-Festive Day of the Entrance of the Theotokos



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. 156 - 157, Tone 7 and pp. 268 - 271

Divine Services Schedule:

SUN., NOV. 24

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
Post-Festive day of the Entrance of the Theotokos

8:00 A.M.

Holy Rosary

8:30 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY

+ **Wilma Dobo**, offered by Francis and Connie Hersh

SUN., DEC. 1

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

8:00 A.M.

Holy Rosary

8:30 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY

+ **Marian Malackanich**, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba

Thanksgiving Prayer

Father in Heaven, Creator of all and source of all goodness and love, please look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude in this time of giving thanks. Thank you for all the graces and blessings. You have bestowed upon us, spiritual and temporal: our faith and religious heritage. Our food and shelter, our health, the loves we have for one another, our family and friends. Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity, please grant us continued graces and blessing throughout the coming year. Amen.



Happy Birthday Greetings this Week:

November 26: Bonita Taylor

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, Bonnie Taylor

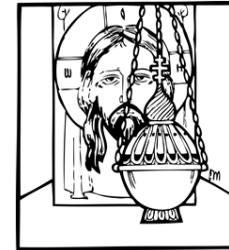
Hunter's Care Home (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

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: Nov. 24: Joanne Futato – Dec. 1: Reaghan Cody
Ushers: Nov. 24: F. Hersh/R. Dzumba – Dec. 1: R. Mudron/F. Hersh
Troica Holders: Nov. 24: J. Yurosky – Dec. 1: R. Mudron



THE SANCTUARY LAMP

November 24 - 30, 2019

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ **Michael Chabala**

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:
Wife, Gladys



On Thursday, November 28, we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day. It is an appropriate time for us to reflect on our blessings. It is a day to express our gratitude to Almighty God for His abundant gifts. He is the source of all blessings, as we pray in the Ambo prayer of the Divine Liturgy: **“For every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from You, the Father of Lights.”**

Our Byzantine Catholic Faith is Life Itself

A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Is there any holiday more American than Thanksgiving? Many of the other holidays and seasons we celebrate we share with others the world over. But Thanksgiving is our own, homegrown tradition. And for many - perhaps most - of us, it brings with it warm and happy memories of family gathered, an abundance of food, and some well-needed time off.

While Thanksgiving as a holiday is distinctively American, the idea of "thanksgiving" is profoundly universal. And it is a decidedly Christian attitude. Father Alexander Schmemmann gave his final homily at a Liturgy on Thanksgiving Day. In it, he said, **"Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy."** And, indeed, as Byzantine Catholic faithful, we celebrate "thanksgiving" every time we gather to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, for the word "eucharist" means "thanksgiving." We, who have God as our Father, Christ as our Brother, and the Holy Spirit as our Advocate, have all the *more* reason to give thanks - for we have been brought out of darkness into God's marvelous light (1 Peter 2.9).

Let us not just give thanks for the more obvious blessings of our lives. But let us also thank God for the challenges and difficulties in our lives, by which he sanctifies us and helps us to grow into his likeness. As one poet wrote,

*"Thanks for pain, and thanks for pleasure,
 thanks for comfort in despair!
 Thanks for grace that none can measure,
 thanks or love beyond compare!"*



And it is especially fitting, this time of year, to remember those who suffer in poverty, who lack basic necessities. And as we gather at our tables this Thursday, let us pray not only in thanksgiving for the food and fellowship God has given us. Let us also remember before our merciful Lord those who are not given the day off, or cannot afford to celebrate; and those who are not able to gather with loved ones who have passed away. Let us ask the Lord to give each of us grateful hearts not only this Thursday, but on every day of our lives; and to be given the grace to reach out and be the answer to the prayers of others.

With a Grateful Heart,
 Fr. Geoff

S	M	E	S	S	E	N	G	E	R	RIVER
T	S	L	A	D	N	A	S	E	E	ISAIAH
S	T	E	M	S	I	T	P	A	B	MESSENGER
U	R	W	N	S	P	E	S	R	O	WILDERNESS
C	A	F	A	R	N	I	E	E	O	BAPTISM
O	P	I	S	T	E	T	R	V	K	REPENTANCE
L	A	T	A	N	E	D	E	I	A	CAMELSKIN
H	O	N	E	Y	I	R	L	R	T	LOCUSTS
K	C	A	M	E	L	S	K	I	N	HONEY
E	R	T	N	E	T	T	I	R	W	STRAP
										SANDALS
										SPIRIT

Church Mice

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Christmas Party

For the parishes of
St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas

Sunday, December 22
St. George Church Center

\$12.00 per person
Children under 16 free

Liturgy: 11:00 A.M.

Christmas Party: 1:00 P.M.

*Divine Liturgy, luncheon, caroling,
Chinese Auction, 50/50 raffle, music*

St. Nicholas will arrive, bearing gifts for the children

There is a sign-up sheet in each parish

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

Christmas Market

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



Byzantine Bakery

We are 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!**

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!*



St. Nicholas Liturgy

Fr. Will Rupp and the people of St. Nicholas Chapel (5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver) invite our congregation to participate with them in celebrating their Patronal Feast. We will celebrate together **Vespers and Divine Liturgy on December 5th at 7:00 PM**. This is part of our three parishes' (Ambridge, Aliquippa, Beaver) supporting each other on our respective feast days. Fr. Geoffrey has been asked to be the homilist for the liturgy and we look forward to seeing many old and new friends there!

St. Nicholas arrives at St. George on Sunday, December 8, following our Divine Liturgy bearing treats and greetings for all in attendance.

Another Thanksgiving Prayer...

Oh, God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry. When I have work, help me to remember the jobless. When I have a warm home, help me to remember the homeless. When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer; and remembering, help me to destroy my complacency and stir up my compassion. Make me concerned enough to help, by word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted.



Next Pirohi Sale: December 13. Plan your Christmas orders!

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Today Youth ECF Classes, 10:15-11:30
Now through December 15 Annual Christmas Almsgiving Collection
December 1, 8, 15 Youth ECF Classes, 10:15-11:30
December 1 Christmas Market Opens
December 6 St. Nicholas Day
December 8 Maternity of Anna Holy 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 (Info in bulletin)
December 25 Feast of the Nativity of Christ

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. Today is the last day to sign-up.

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.

Church Family News...

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

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.



Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

In our Gospel reading for today, we find Christ in the synagogue. He was teaching there on the Sabbath day. He saw a woman who had been ill for 18 years. She was bent over. For 18 years, all she could look at was the ground. Christ showed her great compassion. He called to her. "Woman," he said, "You are loosed from your illness." He laid hands on the woman. St. Luke the Evangelist tells us that immediately she was made straight. And she glorified God.



This poor woman is so much like many of us in this life. Many people in the world are broken. They are bent over, so to speak, by the weight of living this life. They are bent over by life's cares, sorrows, pressures. And even if we seem overwhelmed by our own cares – think of others. Think of those who might be worse off than we are. Think of the hungry, the naked, and the homeless. Think of mothers and fathers out of work. Human suffering is everywhere and throughout this earth. There are many in this world who are bent over with the infirmity that is their own lives.

Besides healing this woman Our Lord teaches us a valuable lesson. We witness that this act of healing of the poor bent woman was an act of love, an act of charity. Christ is telling the ruler of the synagogue and us that an act of love – can be done any time! This act of love done by Christ far transcends any law or any rule. This is a call for us to follow Christ in the same daring. We are called to dare to break away from our daily comforts and concerns. We are called to dare to reach out to those less fortunate. We are called to give and give, and give some more. We are called to give, as the expression goes, "until it hurts." This is the way to follow Christ.

And for those among us who feel crushed and bent over by the cares and worries of this life? It is to Christ Himself that we must turn. It is only Christ who can straighten our backs. It is only Christ who can make us look, not at the ground, but up to the heavens. This time of preparation for the arrival of Christ at Christmas is a time to not only to be ashamed of our way of life that keeps us bent over. It is to prepare for the great rejoicing at the glorious things being done by God. He sends His Son to straighten our lives so that we can join Him in straightening others.

St. Philips Fast Nov.15 - Dec.24

How can we prepare for Christ's arrival?

One way is by increasing our prayer. "The two great movements of the soul have always been withdrawal and return...withdrawal into God's presence through prayer for strength...without prayer, the quality of our service deteriorates. Without prayer we forget the world; with prayer we remember." Advent is a time to remember that in God, we move and breathe and have our being, and we must be *with* Him and consciously *in* Him before we can have authentic love and relationship with others." ~ Fr. Anthony Coniaris

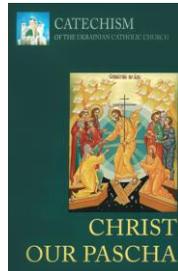


Prefestive Troparion of the Nativity

Bethlehem, make ready, Eden has been opened for all. Ephrathah, prepare yourself, for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Virgin in the cave. Her womb has become a spiritual paradise in which divinity has been planted. If we partake of it, we shall live and not die like Adam. Christ is born to raise up the likeness that had fallen.

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

The Consequences of the Fall. Spiritual death led to bodily death: "This liability to death ... was provisionally made to envelop the nature created for immortality." Fear and shame were additional consequences of the fall: "They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden" (Gn 3:8). Fear deprives us of peace. We avoid contact with God. (#152)



Rejoice! You are free!

The incarnation of the Word and his assumption of human nature took place for the overthrow of death, destruction and the envy harbored against us by the wicket Serpent, who was the first cause of evil. This is plainly proved to by the facts themselves. He set free the daughter of Abraham from her protracted sickness, calling out and saying, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." A speech most worthy of God, and full of supernatural power! With the royal inclination of His will He drives away the disease. He also lays his hands upon her. It says that she immediately was made straight. It is now also possible to see that His holy flesh bore in it the power and activity of God.

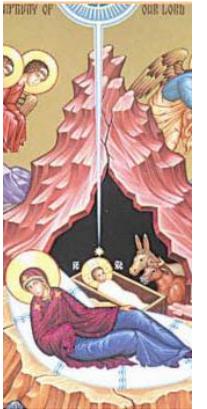
(St. Cyril of Alexandria)

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

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.



Upcoming Live Webinar
THE GIFT OF GOD
Preparing for the Feast of the Nativity
Presented by Rev. David Anderson
Wednesday, December 18
8:00 – 9:00 P.M. Eastern Time



As the Great Feast of the Nativity of the Lord draws closer, using the prayers of the Church in this holy season as our guide, we will ponder God's gift of Himself to us, and consider how we can respond by making a gift of ourselves to Him.

Register at: <http://easterncatholic.org/events>. All webinars will open 30 minutes ahead of time for questions and pre-class discussion. Please join us! Flyers are available in the Center.

*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.*

On Finding Christ

"If you do not find Christ in the beggar at the church door, neither will you find Him in the Chalice!"

St. John Chrysostom

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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FAX: 724-375-8776

ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652

PARISH WEBSITE: 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 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, incarnate Son of the Eternal God, come to us and save us!