

September 21, 2025
Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Veil of Protection
SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH!

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!
Слава Исусу Христу! Слава на вики!*

Propers for this Sunday: See Handout

St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., SEPT. 21 SUNDAY after the EXALTATION of the HOLY CROSS
11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
For the People of St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas Chapel

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

SUN., SEPT. 28 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
+ John Moskorisin, requested by the Barclay Family

St. Nicholas Chapel Divine Services for the Week:

SAT., SEPT. 27 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
5:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY
+Aracelli Viso Kimball, requested by Laura Bachurski

Fr. Anthony will be away until the afternoon of Thursday, September 25th. Fr. Luke Iyengar will cover our Wednesday evening liturgy. Please call Fr. Joseph Raptosh, our Protospesbyter, at St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in Canonsburg at 724-745-7117 in case of a sacramental emergency.

Happy Birthday Greetings:
Sept. 24: Bill Killian

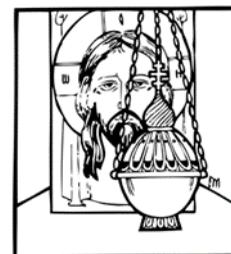
Wedding Anniversaries:
None for the week

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!*



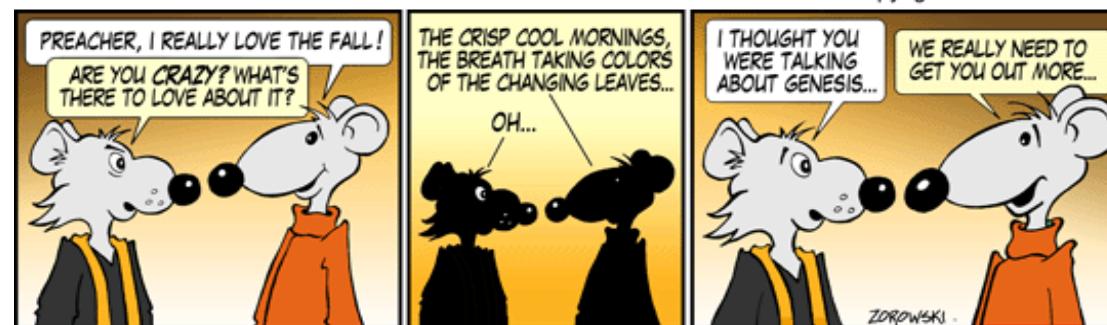
THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
September 21 - 27, 2025

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

The Parishioners

Church Mice

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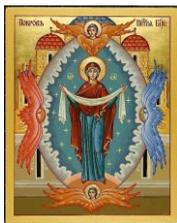
Regular Confessions Offered

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...

Protection of the Theotokos Week of Celebration

There are several events planned to celebrate St. Mary's Patronal Feast Day beginning Tuesday, September 30. We invite all parishioners and guests to come and honor our Patron, St. Mary, and to celebrate together as a parish family. **There is a flyer in today's bulletin with dates and times.**



Pirohi Sales Return



Pirohi Sales will return on Friday, September 26 and continue weekly. Call in orders on Wednesdays from 9am-11am by calling 724-266-8642. Walk-in orders are welcome beginning at 10:00am on Fridays. Thank you!

Cross of Gratitude at St. George until Next Sunday

The cross of Gratitude is a 20-foot tall, 800-pound crucifix that was carved for the 2000th anniversary of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in 2033. Its worldwide began journey 20 years ago and has been blessed by St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis. The cross of Gratitude continues its stay at St. George Church until next Sunday, September 28. There are multiple services during the week while the Cross is there. You are warmly invited to visit, pray, and reflect before this holy cross, give thanks for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, and unite in wholehearted devotion.



Women's Day of Recollection

On Saturday, October 4, there will be a day of Recollection for women at St. George Church including, Divine Liturgy, Continental breakfast, guest speaker, Akathist, and fellowship. **Complete information is enclosed in today's bulletin. Sign up today!**

St. George Divine Services for the Week:

WED., SEPT. 24 Holy Martyr Thecla, First Among Women, Equal to the Apostles
6:00 P.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
For the Spiritual and Temporal Welfare of Alyssa Hoy, requested by Kara Rubino-Garvey

THUR., SEPT. 25..... Falling Asleep of Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian
6:00 P.M. **GREAT VESPERS with LITIJA**

FRI., SEPT. 26Falling Asleep of Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian
9:00 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
For healing of Rob Coen, requested by Carol Fellenstein

SAT., SEPT. 27 **SIXTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
7:00 P.M. **GREAT VESPERS**

SUN., SEPT. 28 **SIXTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
For the People of St. George, St Mary, and St. Nicholas Chapel

About the Three-Barred Cross

The Three-barred Cross is common to most Slavic countries. The three bars distinguish the Holy Cross as the Cross of Christ, as opposed to other crosses used in Western Christianity. The smaller upper bar represents the sign placed above the Lord's head, which read, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews". The slanted lower bar reflects the fate of the thieves crucified on either side of the Lord: one side pointing up to Paradise, the other downward to Hades. On either side of the Cross are often pictures the spear used to pierce the Lord's side, and the pole with the sponge used to give Him sour wine to drink.



"When you make the sign of the cross on the forehead, arm yourself with a saintly boldness; for you are not ignorant that the cross is a prize beyond all price. Consider what is the price given for your ransom, and you will never more be slave to any man on earth. This reward and ransom is the cross. You should not then, carelessly make the sign on the forehead, but you should impress it on your heart with the love of a fervent faith. Nothing impure will dare to molest you on seeing the weapon, which overcomes all things."

(Saint John Chrysostom)

A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

The Cross of Gratitude continues to visit St. George this week. As I already had a few days of vacation planned and an airline ticket bought, Fr. Luke Iyengar has graciously agreed to celebrate Wednesday evening Divine Liturgy. I will be back to celebrate the rest of the Divine Services. I will be traveling in October as well for our clergy retreat and a trip to the West Coast. I try to schedule most of my vacation time for a time of the year when there are no major liturgical celebrations.

Invite all of your friends and family to make a pilgrimage and pray with us during these special days. Thanks to Fr. Schreck from St. Augustine parish, we also have a **relic of the True Cross present at St. George** during these days of prayer, and I will give blessings with it following all Divine Services.

Please note that on Sunday, September 28th, there will be a social following the 8:30 liturgy at St. George with Vitaliy Sobolivskyy, the sculptor of the Cross of Gratitude, before he takes the cross. Please consider making a donation to him (we have a box to collect money) as he has transported the cross to us free of charge and he lives in New Jersey!

Due to the exceptional nature of this week all weekday services will be held at St. George. However, next week we will celebrate an All-Night Vigil and Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's only for the Protection of the Theotokos.

Weekly pirohi sales resume at St. Mary's this Friday, September 26th. Call in orders accepted from 9am-11am on Wednesdays and Walk-ins welcome beginning at 10:00am on Fridays. Please call 724-266-8642 and not the office phone number!

Sunday, October 5th, we will have food and the parish open house as we did last year at St. Mary's. We will have 9:45am Matins with one combined liturgy at 11:00am at St. Mary's.

A reminder to sign up for the women's morning of recollection at St. George Saturday, October 4th (See flyer for details).

In Christ,
Fr. Anthony

Protect Your people by Your Cross

Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross

THE Lord said, "If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake, and for the sake of the Gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the Kingdom of God has come in power."



What are the defining features of the followers of Christ? It's a three-step process: 1. denying ourselves, 2. taking up our cross, 3. following Christ.

1. How do we deny ourselves? By stopping being selfish, egotistical, narcissistic. In other words, by putting others ahead of ourselves. This does not mean that we do not take care of ourselves, rather we take care of ourselves by helping others. It's easy to become self-centered. Christ's followers work towards becoming Christ-centered.

2. What is the cross? In the times of Jesus Christ, crucifixion was the most horrific punishment possible. Roman citizens were urged to not even think about crucifixion. It was just a horrible, painful, and slow death. For Christians, the cross has become the sign of victory, a weapon that helps defeat evil. To take up our cross means taking our life - with all its joys and happy moments, with all the pain and suffering, with all the flaws, and death - accept it and embrace it, as hard as it may be, and stumble towards God, in imitation of Christ. For Christ it was not easy also. He was beaten, ridiculed, and physically nailed to the cross. A little side anecdote. There was a man who complained to Jesus that his cross was too much for him, there was no way he was going to finish the course, so to say. So, Christ took him into a big storage room, full of crosses, and said, "Fine, pick any cross you like." There were crosses of all sizes. The man spent some time looking at them but could not find one that he liked. Then he turns around and sees a cross by the door. Then he said, "I like this one. It looks like the cross that would fit me." And Jesus said, "That's the cross you left when you walked in here."

3. Following Christ does not necessarily mean more happiness or less suffering. In Christ, any happiness and suffering we experience will find its fulfillment. We can share our joy with those around us, especially those who are suffering, in this way co-suffering with them. And when we suffer, we can let others co-suffer with us.

We should take comfort in the fact that Christ saved us by suffering for us. Suffering is salvific.
Father Aleksey Paranyuk

SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
PRIEST: FATHER ANTHONY COSTANTINO



Deacon Thomas J. Klacik
624 Park Road – Ambridge, PA 15003
Fr. Anthony's Cell #: (878) 226-0878
OFFICE PHONE: 724-266-2030
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

*The Cross, once a tool of death, has become a means to life, an instrument of our salvation;
it gives strength to resist temptation, to refrain from gossip or harsh words and it dispels*



ST. MARY'S PATRONAL FEAST DAY

Events Schedule

**TUES
SEP 30**

All Night Vigil (Vespers
and Matins)
5:00 PM — Social to follow!

**WED
OCT 1**

Divine Liturgy
6:00 PM — Social to follow!

**SUN
OCT 5**

Matins and Divine Liturgy
9:45 AM Matins 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Food and Parish open house to follow!

For more details and updates about these events, please
visit our website or follow us on social media
stmaryambridge.org



WOMEN'S MORNING OF RECOLLECTION

ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
1001 CLINTON ST., ALIQUIPPA, PA

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Cost to attend: \$10

Register by emailing stgeorgealiquippa@protonmail.com
or by calling 724-375-2742

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- 10:00 am Continental breakfast
- 10:30 am Guest speaker Melissa Sartori
Topic: *"Finding Peace In Prayer"*
- 11:30 am Akathist

About the speaker:

Melissa is a wife and mother of five, living in Beaver Falls and homeschooling her children. She and her husband met at the University of Pittsburgh where they both went on to become campus missionaries with Focus.

