

November 16, 2025  
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost,  
The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew



*Veil of Protection*  
SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!

Propers for this Sunday: See handout

St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., NOV. 16 ..... TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST,

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

10:45 A.M. .... THIRD HOUR

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

*Intention: + Bessie Kotula, requested by Lillian Dziabiak*

WED., NOV. 19 ..... Holy Prophet Obadiah

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

7:15 P.M. .... Men's Group

*Intention: + Vera Griffin, requested by Chuck McCullough*

FRI., NOV. 21 ..... ENTRANCE of the THEOTOKOS, Solemn Holy Day

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

*Intention: + Richard Masciontonio 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of passing, requested by Pete Masciontonio*

SUN., NOV. 23 ..... TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

10:45 A.M. .... THIRD HOUR

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

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

*Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!*

**Happy Birthday Greetings:**

None for the week

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

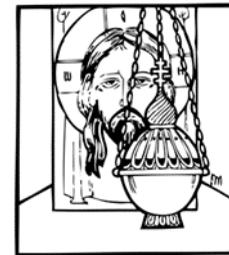
November 22: George & Mary Ann Kowalsky

**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

*Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!*



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

November 16 - 22, 2025

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

The Parishioners

**Parish Offerings for November 9, 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 .....	\$622.00
Loose Currency .....	\$73.00
Candles .....	\$12.00
Holy Day .....	\$5.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$712.00</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 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 and more...

### Parish Almsgiving Collection

St. Mary's is collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the Center for Hope. Our long-standing parishioner, Betty Kotula, has placed a cardboard box in the back of the Church. Please place all donations there. *Thank you!*

## St. Nicholas Dinner & Celebration

The annual dinner for parishioners and friends of St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas parishes in anticipation of the Christmas season will be on **Saturday, December 6 at St. George Church**. Fr. Anthony will celebrate Vespers at 4:00 PM and Divine Liturgy at 5:00 PM, followed by the celebration in the church hall. Expect great food and fellowship as well as music & raffles and a **visit from St. Nicholas**. Sign-up sheets are now in the narthex.

*Sign-up  
today!*

**Plan to participate in our fun gift exchange by bringing a wrapped gift (\$15 value). Everyone who brings a gift will leave with a gift and have fun playing a game along the way!**

*Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!*

### St. Mary's Men's Group

The next men's group at St. Mary's (all welcome to attend) will be following the 6:00pm Divine Liturgy Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Theology on Tap this Week at St. George

Theology on Tap, with guest speaker Fr. Joe Codori, will take place on **Thursday, November 20** beginning with Vespers at 5:00 PM and Divine Liturgy at 6:00 PM for the Presentation of our Lord Holy Day, followed with a presentation and social at 7:15 PM in the newly refurbished St. George Center bar area. Adult beverages will be served. You may join us for just the social if unable to make the services. For adults 21 & over. *Fr. Joe will talk about his visit to the Church in Zadar, Croatia that holds the incorrupt body of St. Simeon, the Saint that was privileged to hold Baby Jesus at His Presentation.*

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

TUE. NOV. 18 ..... Holy Martyrs Plato and Roman

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

*Intention: + Joanne Futato, requested by Dan and Jackie Pinchot*

WED., NOV. 19 ..... Holy Prophet Obadiah

7:00 A.M. .... FIRST HOUR & THIRD HOUR

THUR., NOV. 20 ..... ENTRANCE of the THEOTOKOS, Solemn Holy Day

5:00 P.M. .... GREAT VESPERS with LITIJA

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

7:15 P.M. .... Theology on Tap

*Intention: + Joanne Futato, requested by Dottie Hagan*

SAT., NOV. 22 ..... TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

7:00 P.M. .... GREAT VESPERS

SUN., NOV. 23 ..... TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

8:15 A.M. .... FIRST HOUR

8:30 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY

*Intention: + Mary Elizabeth Olack, requested by the Olack family*

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

SAT., NOV. 22 ..... TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

5:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY

*Intention: + Stephen Griffin, requested by Chuck McCullough*

### If you do not love your neighbor you do not love the Lord

The Lord teaches that the man going down was the neighbor of no one except of him who wanted to keep the Commandments and prepare himself to be a neighbor to everyone that needs help. This is what is found after the end of the parable, "Which of these three does it seem to you is the neighbor of the man who fell among robbers?" Neither the priest nor the Levite was his neighbor, but – as the teacher of the law himself answered – "he who showed pity" was his neighbor. The Savior says, "Go and do likewise."

(Origen)

### A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

We will have our men's group at St. Mary's at 7:15pm Wednesday following 6:00pm Divine Liturgy.

Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> is the Entrance of the Theotokos, a Solemn Holy Day and one of the Twelve Great Feasts. We will have 5:00pm Great Vespers with Litija, 6:00pm Divine Liturgy and our inaugural Theology on Tap to follow Thursday evening at St. George. We will have (meatless) pizza, snacks, beer, and wine. All 21 and older are welcome and encouraged to attend! We will also have 6:00pm Divine Liturgy Friday (instead of the normal 9:00am) at St. Mary's with a small social afterwards.

Next week, we will have our regular liturgical schedule with the following exceptions: We will have 9:00am Divine Liturgy at St. George on Thanksgiving Day and there will be no Friday morning liturgy.

A reminder to please sign up for our St. Nicholas Celebration at St. George on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be no liturgy at St. Nicholas Chapel that Saturday evening, although we will have a 6:00pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy there December 5<sup>th</sup> for the actual feast itself. The morning of December 7<sup>th</sup> there will be no Divine Liturgy at St. George and instead Matins and Liturgy at St. Mary's.

If anyone wishes to go to the seminary St. Nicholas celebration December 7<sup>th</sup> at the cathedral please let me know. The seminary has asked each parish to sponsor a table and as of writing time we are still looking for a couple more people from St. George.

Masonry work has begun at St. George. Unfortunately, due to the colder weather, our contractor has said we can't put the new roof on until the weather is consistently above 60 degrees. He will patch it up free of charge so there is no more damage over the winter, and we will purchase the materials now so the price does not go up before the spring.

After consultation with the finance council, St. George and St. Mary will publish a year-end financial statement in the bulletin so everyone has an idea of what finances looked like in 2025. As we are still collecting information until the end of the year, expect to see the 2025 financial report in late January/early February.

In Christ,  
*Fr. Anthony*

### *Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost*

In the Gospel that is appointed for today, we hear the famous story of the “good Samaritan.” While there is much to say about the meaning of this parable and its call for charity to one’s neighbor, it is important to remember that this story is rooted in Jesus’s original response to the lawyer who was “testing” him with the question “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” To this question, Jesus responds that to gain eternal life, to go to heaven, a person must first love God with his whole self and his neighbor as himself, quoting the book of Deuteronomy.



Why is the way of love the path to heaven? The answer to this question is simple and yet beautifully profound. In the first epistle of St. John, the Evangelist states that “God is love” (1 Jn 4:8). A simple definition of love is that it is the giving of one’s life to the beloved. From all eternity God has lived a life of loving communion, the Father pouring out his life in the Son through the gift of the Holy Spirit. This beautiful understanding of God as love allows us to understand why love is the only way in which we will find eternal life. As we are made in the image and likeness of God, we have the created capacity to live as God does. The one who chooses to live this “way of love” chooses to make God’s life his own life. As God’s life is eternal life, the one who lives a life of love will, through the giving of his life, find his way to life eternal.

### *Entrance of the Theotokos, Nov. 21*

The Christian life is a hybrid of prayer and service. In Mary, the Mother of God, we see a perfect example of one who lived a life of service but also sat at the feet of the Lord and listened. Mary, the Gospels tell us, “held all these things in her heart” (Lk 2:51). It is for this reason that the Church offers this Gospel, recounting this event in Martha and Mary of Bethany’s life with Jesus for our consideration on this feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos in the temple. The Mother of God wholeheartedly committed herself to serving the Lord.



Martha and Mary of Bethany are sometimes juxtaposed incorrectly, as if Mary was doing the “right” thing and Martha the “wrong” thing. Christ did not reprimand Martha for serving by any means. He did reprimand her because she was allowing her busy-ness and activity to take her away from “the one thing necessary”: listening to him and being in relationship with him.

We are called to serve but we need not be troubled and worried by our service. Our worry over our activities of service is often due to pride. Service, when animated by love of Christ and obedience to His will however, is done in joy and in peace, and we see this example most profoundly in the Mother of God. Christ told the woman in the crowd, and by extension, us: “Blessed are those who hear the word of God AND keep it.” We are called to listen to the Lord, and then we act upon that time of listening by giving of ourselves in service to our brothers and sisters, the Body of Christ. The Mother of God’s greatest blessedness was not from bearing the Lord in her body, but because she wholeheartedly and perfectly heard the word of God and kept it.

“You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, and with your whole soul, and with your whole strength, and with your whole mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”

*O Christ the Savior, our true God, come to us and save us!*

# SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

624 Park Rd.- Ambridge, PA 15003

**PRIEST: FATHER ANTHONY COSTANTINO**

**Deacon Thomas J. Klacik**

Fr. Anthony's Cell #: (878) 226-0878

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CHURCH FAX: 724-266-1834

CHURCH HALL: 724-266-8642

PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stmaryambridge.org](http://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 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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*Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!*

# THEOLOGY ON TAP



FOR ADULTS 21 & OVER



FR. JOE WILL TALK ABOUT HIS VISIT TO  
THE CHURCH IN ZADAR, CROATIA THAT  
HOLDS THE INCORRUPT BODY OF SAINT  
SIMEON, THE SAINT THAT WAS  
PRIVILEGED TO HOLD BABY JESUS AT HIS  
PRESENTATION.

GUEST SPEAKER

**FR. JOE CODORI**

5:00 pm Vespers  
6:00 pm Divine Liturgy  
7:15 pm Presentation  
& Social

St. George Byzantine Catholic Church  
1001 Clinton St., Alliquippa, PA

Thursday  
Nov. 20

