

April 20, 2025

Pascha, the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord



Veil of Protection

SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!
Хрїсто́сь воскрѣсе! Воистину воскресе!*

Propers for Pascha: pp. 164 – 171

St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., APRIL 20 **RESURRECTION of our LORD**
10:00 A.M. **RESURRECTION MATINS & DIVINE LITURGY**
Blessing of paschal food

For the needs and intentions of Jordan Sonnett and his students requested by Samantha Sonnett

MON., APRIL 21 **BRIGHT MONDAY**
11:00 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY with PASCHAL PROCESSION**
Luke Cahill, requested by Justin and Megan Hatten

FRI., APRIL 25 **BRIGHT FRIDAY**
11:00 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
For the Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Alexander Smith requested by Grant Gaylord

SUN., APRIL 27 **THOMAS SUNDAY**
11:00 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
For the People of St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas Chapel

*Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!
Хрїсто́сь воскрѣсе! Воистину воскресе!*

Happy Birthday Greetings:

April 20: Toni Klacik, April 21: Betty Kotula, April 30: Elizabeth Dziabiak

Wedding Anniversaries:

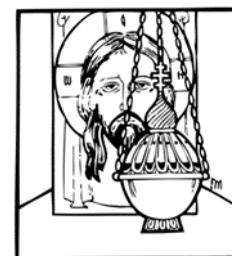
None for the week

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 Risen! Indeed He is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

April 20 - 26, 2025

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

The Parishioners

Parish Offerings for April 13, 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 | \$892.00 |
| Candles | \$24.00 |
| Loose Currency | \$150.00 |
| Easter | \$70.00 |
| TOTAL: | \$1136.00 |

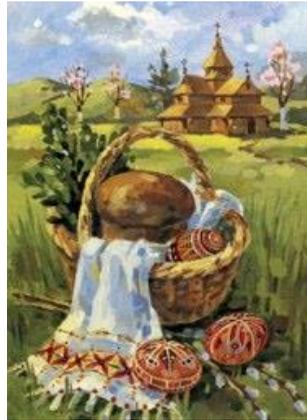
Do not neglect good deeds and generosity, God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind." (Hebrews 13:16)

"This is the day of Resurrection. Let us be enlightened by this feast, and let us embrace one another. Let us call brothers and sisters, even those who hate us, and in the Resurrection forgive everything."

Confessions this week are available Thursday 4:45 to 5:45 at St. George, Sunday 8:45 to 9:15 at St. George on Sunday, and by request.

Blessing of the Easter Foods

The Holy Spirit reminds us “not to reject the traditions of our elders, which they have learned from their fathers” (Sirach 8:9). Together with the Byzantine Rite, we have inherited many meaningful customs which make our liturgical worship inspiring, spiritually rich, and close to the heart of our people. Among these venerable customs we count the custom of blessing food at Easter.



The foods traditionally blessed for Easter can be reduced to three categories: 1) Easter bread, referred to by our people as “pascha”. 2) Meat products, like ham, stuffed veal, suckling pig or lamb, sausage, bacon, etc. 3) Dairy products, like butter, cheese (“hrudka” or “sirets”), eggs (“pysanky”), etc. What is the meaning of such variety?

Firstly, the Easter bread (pascha) is a large round loaf of bread, made of white flour and enriched by adding eggs, raisins, and milk. On top it is decorated with a crown and a cross of various designs, made out of the same dough. It symbolizes our Lord Jesus Christ, the “Living Bread,” (John 6:51) Who “came down from heaven to give life (eternal) to the world” (cf. Prayer for the Blessing of the Bread). Thus, the Easter bread reminds us of the presence of our “True Pascha”, Jesus Christ, Who “promised, without fail, to remain with us until the end of time” (Troparion of the Ninth Ode).

Secondly, the meat products symbolize the sacrificial animals of the Old Testament, foreshadowing the true sacrifice of our Savior, who became for us “a Lamb of God, taking away the sins of the world” (John 1:29). As we learn from the prayer of blessing, the meat products also symbolize the fattened calf prepared for the Prodigal Son (representing fallen mankind) on his return to his father (Heavenly Father). Thus, at Easter we celebrate our return to God and our joyous participation in the blessings of our Savior, Who promised to be our “true food” (John 6:55).

Finally, the dairy products remind us of the “prosperity and peace” of the Messianic times which had been foretold by the Prophets (e.g., Isaiah 7:22 ; Joel 3:18, etc.). Metaphorically, the milk and honey in the Bible signify wealth, especially the spiritual wealth of God’s kingdom. Therefore, as he blesses the dairy products the priest prays: “as we partake of them, may we be filled with Your generous gifts and unspeakable goodness.”

Eggs were always considered as a symbol of the resurrection, the emergence of a new life. At Easter our Savior came forth from the tomb as the chick after breaking the shell at birth. Because of this special meaning, it is fitting that Easter eggs be colored or decorated. They are the favored object of our national art and are known to us as “pysanky.”

St. George Divine Services for the Week:

WED., APRIL 23 BRIGHT WEDNESDAY
ST. GEORGE the GREAT MARTYR HOLY DAY

6:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy with Patronal Procession
For the Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of E.K. Gaylord requested by Grant Gaylord

THURS., APRIL 24 BRIGHT THURSDAY

6:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY
Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Michael Xavier Ford requested by Giorgio Navarini

SUN., APRIL 27 THOMAS SUNDAY

9:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY, *Distribution of Artos Bread,*
St. George Luncheon following

+ John Dzumba, requested by Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Dickey

St. Nicholas Chapel Divine Services for the Week:

SAT., APRIL 26 THOMAS SUNDAY

5:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY
+ Gordon Vinton requested by Lane Vinton

Privileged Week

During Bright Week (Sunday of Pascha to the Sunday of St. Thomas), there is no fasting at all. Bright Week is seen, liturgically speaking as one single day – a continuation of Pascha throughout the whole week.

A Cordial Invitation from St. George to St. Mary Parishioners (Next Sunday)

We cordially invite St. Mary parishioners to our Patronal Feast Day celebration. There will be a Divine Liturgy on our Patronal Feast Day, **Wednesday, April 23 at 6:00 P.M.** The following **Sunday, April 27**, we will continue our celebration at St. George Church with a **Liturgy at 9:30 A.M. followed by a Parish Luncheon.** We welcome all parishioners and guests to come and honor our Patron, St. George the Great Martyr and to celebrate together as a parish family. **A sign-up sheet for the luncheon is in the Narthex.**



A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear parishioners,

Christ is Risen!

This week we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection with full joy. There is no fasting whatsoever this week. All of the doors on the iconostasis remain open until Thomas Sunday as a reminder that the gates of heaven have been opened to us. As much as possible, we are encouraged to rest this week and rejoice in the Lord's Resurrection.

Please note that the liturgy schedule for this week is different than our typical weekday schedule.

For St. George's feast day, the 6:00 pm Wednesday evening liturgy at St. George's will include the patronal procession. During this simple procession we carry the icon of St. George and sing hymns in his honor.

A reminder that St. George's liturgy will be celebrated at **9:30 am on Sunday, April 27th** followed by a feast-day luncheon.

Reminder that on the weekend of Sunday, May 4th, the only weekend liturgies will be 11:00 am at St. Mary's and 3:00 pm at St. Nicholas Chapel followed by the St. Nicholas dinner (registration required).

In Christ,

Fr. Anthony

Come, Receive the Light Which Never Fades!

By His death and resurrection Christ has defeated Death once and for all. He destroys our enslavement to sin. Through faith He offers us new life. Let us celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and, in faith, allow Him to transform our lives.

Guest Homilist

On St. George's parish Feast Day on Wednesday, Fr. Dan Waruszewski, Parochial Vicar of Sts. Martha and Mary, will be the guest homilist at the 6:00 PM Divine Liturgy.



Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

2025 Paschal Message

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Christos Voskrese! Voistinnu Voskrese!

May the blessing of the Risen Lord bless you and your families during this Easter Season!

Easter is a time of joy. The scent of the flowers of Easter and Easter foods invite us to the feast. The Gospels and Easter songs call us to remember and to celebrate our Savior Jesus Christ rising from the dead to new and eternal life. His rising shows us the path to life with Him. In the glorious light of the Resurrection all our problems fade away like smoke before the fire.

During the 2025 Paschal celebration in this Jubilee of Hope year, we raise our prayers that the Lord gives us hope for peace in Ukraine and a return to a normal pattern of life for our country. Today's problems are no different than those of the early church. The Apostles had lost Jesus their leader and the future was uncertain. Then, the Resurrected Jesus arose and appeared to reassure them. Their hope in Jesus' return was fulfilled, and Peter and the other apostles and disciples were empowered to lead the early church. Today, no matter what happens, our hope in the power of the Resurrection will give us strength.

Next month, we are sending pilgrims to Rome to offer prayers to restore hope. Pope Francis has called all to come to Rome, and many from our church have responded. They will join with the other Byzantine Catholic Churches for the celebration in Saint Peter's Basilica on May 14, 2025. They will offer prayers at several churches to restore our Christian hope for the continued divine intervention to help us.

Also, I will travel to Ukraine to represent our Church as one of our priests will be beatified on May 3, 2025. Father Peter Oros was a martyred priest of the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo, Ukraine. He gave his life to preserve our Byzantine Catholic faith. In our own way, we give our lives to not only save ourselves, but also to help make the world a little better each day.

As we enter the Easter Season, we try to reach out to others who have lost hope for the future. We continue to be the bearers of the Good News that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is calling everyone to the Father and the Holy Spirit.

On behalf of the Metropolitan Church, we thank you for your journey through the Lenten Fast and participation in celebrations for the Great Week. Carry the joy of the Resurrection that fills your heart and mind to your family, friends, and to the whole world.

**William C Skurla*

**Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D.
Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh**

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: 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 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

*Your resurrection, O Christ, our Savior, the Angels in heaven praise with hymns;
make us, on earth, also worthy with a pure heart to extol and give glory to You.*