

August 3, 2025
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



Veil of Protection
SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH!

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

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 7: pp. 156 - 158

St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., AUG. 3EIGHTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY

Art & Mary Ellen Fellenstein, requested by Carol Fellenstein

WED., AUG. 6 TRANSFIGURATION HOLYDAY

9:00 A.M. MATINS

6:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY with Blessing of Fruit

+Margaret Fellenstein, requested by Carol Fellenstein

THUR., AUG. 7..... Post-Festive Day of the Transfiguration

7:30 A.M. First & Third Hour

FRI., AUG. 8 Post-Festive Day of the Transfiguration

9:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY

Special intention for Wana Batson, requested by Matt

SUN., AUG. 10 NINTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY

Fr. Chris Mannerino on the 10th anniversary of his priesthood, requested by Carol Fellenstein

Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!

Happy Birthday Greetings:

Aug. 6: Diana Magera, Aug. 8: George Kowalsky

Wedding Anniversaries:

Aug. 5: Jody & Amanda Campbell

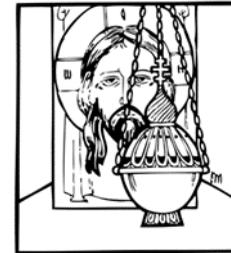
Please Pray for Our Sick and Shut-ins:

HOME: Penny Furis, Ron Jones, William Killian, Joyce Rose, Eleanor Soltis

Franciscan Manor (71 Darlington Rd., Beaver Falls, PA 15010) - George Cirka

Christ is Among us! He is and Shall be!

Christos posred'i nas! Jest' i budet!



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

August 3 - 9, 2025

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

The Parishioners

Parish Offerings for July 20, 2025

Offertory	\$ 1,597.00
Loose Currency	\$102.00
Candles	\$18.00
Holy Day	\$60.00
TOTAL:	\$1777.00

Parish Offerings for July 27, 2025

Offertory	\$ 832.00
Loose Currency	\$70.00
Candles	\$18.00
Holy Day	\$27.00
TOTAL:	\$929.00

Regular Confessions Offered

St. George 4:45-5:45 P.M. on Thursdays and **before** every Sunday Divine Liturgy
 St. Mary: 4:45-5:45 P.M. on Wednesdays and **following** every Sunday Divine Liturgy
 St. Nicholas 4:00-4:45 P.M. before Vigil Liturgy on Saturdays

Beaver County Byzantines Happenings...

Parishes Picnic

The annual picnic for our Byzantine Catholic Parishes will be on **Sunday, August 17**, on the grounds of St. George Church. The day will begin with a **10:00 AM Divine Liturgy** followed by the activities. St. George's Men's Club will once again be supplying and grilling the meats, and St. George's Ladies Guild will be preparing the main side dishes and setting up the picnic buffet. Everyone is asked to bring (potluck) side dishes, desserts, or beverages. We are once again having the very popular basket raffle and will be accepting donations of various theme baskets. There will be a dunk tank to dunk Fr. Anthony and more details to follow.



Catholic Conversations: Time for the Lord to Act: The final adult education class in this series at St. George is **Thursday, Aug. 7 after 6:00 PM Divine Liturgy.**

The Blessing of the Fruits

The feast of the Holy Transfiguration is celebrated late in summer, at the time of the first fruits, which remind us of God's great goodness and His infinite bounty. To express our recognition and gratitude to God for His generosity we bring some of these first fruits to the church for blessing. The custom to bless the first fruits passed to us from the Old Testament, since the Jews at the very beginning of their exodus were ordered by Almighty God: "You must bring the best of the first fruits of your soil to the house of the Lord, your God." (Ex. 23:19) St. Gregory of Nazianz calls the practice to bless the fruits in church a "just and holy" custom.



The Christian practice to bless the fruits in church can be traced back to Apostolic times. The oldest prayer for the blessing of fruits is registered by the Apostolic Constitutions in the fourth century. But there is also an older Prayer of Thanksgiving for the new fruits in the work of St. Hippolytus, the Apostolic Tradition, composed about 220 A.D. St. Hippolytus mentions the following fruits usually blessed: grapes, figs, pomegranates, pears, mulberries, peaches, and almonds.

The sixth Ecumenical Council, celebrated in Constantinople (680-681), prescribed that the new "wheat and grapes" were to be blessed in church on the feast of the Holy Transfiguration (canon 28). For this reason, some older books of blessings, called Euchologion, forbid the faithful to eat new fruits of the season before they have been blessed in church.

In the land of our ancestors, in Subcarpathia, the fruits of the season were apples, plums, and pears. These usually were brought to the church and blessed. In the United States grapes are also added.

Each family is encouraged to bring a basket of fruit to Church for the Holy Day Liturgy

St. George Divine Services for the Week:

TUE., AUG. 5 **Tranfiguration Holyday, Anticipated**
9:00 A.M. **PARAKLIS**
5:00 P.M. **Great Vespers with Litija for the Transfiguration**
6:00 P.M. **DIVINE LITURGY with Blessing of Fruit**
+ Hermancia Mason, requested by Sr. Mary Virginia

WED., AUG. 6 **TRANSFIGURATION HOLYDAY**
7:00 A.M. **First & Third Hours**

THUR., AUG. 7..... **Post-Festive Day of the Transfiguration**
6:00 P.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Alex George, requested by Fr. Anthony

SAT., AUG. 9 **NINTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
7:00 P.M. **Great Vespers**

SUN., AUG. 10 **NINTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
For the People of St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas Chapel

St. Nicholas Chapel Divine Services for the Week:

SAT., AUG. 9 **NINTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
5:00 P.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Elsie Tarabick, requested by Carol Fellenstein

Paraklesis for the Dormition Fast

The **Paraklesis**, or **Office of Supplication to the Theotokos** is probably the most ancient (and beautiful!) service of supplication. In this much-loved service, based on the office of Matins, the faithful present their petitions before the Mother of God and ask for her intercession. This service is particularly connected with the Dormition Fast (August 1-14) but can be celebrated at any time during the year. Come and be part of this prayerful event, **Tuesday, Aug. 5 at 9:00 AM** at St. George.

A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear parishioners,

The feast of the Transfiguration is a Solemn Holy Day, which means we are supposed to have full liturgical observance whenever possible. While this is often impossible due to a lack of cantors, we are blessed over the summer to be able to celebrate Vespers, Matins, 1st and 3rd Hour, as well as Divine Liturgy (with blessing of fruit) to celebrate this great feast day.

Following the 6:00pm Wednesday evening liturgy, we will have a light social in the rectory and seminarian Alex will be presenting his vocation story as part of the requirements for his summer assignment from the Archeparchy.

Thursday is our final adult education class. Proskedia will be done on the tetrapod at 5:40pm so people can see this beautiful preparatory rite which normally takes place behind the iconostasis prior to liturgy.

Please let me know if you desire envelopes for the upcoming Church year if you are not currently receiving them. We have to order them soon.

Please sign up your children for ECF and give me or Claire Arnold the forms by Sunday, August 10th.

Finally, please sign up for the parish picnic at St. George following a combined 10:00am Divine Liturgy on August 17th. Since we only have one liturgy that morning, we also will have Matins at 8:30am at St. George.

In Christ,
Fr. Anthony

Learn What Jesus Did

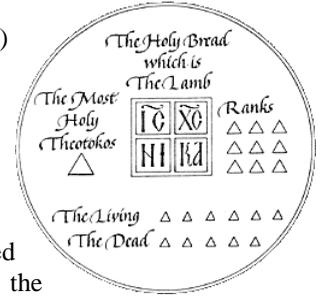
And not even here does Jesus hold back on the miracle, but it continues as the loaves become fragments. The broken pieces signify that of those the loaves, some remained unreceived. This was in order that those who were absent might also learn what had been done. For this providential purpose, then, Jesus indeed permitted the crowds to get hungry in order that no one might suppose what took place to be as illusion. For this purpose He also caused just twelve baskets to remain over: that Judas, too, might bear one. He wanted all the disciples to know his power. He fed their hunger.

(Commentary from St. John Chrysostom)

Christ is among us! He is and shall be!

What is the Proskedia?

The initial part of the Divine Liturgy is called the **prothesis** ("setting forth") or the **proskedia** ("sacrifice"). The priest takes a loaf of leavened bread, called **prospora**, and cuts a square section out of the middle; this square will be used for Holy Communion, and is called the **lamb**. During this process, the priest recites verses from Scripture which refer to the incarnation of Christ and his sacrifice. The lamb is placed on a small plate called the **diskos**, and covered with several cloths or veils. Then wine and a little water (representing the divine and human natures of Christ) is mixed into a **chalice**. Then the priest cuts triangular pieces of bread out of the remaining part of the prospora, or from additional loaves, to represent the Mother of God, the angels, and the various classes of saints, the leaders and people of the Church, and each person living or dead for whom the liturgy is offered. These are placed in a particular pattern around the lamb on the diskos; when this process is complete, the diskos contains a symbolic representation of the entire Kingdom of God, gathered around Christ. The diskos and chalice are covered with veils and incensed, and the priest says the Prayer of Offering:



God, our God, who have sent forth the heavenly bread as the nourishment of the whole world, our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, the Savior and Redeemer and Benefactor to bless and sanctify us, bless these gifts placed here before you and accept them on your heavenly altar. Remember, as the merciful lover of us all, those who brought the offerings and those for whom they are being offered; and keep us blameless in the holy celebration of your divine mysteries. For sanctified and glorified is your most honored and sublime name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

The priest then goes to stand before the holy table (altar), while the deacon incenses the gifts, the altar, the icons on the iconostasis, the whole church, the people, and the clergy. It is now time for the public part of the Divine Liturgy to begin.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Gospel reading from the holy apostle and evangelist Matthew relates to us the feeding of the five thousand and the miraculous multiplication of loaves and fishes. This miracle teaches us several things that are helpful in our journey of faith. We can see how this miracle is also a revelation of the Savior's divinity, of the power of Christ. The miracle takes place when the day is already far spent, but Christ is not limited by time; He is the Lord of Time. Where does this miracle take place? In a desert place, in the wilderness; therefore, Christ is also the Lord of Space. He blesses and multiplies bread and fish; He is also the Lord of Land and Sea. We see in this miracle how Christ not only feeds us with material food, but also with spiritual food, for, as it is written in the Holy Scriptures, "man shall not live by bread alone". Look at the numbers mentioned in this Gospel. **Why five loaves?** The number five, as we read in the Psalms and in the prayers of thanksgiving after communion, represent our five senses. These five senses are fed by Christ, the Bread of Life. **What about the two fishes?** They represent the two parts of the New Testament, the Gospels and the Epistles, which were written by fishermen, who became fishers of men, for we are spiritually fed by their writings. **Why twelve baskets of fragments?** They represent the twelve Apostles who preach to the ends of the universe, the fragments who feed our souls with the words of Christ through the Holy Spirit. As we meditate upon this Gospel reading, let us open our minds and souls to Christ our True God that we too may be fed and satisfied with the Bread of Life.



SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
PRIEST: FATHER ANTHONY COSTANTINO



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CHURCH FAX: 724-266-1834
CHURCH HALL: 724-266-8642
PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmaryambridge.org



Cantors: Alex Broussard, Tasney Broussard, Naedia McCann

E.C.F. coordinator: Claire Arnold

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation..... Wednesdays 4:45-5:45 P.M. & after Sunday Liturgy.
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.
Pirohi Sales Every Friday

O Most Holy Theotokos save us!