

April 27, 2025  
Thomas Sunday, Christ is Risen!



## 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. 175 - 177

### St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

**SUN., APRIL 27 ..... THOMAS SUNDAY**

**11:00 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY**

For the People of St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas Chapel

**WED., APRIL 30 ..... James the Greater, Apostle**

**4:45 – 5:45 ..... Confessions**

**6:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY**

For the Spiritual and Temporal Welfare of E.K. Gaylord requested by Grant Gaylord

**FRI., MAY 2 ..... Athanasius the Great, Patriarch**

**9:00 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY**

+ Rick Costantino, requested by Mike and Patty Costantino

**SUN., MAY 4 ..... SUNDAY of the MYRHH BEARUNG WOMEN**

**11:00 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY**

+ Paul Modrak, requested by Mike and Patty Costantino

Note: No fellowship this Sunday following Liturgy.

Note: Fr. Anthony will be away Sunday, April 27th until Wednesday, April 30th. Please call Mary Queen of Saints Parish at 724-775-6363 in the case of a sacramental emergency. **No Divine Liturgy Tuesday, April 29th.**

**Happy Birthday Greetings:**

April 30: Elizabeth Dziabiak

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

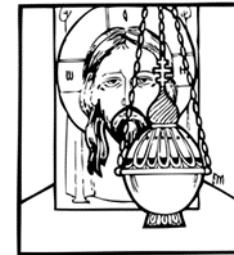
April 29: Gary & Christine Gubba

**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 27 – May 3, 2025

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

**The Parishioners**

### Parish Offerings for April 20, 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 .....	\$ 960.00
Candles .....	\$12.00
Loose Currency .....	\$430.00
Holy Day .....	\$190.00
Easter .....	\$610.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$2202.00</b>

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

### Confessions This Week:

**St. Mary ..... 4:45-5:45 P.M. on Wednesday**

**St. George ..... 4:45-5:45 P.M. on Thursday**

## ***The Fruits of Pascha***

During the 50 days which follow Pascha, the liturgical books of the Church are a well-spring of insight and renewal that aids in harvesting the fruit of the Great Fast—a period of nurturing and guidance marked by examples of people of faith answering the call to follow and serve the Risen Christ. The good habits and virtues that have begun to grow during Lent must now be harvested to serve Christ in new ways. In this state of openness to our Lord and His message, now is the time to develop ministries, to create new opportunities for service, and to go wherever Christ calls. Thus each Sunday that leads to Pentecost contains the theme of missions and evangelism in a special way.

***Come, let us partake of a new drink, not miraculously produced from the barren rock, but from the Fountain of Immortality, springing up from the tomb of Christ, in Him is our firm strength. (Canon of Pascha)***

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### **Sunday of Saint Thomas**

Today is the eighth day of the paschal celebration, the last day of Bright Week. In the Gospel we encounter the incredulity of Thomas. His doubt, however, leads to tremendous faith: "My Lord and My God". After his encounter with the Risen Lord, Thomas is sent with the other eleven to baptize all nations in the name of the Holy Trinity. Doubt followed by a commission to serve Christ illustrates how faith empowers us to serve Christ in unbelievable ways. We ourselves have not seen Christ with our physical eyes nor touched his risen body with our physical hands, yet in the Holy Spirit we have seen and touched and tasted the Word of Life, and so we believe.

On this Sunday of St. Thomas let us examine ourselves. Let us be ready to answer before our own conscience and do what is necessary to change our lives in such a way that people meeting us may look at us and say: Such people we have never seen. There is something about them that we have never seen in anyone. What is it? And we could answer: It is the life of Christ abroad in us. We are His limbs. This is the life of the Spirit in us. We are His temple. Amen.

On this Second Sunday of Pascha the Church celebrates the confirmation of the Resurrection of Christ. Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them on the evening of that first day of the week. Despite the testimony of others that they had seen the Lord, Thomas challenged the reality of the Resurrection until he could see for himself. Eight days later they had again gathered behind locked doors. Thomas, upon seeing the risen Lord for himself cried "*My Lord and my God!*" Jesus then said to him: "*Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*" It is not because of historical evidence or miracles that we are called to believe. We are called to believe because we have accepted the grace of God found in the preaching of the Good News.

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

**THURS., MAY 1 ..... Jeremiah the Prophet**

**4:45 – 5:45 P.M. .... Confessions**

**6:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY**

**For the health and welfare of Carol Vaccarelli, offered by Richard Mudron**

**SUN., MAY 4 ..... NO LITURGY AT ST. GEORGE**

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

**SUN., MAY 4 ..... SUNDAY of the MYRRH BEARING WOMEN**

**3:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY**

**For the people of St. George , St. Mary, & St. Nicholas**

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### **The “Glorified-Cross” Designates “Christ Is Risen!”** –

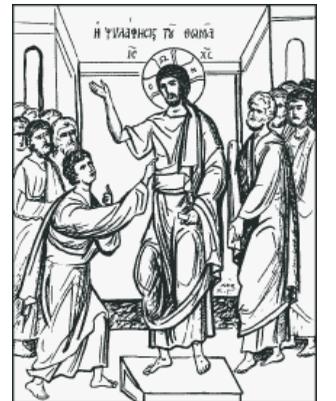
Throughout the entire Paschal Period, our Byzantine Catholic Church glorifies the triumphant Cross of Christ So until Pentecost Sunday all of our Byzantine Crosses (even the ones you wear) should be turned in the reversed manner. Thus, the bottom bar should look as though it’s backwards! For the next 50 days, it’s the GLORIFIED CROSS instead of the CRUCIFIED CROSS!



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### **Antipascha: St. Thomas Sunday**

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed “The Doubting Thomas.” This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, “The Touching of Thomas.” The Slavonic inscription is, “The Belief of Thomas.” When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts. This day is also known as “**Antipascha.**” This does not mean “opposed to Pascha,” but “in place of Pascha.” Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord’s Resurrection. Sunday is called “Resurrection” in Russian, and “the Lord’s Day” in Greek.



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***"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."***

### A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

Christ is Risen!

It was an extremely blessed Holy Week and Easter. Thank you to our cantors, lectors, altar servers, office assistants and all the other volunteers who helped make these many Divine Services very beautiful. Attendance was very good, 185 people total for Easter (35 at St. Nicholas for Easter and 75 each at St. George's and St. Mary's). I believe this is a result of our prayers and fasting for our communities. Let us continue to pray that more Byzantine Catholics return and that we continue to attract new members.

Now that Lent is over, Confessions will be available once again 4:45-5:45 on Wednesdays at St. Mary's and after Sunday liturgy, 4:45-5:45 on Thursdays at St. George and before Sunday liturgy, and before Saturday evening liturgy starting at 4:00pm at St. Nicholas Chapel. **Now that the aliturgical days of Lent are over, we will also be resuming the Divine Liturgy schedule we had prior to Lent.**

Several people have inquired about us not using handbells and wooden clackers during Holy Week. These items are latinizations and not native to the Byzantine rite. Handbells are rung at Roman parishes during the consecration. Wooden clackers are used by Roman Catholics for processions on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. At the direction of the chancery, I gave away Roman Catholic items to a local Roman Catholic parish where they are properly used back in August. It is important that we restore more traditional forms of Byzantine worship, and not just do what has been done for a relatively brief span of 100 years in the Church's life under negative Roman influence. I am sorry if this upset anyone, but at the end of the day, I have to follow the directions of the chancery.

There have also been questions asked regarding immersion Baptism after that occurred at St. George. This is the tradition of the Byzantine rite and what is being taught in seminary. I thought I had given adequate explanation during both my Sunday homily as well as the Baptism itself. However, since there still seem to be questions, I will cover this topic as part of our next adult education series.

The response to the many hours of the Divine Office, such as Matins and Vespers, during Holy Week was fantastic. In the near future, meaning by June at the latest, I will be adding regular public celebrations of the Divine Office to our weekly schedule. Once again, I recognize that these practices may be new to some of you but are actually quite ancient.

*Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!*

I am realizing that there is a true need for more catechesis as many of the practices I have introduced as a result of my training at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary are new to the parishes. **I will be offering adult education on the Divine Office, Divine Liturgy, and sacraments over the summer.**

As always, my cell phone is in the bulletin. If you have concerns, please feel free to contact me and I will happily discuss them with you.

The nomination period for finance and pastoral council has concluded. I will be praying and discerning, then contacting those I wish to have serve, before announcing the selections to our communities on Sunday, May 10th. As previously indicated, a prerequisite for serving on the councils is Divine Liturgy attendance on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (whether at our Churches or somewhere else while traveling) as this is the heartbeat of our life as Byzantine Catholics. Secondly, regular involvement in activities in the life of the Church such as pirohy making, altar serving, adult education, fellowship, maintenance, ECF, etc. will be heavily considered. Finally, our communities at this point have a more diverse age range and demographics than many Byzantine Catholic parishes. This is very good, as growth and newer members are necessary for our communities to be viable long-term. While it goes without saying that long-time parishioners will be heavily represented on our councils, I will be putting on newer members as well to reflect the changing demographics of our parishes.

Finally, thank you so much for your many well-wishes, cards, gifts, etc, for Easter. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is greatly appreciated.

In Christ,  
*Fr. Anthony*

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### St. George Church Flea Market

St. George's annual Flea Market, Haluski, and Bake Sale will be on Friday & Saturday, June 20 & 21. They are NOW accepting and are in need of donations. If you have items you need to find a new home for, consider donating them to the Flea Market. Donations can be brought to St. George Center on Saturdays from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. or set up time with Fr. Anthony. Thank you!

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Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!*

**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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