

March 23, 2025

Third Sunday of the Great Fast/Veneration of the Holy Cross



# Veil of Protection

SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! - Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!*

Tone 3: pg. 135, Third Sunday of the Fast: pp. 224 – 225, Typical Psalms: pp. 16-17, Beatitudes: pp. 23-24, St. Basil melodies: pg. 96

## St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

- SUN., MARCH 23** ..... **THIRD SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST,**  
**Veneration of the Holy Cross**  
**11:00 A.M.** ..... **DIVINE LITURGY of ST. BASIL**  
 +Elsie Plumb 5th Anniversary of Passing, requested by Greg Plumb
- TUE., MARCH 25** ..... **ANNUNCIATION of the THEOTOKOS**  
**11:00 A.M.** ..... **DIVINE LITURGY**  
 Private Intention requested by Todd and Ann Wilson
- WED., MARCH 26** ..... **Mid-Lent Synaxis of Gabriel the Archangel**  
**4:45-5:45 P.M.** ..... **Confessions**  
**6:00 P.M.** ..... **LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS,**  
**ADULT EDUCATION FOLLOWING**
- THUR., MARCH 27** ..... **Venerable Mother Matrona of Thessalonica**  
**6:00 P.M.** ..... **LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS,**
- FRI., MARCH 28** ..... **Venerable Father Hilary the Younger**  
**9:00 A.M.** ..... **Matins with Typika**
- SUN., MARCH 30** ..... **FOURTH SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST**  
**11:00 A.M.** ..... **DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL**  
 +Elsie Plumb requested by Greg Plumb  
**4:00 P.M.** ..... **LENTEN VESPERS**

**Happy Birthday Greetings:**

None for the week

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

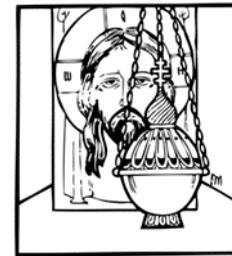
None for the week

**Please Pray for Our Sick and Shut-ins:**

**HOME:** Penny Furis, Ron Jones, William Killian, Mary Lou Phillips, 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

March 23 - 29, 2025

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

The Parishioners

## Parish Offerings for March 16, 2025

God bless your generosity! "Everyone must give according to whatever he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:7)

Offertory .....	\$ 824.00
Loose Currency .....	\$129.00
Candles .....	\$12.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$965.00</b>

Do not neglect good deeds and generosity, God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind." (Hebrews 13:16)

## Regular Confessions Offered

- St. George ..... 4:45-5:45 P.M. on Fridays 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

### **Akathistos Saturday Liturgy and talk by Dr. John Rao**

Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> is Akathistos Saturday. We will be singing the Akathist at 8:15am followed by Divine Liturgy at 9am. Following Divine Liturgy, there will be a talk by Dr. John Rao, a renowned Roman Catholic historian, on Proclaiming Christ the King and a light breakfast. We will be hosting this talk, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of a 3-day conference put on by Knights of Columbus Woodlawn Council 2161 from St. Titus, and participants of their weekend conference. Due to a scheduling problem at St. Titus, they asked if I would be willing to host the middle day at St. George, and they wanted the opportunity to experience a Byzantine Liturgical service.

I am pleased to assist in this matter as it gives me a chance to reciprocate the assistance given to me by the clergy of Mary, Queen of Saints parish in covering in case of sacramental emergencies when I am away. It also allows us to share our Byzantine liturgical treasury with other traditionally minded Catholics, and allows our experience to be enhanced by a talk from a noted intellectual of another Catholic Church we are in Communion with.

The Knights are charging for the conference in order to pay for the expense of bringing in Dr. Rao, who is from New York. Since we are hosting, the cost for our St. George parishioners is greatly reduced and I am able to subsidize the cost using a donation. If anyone from St. Mary's wishes to attend, please speak to me. However, **registration is required by Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup>**. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. If you are interested in signing up for the rest of the conference, below is a link: <https://knightsofcolumbuslatinmass.blogspot.com/2025/01/weekend-lenten-conference-4-6-april-2025.html>

### **18<sup>th</sup> EGGstravaganza**

The 18<sup>th</sup> EGGstravaganza, will be held on **Sunday, April 6 from 12:00 noon – 4:00PM**, at **St. John Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall, 201 E. Main St., in Uniontown**. Come and “experience the traditions”. Egg artists will demonstrate and sell eggs. There will be a Market Place with Pysanky supplies, Easter items, Easter crafts, basket covers, and other ethnic items. Children’s activities include storytelling, making Easter eggs, and other projects. There will also be a hands-on workshop for those interested in learning to make pysanky. A Lenten lunch menu will be available for purchase as well as an extensive bake sale table. Admission is free. For info: call 724-438-1382 (Leave message.) Check parish website for any updates: [www.stjohnbaptist-byzath-uniontown.org](http://www.stjohnbaptist-byzath-uniontown.org) & [www.facebook.com/StJohnByzUniontown](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnByzUniontown).

### **57<sup>th</sup> Ukrainian Easter Egg Sale**

The 57<sup>th</sup> Ukrainian Easter Egg Sale will be held on **Sunday, April 13, 2025 from 11 AM to 4 PM** at **St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA 15106**. There will be over 1,200 Ukrainian pysanky including 300 specialty eggs (goose, ostrich, wooden and more...) to see or purchase. They will also have folk arts & crafts from Ukraine, basket raffles, and door prizes. The Ukrainian Kitchen will be open serving dine-in or take-out kielbasa, Pyrohy, holupchy, halushki, homemade Easter paska bread, and baked goods. There will be Church Tours & Talk given by Fr. John Charest at 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM & 2:00 PM. For information call: 412-527-5359 or 412-279-2111 or visit [orthodoxcarnegie@gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxcarnegie@gmail.com)

### **St. George Divine Services for the Week:**

**SUN., MARCH 23 ..... THIRD SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST,  
4:00 P.M. .... LENTEN VESPERS**

**TUE., MARCH 25 ..... ANNUNCIATION of the THEOTOKOS  
6:00 P.M. .... VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY  
+ Florence Lasky, requested by Todd and Ann Wilson**

**FRI., MARCH 28 ..... Venerable Father Hilary the Younger  
4:45-5:45 P.M. .... Confessions  
6:00 P.M. .... LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS**

**SAT., MARCH 29 ..... Fourth All-Souls Saturday  
9:00A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY of ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM,  
*Panachida, Hramoty*  
For the + Deceased Members of St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas Chapel**

**SUN., MARCH 30 ..... FOURTH SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST  
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., MARCH 29 ..... FOURTH SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST,  
Veneration of the Holy Cross  
5:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY OF St. Basil  
Private intention requested by Todd & Ann Wilson**

**Self-Denial and Sure-Footedness** - One who claims to abide in Christ ought to walk as He walked. Would you follow Christ? Then be humble as he was humble. Do not scorn his lowliness if you want to reach his exaltation. Human sin made the road rough. Christ’s resurrection leveled it. By passing over it Himself, He transformed the narrowest of tracks into a royal highway. Two feet are needed to run along this highway; they are humility and charity. Everyone wants to get to the top – well, the first step to take is humility. Why take strides that are too big for you – do you want to fall instead of going up? Begin with the first step, humility, and you will already be climbing. (*Saint Caesarius of Arles*)

### A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

We celebrate the Annunciation this Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, a Solemn Holy Day. This joyful day on which the Theotokos said "yes" to God and our Lord became incarnate is the one weekday during our Lenten Season in which Divine Liturgy is celebrated. To give you every opportunity to attend, we will have an 11:00am Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's and a 6:00pm Vespers Liturgy at St. George. While I will be present, we will welcome Fr. Ryan Liebhaber as a guest celebrant for Presanctified on Thursday. This upcoming Saturday is the 4<sup>th</sup> All Souls Saturday.

This upcoming Sunday, **Fr. Ivan Chirovsky will be our guest confessor** for our parish' special Lenten opportunity to celebrate the Mystery of Repentance prior to Pascha. He will be hearing Confessions at St. George and St. Mary's starting a half-hour prior to Liturgy and continuing during the Liturgy. He will hear confessions in the library at St. George and the cry room at St. Mary's. The rooms will be set up so that you can remain anonymous if you choose to, and the ushers will direct traffic. At St. Mary's, I am asking the parishioners to please not congregate in the vestibule prior to that liturgy in order to provide privacy for the sacrament. He is a holy priest, the spiritual director at our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, and I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Finally, we will be moving forward with collecting bids for the masonry and roof repairs at St. George as required by the Archeparchy. The masonry work is urgent and needs to be done ASAP to prevent further deterioration and cost. We will be patching the roof in the next couple of weeks to give us time to obtain and submit bids to the Archeparchy. The Archeparchy was able to locate the deeds for the land belonging to St. George and we will need to have the property surveyed.

*Fr. Anthony*



*When, then, you make the sign of the cross on the forehead, arm yourself with a saintly boldness, and reinstall your soul in its old liberty; 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 disturb you on seeing the weapon, which overcomes all things.* (St. John Chrysostom)

## ***Third Sunday of the Great Fast***

### ***Veneration of the Holy Cross***

On this Sunday we commemorate the venerable Cross and the Crucifixion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Cross as such takes on meaning and adoration because of the Crucifixion of Christ upon it. Therefore, whether it is in Church hymns or prayers, it is understood that the Cross without Christ has no meaning or place in Christianity. The adoration of the Cross in the middle of the Great Fast-Lent is to remind the faithful in advance of the Crucifixion of Christ.



Therefore, the readings and the hymnology refer to the Passions, the sufferings, of Our Savior: The passages read this day repeat the calling of the Christian by Christ to dedicate his life, for "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me (Christ)". This verse clearly indicates the kind of dedication which is needed by the Christian in three steps: To renounce his arrogance and disobedience to God's Plan. The second decision is to lift up his personal cross (the difficulties of life) with patience, faith and the full acceptance of the Will of God without complaint that the burden is too heavy. Having denied himself and lifted up his cross leads him to the third decision, and that is to follow Christ.

These three voluntary steps are three links which cannot be separated from each other, because the main power to accomplish them is the Grace of God, which man always invokes. The Adoration/Veneration of the Cross is expressed by the faithful through prayer, fasting, almsgiving and the forgiveness of the trespasses of others. On this Sunday the Veneration of the Cross is commemorated with a special service in the beginning of the Divine Liturgy in which the significance of the Cross is that it leads to the Resurrection of Christ.

### ***Mid-Lent is upon us this Wednesday... Let Us Reflect...***

Have I accepted the Great Fast- Lent as a "gift" from God, with thanksgiving? - Have I spent the last three weeks in a meaningfully different way? - Have I participated in the Lenten services that are held during the week? - Have I used the Lenten prayer of Saint Ephraim in my morning and evening prayers, and at other times throughout the day? - Have I prayed for those who have fallen away from the Church? - In addition to the Holy Scriptures, what kind of spiritual reading have I done? Have I learned more about my Faith? Have I read spiritual works which can help me in my prayers, dealing with others, and spiritual faults and needs? - Am I preparing myself to make a good, honest, and humble Confession? Do I really believe that I am confessing my sins to Jesus Christ? Am I aware that the Lord sees my inner heart and will know if I only recite my sins, instead of being truly sorrowful and deeply committed to avoid repeating them? - In what ways will I struggle in the second part of the Great Fast that I have so far left unattended? - What price am I willing to pay in order to die and live in Christ? - Am I willing to deny myself, take up my cross and follow Him to His heavenly Kingdom? - **It's never too late to participate in the Great Fast!**

**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](http://www.stmaryambridge.org)

**Cantors: Tasney Broussard, Rebecca Leroy, Naedia McCann**  
**E.C.F. coordinator: Joyce Rose**

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 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.  
Pirohi Sales ..... Every Friday

*Faith + prayer and fasting = power to overcome even the greatest of sin.*

ST. MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH PRESENTS:  
**CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS**  
ON  
**GREAT LENT**

Join us for Catholic Conversations, an adult education series taught by Fr. Anthony at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church for six consecutive Wednesdays, reading and discussing 'Great Lent: Journey to Pascha' by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**MAR. 5TH - APR. 9TH**  
**[SIX WEEKS]**

**7:15PM - 8:15PM**  
**AFTER 6:00PM PRESANCTIFIED**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**

**ST. MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**624 PARK RD, AMBRIDGE, PA 15003**



Sign up for free (*by Mar. 2nd*) in the back of church  
or email [stmaryambridge@protonmail.com](mailto:stmaryambridge@protonmail.com)

All materials provided by the church but registration is required.

This class will be aimed at helping us understand the meaning of Lent in our Byzantine Catholic Tradition. We will discuss the spiritual and ascetic practices of the Great Fast, as well as the liturgical calendar in order to aid our preparation for Easter.



2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

# SPRING ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION



Join us on the first Sunday in May at the GCU St. Nicholas of Myra Chapel in Beaver, PA, as we gather to honor our patron saint, St. Nicholas! This special celebration, established by Fr. Valerian Michlik, is a meaningful opportunity for all the faithful to come together in devotion— we'd love to see you there!

### DIVINE LITURGY

Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at St. Nicholas Chapel at 3<sup>PM</sup> with special guest homilist: Fr. Brian Welding

### MUSEUM

At the conclusion of Divine Liturgy, the GCU Museum, combining Greek Catholic, and Carpatho-Rusyn histories, will be opened to all visitors until 5<sup>PM</sup>

### BANQUET

A banquet at Seven Oaks Country Club will follow. \$40 for adults, \$20 for children (12 & under). Must be registered and prepaid online.

SUN, MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>

3<sup>PM</sup> - 7:30<sup>PM</sup>

ST. NICHOLAS  
BYZANTINE CHAPEL  
5400 Tuscarawas Rd  
Beaver, PA 15009

Banquet to follow at:  
SEVEN OAKS COUNTRY CLUB  
132 Lisbon Rd, Beaver, PA 15009

### REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Registration required for both the Liturgy & Banquet. Due to the size of the chapel, the Liturgical celebration is limited to the first 80 who reserve a spot.

Register today!



[gcuusa.com/pages/spring-st-nicholas-event](https://gcuusa.com/pages/spring-st-nicholas-event)

2025 | Beaver, PA

## Finance Council Nominations

Fr. Anthony is requesting nominations for Finance Council members for both St. George and St. Mary's parishes. If you are interested in being considered or if you would like to recommend someone, please complete the following and give it to Fr. Anthony or place it in the collection basket **no later than April 6.**

I am interested in serving on the Finance Council for:

\_\_\_\_\_ St. George    \_\_\_\_\_ St. Mary

OR

I would like to nominate the following to serve on the Finance Council for:

\_\_\_\_\_ St. George    \_\_\_\_\_ St. Mary

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please briefly explain why you believe you or the person you are nominating should be considered (qualifications, business background, etc.):

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# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE of LITURGIES

**SAINT GEORGE**  
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1001 CLINTON ST,  
ALIQUIPPA, PA 15001

**SAINT MARY'S**  
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
624 PARK RD,  
AMBRIDGE, PA 15003

**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHAPEL  
5400 TUSCARAWAS ROAD  
BEAVER, PA. 15009

## LAZARUS SATURDAY - APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>

10am | Baptismal Liturgy at *St. George*  
5pm | Palm Sunday Vigil Divine Liturgy at *St. Nicholas*

## PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>

8:30am | Divine Liturgy at *St. George*  
11am | Divine Liturgy at *St. Mary's*  
4pm | Palm Sunday Vespers at *St. Mary's*

## HOLY & GREAT MONDAY - APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>

No Divine Services Scheduled

## HOLY & GREAT TUESDAY - APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>

6pm | Presanctified Divine Liturgy with Holy Anointing at *St. George*

## HOLY & GREAT WEDNESDAY - APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>

6pm | Presanctified Divine Liturgy with Holy Anointing at *St. Mary's*

## HOLY & GREAT THURSDAY - APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>

9am | Matins of the Commemoration of the Mystical Supper at *St. George*  
6pm | Vesperal Liturgy of Basil the Great at *St. Mary's*

## HOLY & GREAT FRIDAY - APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>

9am | Matins of the Twelve Passion Gospels at *St. Mary's*  
1pm | Royal Hours of Good Friday at *St. Nicholas*  
6pm | Vespers of the Burial of our Lord, God,  
and Savior Jesus Christ at *St. George*  
8:30pm | Jerusalem Matins at *St. Mary's*



## HOLY & GREAT SATURDAY - APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>

9am | Vesperal Liturgy of Basil the Great at *St. Mary's*  
12pm | Blessing of Easter Baskets at *St. Mary's*  
4pm | **Paschal Divine Liturgy** with Blessing of  
Easter Baskets at *St. Nicholas*  
7pm | **Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy**  
with Blessing of Easter Baskets at *St. George*

## PASCHA - APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>

10am | Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy  
with Blessing of Easter Baskets at *St. Mary's*

# BRIGHT WEEK SCHEDULE of LITURGIES

**SAINT GEORGE**  
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1001 CLINTON ST,  
ALIQUIPPA, PA 15001

**SAINT MARY'S**  
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
624 PARK RD,  
AMBRIDGE, PA 15003

**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHAPEL  
5400 TUSCARAWAS ROAD  
BEAVER, PA. 15009

## PASCHA - APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>

10am | Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy  
with Blessing of Easter Baskets at *St. Mary's*

## BRIGHT MONDAY - APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>

11am | Divine Liturgy with Paschal Procession at *St. Mary's*

## BRIGHT TUESDAY - APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>

No Divine Services Scheduled

## BRIGHT WEDNESDAY - APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>

### FEAST OF ST. GEORGE

6pm | Divine Liturgy at *St. George*

## BRIGHT THURSDAY - APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>

6pm | Divine Liturgy at *St. George*

## BRIGHT FRIDAY - APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>

11am | Divine Liturgy at *St. Mary's*