

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast/St. John Climacus



# 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 4: pg. , 141, Fourth Sunday of the Fast: pp. 226 – 227  
Typical Psalms: pp. 16-17, Beatitudes: pp. 23-24, St. Basil melodies: pg. 96

## St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

**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**

**WED., APRIL 2 ..... Venerable Father Titus the Wonderworker**

4:45-5:45 P.M. .... Confessions

**6:00 P.M. .... LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS,  
ADULT EDUCATION FOLLOWING**

**THUR., APRIL 3 ..... Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete**

**6:00 P.M. .... Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete with Communion  
Social following**

**FRI., APRIL 4 ..... Venerable Fathers Joseph the Hymnographer & George of Maleon**

9:00 A.M. .... Matins with Typika

**SUN., APRIL 6 ..... FIFTH SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST**

**11:00 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL**  
+Jack Kotula, requested by Betty A. Kotula

## Happy Birthday Greetings:

March 26: Marie Kotula, David Kowalsky, April 4: William Rose

## Wedding Anniversaries:

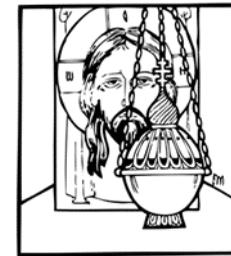
None for the week

## 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 30 – April 5, 2025

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

The Parishioners

Parish Offerings for March 23, 2025

Not available this week

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.

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:

**TUE., APRIL 1 ..... Holy Mother Mary of Egypt  
6:00 P.M. .... LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS**

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

**SAT., APRIL 5 ..... Akathistos Saturday  
7:30 A.M. .... Confessions  
8:15 A.M. .... Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos  
9:00 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY of ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM  
Knights of Columbus talk and breakfast following  
+ Lefort Jean Louis, requested by Jonathan Dohanich**

**SUN., APRIL 6 ..... FIFTH SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST  
8:30 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY  
+ John Galzarano requested by Richard Mudron  
4:00 P.M. .... LENTEN VESPERS**

### St. Nicholas Chapel Divine Services for the Week:

**SAT., APRIL 5 ..... FIFTH SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST,  
5:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY OF St. Basil  
For the People of St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas Chapel**

### From the Ladder of Divine Ascent

“Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly the angel who guards you will honor your patience. While a wound is still fresh and warm it is easy to heal, but old, neglected and festering ones are hard to cure, and require for their care much treatment, cutting, plastering and cauterization. Many from long neglect become incurable. But with God all things are possible [Matthew 19:26].”  
“The first stage of this tranquility consists in silencing the lips when the heart is excited. The second, in silencing the mind when the soul is still excited. The goal is a perfect peacefulness even in the middle of the raging storm.” + *St. John Climacus*

### A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

This Thursday the Church prescribes the celebration of the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete. This is a very long penitential prayer that takes place usually during the context of Matins with many prostrations and is an important part of our Byzantine tradition. We are celebrating it in the evening due to the schedule of our cantors. It is normally a three-hour service, but we have abbreviated it significantly and my best guess is it will last approximately an hour and a half. Even if you can't stay for the whole thing, you are most welcome to come for part of it and leave when you need to. Since a Presanctified Liturgy is actually properly celebrated this evening, I will distribute Communion at the end of our celebration. Wednesday to Friday this week are days of mitigated fasting (wine and oil traditionally permitted) to strengthen the faithful so they can participate in this beautiful service. In this spirit, **we will have a light social** following our celebration of the Great Canon.

A reminder that this Saturday, April 5th is Akathistos Saturday. We will be singing the Akathist at 8:15am followed by Divine Liturgy at 9am. We will then be hosting a Lenten breakfast and talk by Dr. John Rao in conjunction with the Woodlawn Council Knights of Columbus. **Please sign up in the back of the Church or let me know by today if you wish to attend the talk and breakfast.** Please turn in nomination forms for parish finance council in the collection basket or to me.

Following Mother Cecilia's talk at St. George, several people expressed interest in seeing Christ the Bridegroom Monastery. On Wednesday, April 16th, the monastery will be having their patronal celebration of Bridegroom Matins celebrated by Bishop Robert Pipta at 10:00am. **We will be having a combined parish field trip to the monastery in honor of this joyful occasion.** We will depart St. Mary's at 8:00am, join the nuns for Matins, stop for a fast-friendly lunch in the area (Thai food, everyone is responsible for paying for their own meal), and return to St. Mary's mid-afternoon. Sign-up sheets are in the back of both parishes.

I am very much looking forward to celebrating Holy Week and Pascha with all three of our communities. I recognize it can be disappointing to some that the schedule has had to be adjusted from what has been done in years past. Serving three Churches creates logistical complications as I am one priest and cannot be in three places at the same time. Please note as well we have approximately twice as many Holy Week liturgies as in years past so there are ample opportunities for us to pray and come together as a community of Byzantine Catholics in Beaver County. Furthermore, a lot of when I scheduled services and what services I scheduled at each location had to do with the availability of cantors. For instance, 2 out of 3 of St. Mary's primary cantors will be absent for Holy Week and Pascha. I understand wanting certain celebrations in one's own Church which is why each parish is having its own Paschal liturgy. For the other services, my hope is our communities can come together and celebrate them in a more beautiful and prayerful manner than if we repeated the same service multiple times. With this in mind, I have had at least 2 people offer to give rides between St. George's and St. Mary's for our divine services beginning on Holy Thursday up through Holy Saturday morning. **Beginning next week, we will have sign-ups in the back of the Church for any parishioners who would like rides from St. George's to St. Mary's or vice-versa for these services.**

*Fr. Anthony*

*I believe; help my unbelief!*

### **Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast**

*And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"*



On this Sunday Our Lord says to the father: "Bring him to me". One of the great secrets of life is to be found in these few words...Bring him to me! When we have a sickness or a problem, we as followers of Christ always have someone to whom we can go. We recall the words of Our Lord: "Come to Me all you who are tired from carrying your heavy burdens and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28). How many cries for help we hear every day! If we try to help alone, we are helpless. But if we believe in Christ, it is our mission to bring them to the true Helper, the Divine Physician of our souls and bodies. As parents, friends, employers, fellow workers, we can be Our Lord's helpers. But before we can bring others to Christ, we must bring ourselves to Him. We must let Our Lord strengthen our faith. We must let him break the power of sin in our lives and set us free.

Our Lord performed two miracles today. He not only healed the epileptic boy; He also increased the father's faith. From saying: "If you can do anything", the desperate father reached the point where he would say: "I believe!" His one sentence prayer; "I believe; help my unbelief!" showed that he did not possess complete and absolute faith. He expressed and acted on the faith he had, but he did not hide his doubt. He was honest with Christ. No person believes perfectly. But the important thing is whether we let ourselves be controlled by the faith we have or by our doubts. Miracles happen not because of perfect faith, but rather because of imperfect faith in the perfect Christ.

### **Today's Epistle**

In the Epistle appointed for this Sunday, we learn about the "oath" which God has made with us. What is an oath? Saint Paul tells us in the epistle that it is a "promise," a "guarantee," a "sure and firm anchor of the soul," the "final settlement" of disagreements. When two people swear an oath, they are promising to be of one mind regarding the thing promised. The oath is the outward sign of the interior union of the two parties. In the case of Jesus, the oath and promise that he makes with us is that he will take us with him beyond the "veil," and make us partakers of the divine nature. In other words, Jesus promises us that He will give us His life. Today the Lord swears an oath to us that if we willingly die to our old selves through "prayer and fasting" and promise to give ourselves to him, then the demons of our former life will be cast out, that our sins will be washed away, and that we will rise with him in His resurrection on the third day. We have hope then, having promised our life to the Lord, that when the day of Pascha arrives, we who have died with him will receive a new life in him.

**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

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*“Forgetting offenses is a sign of sincere repentance. If you keep the memory of them, you may believe you have repented but you are like someone running in his sleep.” - St. John Climacus*

# 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 | Vespertal 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 | Vespertal 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*



2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

# SPRING ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION



## 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.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 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)

