

December 14, 2025  
Second Sunday before the Nativity, of the Forefathers



*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., DEC. 14 ..... SECOND SUNDAY before the NATIVITY,  
of the FOREFATHERS

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*

WED., DEC. 17 ..... Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Children,  
Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael

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

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

*Intention: Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Daniel Hovin, requested by Grant Gaylord*

FRI., DEC. 19 ..... Holy Martyr Boniface

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

*Intention: Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Dennis Foot, requested by Grant Gaylord*

SAT., DEC. 20 ..... SUNDAY before the NATIVITY, of the ANCESTORS

7:00 P.M. .... GREAT VESPER

SUN., DEC. 21 ..... SUNDAY before the NATIVITY, of the ANCESTORS

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

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

*Intention: + Cameron Ursino, requested by Karen Luksis*

**Happy Birthday Greetings:**

None for the week

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

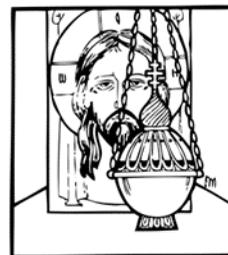
None for the week

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

**HOME:** Penny Furis, Ron Jones, William Killian, 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  
December 14 - 20, 2025

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

The Parishioners

**Parish Offerings for December 7, 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 .....	\$612.80
Loose Currency .....	\$47.00
Candles .....	\$66.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$665.80</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

## ***Come, Lord Jesus, Come!***

What is the nature of the invitation? “Come, for look, all things are ready.” God the Father has prepared in Christ gifts for the inhabitants of the earth. Through Christ, he bestowed the forgiveness of sins, cleansing away of all defilement, communion of the Holy Spirit, glorious adoption as children, and the kingdom of heaven. To these blessings, Christ invited Israel, before all others, by the commandments of the Gospel. He has even said by the voice of the psalmist: “*But I have been sent as a king by him,*” that is, by God the Father, “*on Zion his holy mountain to preach the commandment of the Lord.*” (Psalm 2:6) (St. Cyril of Alexandria)

As we prepare for the Christmas and Theophany holy days let us not lose sight of the fact that we have been invited to a Great Feast. Let’s not let the presents, trimming and other preparations blind us to the coming of the Savior. *Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

### **Reflect:**

- What things in our life do we spend the most time being concerned about?
- If our first concern is not for God and our salvation, can we really expect to be among the chosen few?
- What things can cause us not to respond to God’s invitation?
- What practical steps can I take to be sure to make God’s invitation the most important thing in my life?
- How does my life look different if I am preparing for the wedding feast of Jesus or if I am not?



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

**MON., DEC. 15 ..... Funeral for + Rebecca Dickun  
10:00 A.M. .... FUNERAL DIVINE LITURGY**

**WED., DEC. 17 ..... Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Children,  
Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael  
7:00 A.M. .... FIRST HOUR & THIRD HOUR**

**THUR. DEC. 18 ..... Holy Martyr Sebastian and His Companions  
6:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY**

*Intention: For the needs and intentions of the St. George pirohi workers, requested by Fr. Anthony*

**SUN., DEC. 21 ..... SUNDAY before the NATIVITY, of the ANCESTORS  
8:15 A.M. .... FIRST HOUR**

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

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

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

**SAT., DEC. 20 ..... SUNDAY before the NATIVITY, of the ANCESTORS  
5:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY**

*Intention: + Don & Helen Ostrowski, requested by Dan and Jackie Pinchot*

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### ***Confession for Christmas***

The Nativity Fast is a season of penitence and fasting. To better prepare for the coming of the Nativity of our Lord the faithful are encouraged to make an examination of conscience and, if appropriate, to make a confession of their sins to a priest. – On Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> Fr. Don Voss will be hearing Confessions before and during liturgy at both St. George and St. Mary's. , so that the faithful can avail themselves of this Sacramental Mystery.

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

### A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is fast approaching.

Due to the funeral Monday, I am taking Tuesday off this week.

A reminder that Fr. Don Voss will be available before and during liturgy at St. George and St. Mary next weekend for Confessions. I will also be available beginning at 4:00pm Saturday evening at St. Nicholas Chapel.

Please see flyer for complete Christmas and Theophany Schedule.

Please sign up for Theophany House Blessings by January 1<sup>st</sup>. It is important to bless our houses annually in order to ask God's grace and protection over our residences. There is a reason why the Church prescribes blessing of water and blessing of homes on an annual basis.

In Christ,

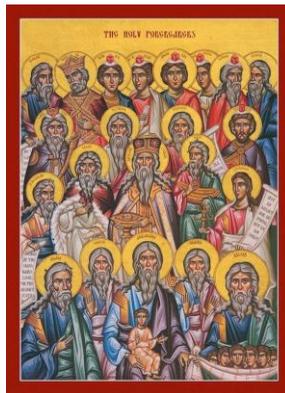
*Fr. Anthony*

### ***Sunday of the Forefathers***

This Sunday, the second Sunday before Christmas, honors the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, including the patriarchs and prophets of the Old Testament.

The connection to The Parable of the Great Banquet lies in the themes of invitation and inclusion. Just as the master in the parable extends his invitation to those who were initially overlooked or marginalized, Sunday of the Holy Forefathers celebrates the faith and righteousness of the Old Testament figures who awaited the coming of the Messiah. These forefathers, through their faith, became part of God's plan of salvation, which is now extended to all people through Christ.

This celebration reminds us of the continuity of God's plan from the Old Testament to the New Testament, highlighting the inclusivity of God's kingdom and the importance of responding to His invitation.



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

### ***Second Sunday before the Nativity***

All too often when we read the Gospel we keep the words of Jesus at arm's length, never letting them sink in and really challenge our life. Why? Most of the time the reason that we would prefer to pass over our Lord's teaching in a superficial way is because his teachings are truly challenging and life changing if we allow them to have their full impact. Today's Gospel is one of those "challenging" teachings of Jesus. "Many are called but few are chosen," Jesus tells us in the Gospel today and these words are spoken to us today just as much as they were spoken to Jesus' hearers two thousand years ago. "*Many are called but few are chosen.*"



Among those who hear this Gospel passage today in the Church most will allow Jesus' words to pass over them with little or no serious consideration. A few however, hearing these words will respond to Jesus by asking how one is to be "chosen." The invitation to participate in God's life, the invitation to salvation, is offered to all, as Saint Paul says in the Epistle, "Gentile and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, Barbarian and Scythian, slave and freeman." However, not all respond to the invitation. Many then, and many today, find more important things with which to occupy their lives. The way of salvation begins with an invitation on God's part, but to that invitation we must respond in a real way. All of us are invited to the wedding banquet (heaven), but not all of us will choose to go.

Choosing to go is not simply an intellectual act – it is not a matter of mere words. To go to the wedding banquet of God we must, as any good wedding guest must do, prepare ourselves. We must make ourselves acceptable to God so that when we arrive we will be chosen to enter. Are we willing to prepare ourselves to enter into heaven or will we find something more important to do with our lives?

***By faith, You, O Christ, justified the Forefathers. Through them you betrothed yourself to a Church from all nations. The saints rejoice in glory because a glorious offspring has blossomed from their seed: the Mother who bore you without seed. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, have mercy on us.***

***Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem 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

*O Christ the Savior, burning thirst of the Patriarchs, come to us and save us!*

## CHRISTMAS *through* THEOPHANY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

**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

### *Prefestive Day of the NATIVITY of our LORD - DEC 22<sup>ND</sup>*

*Mon, 11am | Royal Hours for the Nativity of our Lord at St. Mary's*

### *NATIVITY of our LORD - DEC 24<sup>TH</sup> /25<sup>TH</sup>*

*Wed, 4pm | Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at St. Nicholas*

*Wed, 7pm | Great Compline with Litija and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at St. George*

*Thu, 9:30am | Festal Matins at St. Mary's*

*Thu, 11am | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at St. Mary's*

OBLIGATION  
HOLY DAY



SOLEMN  
HOLY DAY

### *SYNAXIS of the THEOTOKOS - DEC 26<sup>TH</sup>*

*Fri, 11am | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at St. George*

### *SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS - DEC 27<sup>TH</sup> /28<sup>TH</sup>*

*Sat, 5pm | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at St. Nicholas*

*Sun, 8:30am | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at St. George*

*Sun, 11am | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at St. Mary's*

SOLEMN  
HOLY DAY

### *CIRCUMCISION of our LORD - DEC 31<sup>ST</sup> / JAN 1<sup>ST</sup>*

*Wed, 7:30pm | All Night-Vigil with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at St. Mary's*

*Wed, 11pm | New Year's Celebration at St. Mary's*

*Thur, 11am | Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at St. George*

### *SUNDAY before THEOPHANY - JAN 3<sup>RD</sup> / 4<sup>TH</sup>*

*Sat, 5pm | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at St. Nicholas*

*Sat, 7pm | Great Vespers at St. Mary's*

*Sun, 8:30am | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at St. George*

*Sun, 11am | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at St. Mary's*

### *THEOPHANY - JAN 5<sup>TH</sup> /6<sup>TH</sup>*

*Mon, 6pm | Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great with Great Blessing of Water at St. Mary's*

*Tue, 11am | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom with Great Blessing of Water at St. George*

*Tue, 6pm | Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at St. Nicholas*

OBLIGATION  
HOLY DAY