

December 21, 2025
Sunday before the Nativity, of the Ancestors



Veil of Protection
SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!
Слава Исусу Христу! Слава на вики!

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 3: pg. 135, & For the Ancestors: pp. 285 -287

St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

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

MON., DEC. 22 Pre-festive Day of the Nativity of our Lord
11:00 A.M. ROYAL HOURS for the NATIVITY of our LORD

THUR., DEC. 25 NATIVITY of our LORD, **Obligation Holy Day**
9:30 A.M. FESTAL MATINS
11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom
Intention: Special Intention, requested by Mike and Patty Costantino

SUN., DEC. 28 SUNDAY after the NATIVITY
11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom
Intention: For the People of St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas Chapel

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

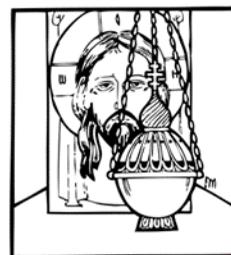
Happy Birthday Greetings
Wedding Anniversaries:
None for the week

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
December 21 - 27, 2025
Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:
The Parishioners

Parish Offerings for December 14, 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	\$ 370.00
Loose Currency	\$71.00
Candles	\$6.00
TOTAL:	\$447.00

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

Confession for Christmas

Today we welcome Fr. Don Voss. He will be hearing Confessions before and during Divine Liturgy. The only scheduled Confessions after today and through Jan 11th will be before St. George's Sunday liturgy and after St. Mary's if needed.



"I greet you with the Feast of Christ's Nativity and wish that the Infant Jesus shower upon all of you His choicest blessings. May we all live in peace, health, and happiness and may we all celebrate another Christmas together. A Merry and Blessed Christmas! Christ is Born!"

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha: The Promise of the Messiah's Coming

"God Became Human that Humans Might Become God": The Incarnation of the Son of God took place in accordance with God's plan "in the fullness of time" (see Gal 4:4). The nativity of the Son of God became the focal point of human history, revealing how much God loved the world (see Jn 3:16). In the Incarnation, the union of God with his creation is truly a self-emptying of God (in Greek, kenosis): "Though [Christ] was in the form of God ... [he] emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness" (Phil 2:6-7). Christ took on the "form of a servant," without the stain of sin, "increasing the human and not diminishing the divine." In the union of the divine and the human, "the incorporeal one takes on flesh, the Word becomes approachable, the invisible one is seen, the impalpable one is touched, the one beyond time enters into time, the Son of God becomes the Son of Man."

Upcoming Seasonal Greeting

During the celebration of Christmas, it is our custom to greet one another with the joyous exclamation, "**Christ is born!**" to which the one greeted responds, "**Glorify Him!**" and in Slavonic, **Christos Raždajetsja! – Slavite Jeho!**

Fast and Privileged Week begins December 25

According to our Church tradition the week following the Nativity of Christ (December 25 - January 4) in our Church calendar is dedicated to this Feast Day, therefore we enjoy the "privileged week" during which the laws of abstinence from meat on Friday do not oblige.

St. George Divine Services for the Week:

WED., DEC. 24 VIGIL of the NATIVITY of our LORD, **Obligation Holy Day**

6:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS CAROLS

7:00 P.M. GREAT COMPLINE with LITIJA,
DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom

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

FRI. DEC. 26 SYNAXIS of the THEOTOKOS, **Solemn Holy Day**

11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom

Intention: Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Betty Livingston, requested by Grant Gaylord

SUN., DEC. 28 SUNDAY after the NATIVITY

8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom

Intention: +Anthony and Louise Battalini, requested by Prudence Peya

St. Nicholas Chapel Divine Services for the Week:

WED., DEC. 24 VIGIL of the NATIVITY of our LORD, **Obligation Holy Day**

4:00 P.M. Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great with Litija

Intention: Private Intention

SAT., DEC. 27 SUNDAY after the NATIVITY, *Anticipated*

5:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom

Intention: Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Sarina Ausi, requested by Grant Gaylord

Christmas Eve for Byzantine Catholics is a strict fast day from meat & dairy.

Christ is Judge, King, and High Priest

Fourteen generations were completed three times, under judges, kings and high priests. Now all generations came forth under one Christ who was Judge and King and High Priest. The judges, kings and high priests were always to be understood as anticipatory figures of Christ. Joshua was the first judge; David, the first king; and Jeshua, the son of Josedech, the first high priest.

(From the Incomplete Commentary on Matthew)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear parishioners,

Christmas is almost here! Please see flyer for complete Christmas and Theophany Schedule. The regular schedule will be paused. Since we have an opportunity for Confession this Sunday, the only scheduled Confessions between now and Jan 11th will be before St. George's Sunday liturgy and after St. Mary's if needed.

Copier for sale St. Mary's is leasing a new copier at a reduced cost as the 5-year contract for the old one has expired. The old copier is a Xerox Versalink C7020 which is being offered for a donation of \$100 on a first come basis. The person purchasing will need to transport it from the church office. If you or anyone you know is interested, please let Fr. Anthony know.

Parish Offices are Closed for Christmas December 24th to January 4th to allow myself and volunteers a break from administration. Obviously please contact me in the case of a sacramental emergency or an urgent pastoral need.

Please sign up for Theophany House Blessings by January 1st. 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

Verses from the Fore-Feast:

The Son was born ineffably of the Father before all ages. And in these last days, He has willed to be incarnate of the Virgin Mary without seed. Let us lift up our voices to the Lord and say: "You have lifted us up from our fallen state. Holy are You, O Christ our God!"



The Son was born ineffably of the Father before all ages. We sing to Him! And in these last days, He has willed to be incarnate of the Virgin Mary for He willed to lift up the human race which fell through the deadly advice of the serpent. (From the Canon of the Fore-feast)

Holy Ancestors of Christ, intercede for us!

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

Sunday of the Ancestors

The genealogy of the Lord is often underappreciated. All too often we tune it out or gloss over it when we read the Bible because it might seem “boring.” It is anything but boring! The genealogy of the Lord is breathtaking because it tells us of God’s abiding love for us – his abiding love which culminates in him taking us to himself in the incarnation.



He embraces us so fully that we can say the two – God and Man – have become “one flesh” in Jesus. It is not just a list of names but it is our story – our history – the accounting of God’s abiding love in our life.

However, there is more; something hidden, something missed by many who hear this “list” of names.

Those who are counted as “ancestors” of Christ were not particularly holy. Some were far from it, and yet, they are given the most exalted status of being ancestors of Christ. As one author put it – It seems that the “Sinless Lord” was happy to descend from an awfully sinful stock.”

So why include them? They are included to show us the very depth and breadth of God’s abiding love for us. Regardless of our weakness and sinfulness, the Lord has a future plan for each and every one of us if only we would open ourselves to that plan.

Even Bethlehem, the very place the Lord chose as the place where he would come into our midst, as it is even today, is not a great city – it is not Jerusalem, or Rome or New York, and yet, somehow in its “smallness” it is chosen by God. In a similar way Mary is chosen – a small, apparently insignificant Palestinian girl.

By outward appearances, she is of little value, much as Bethlehem is “too small” to be considered great. And yet, the Lord does not see as we see. He does not judge as we judge. While we see what is on the outside, he reads the heart.

When we hear the genealogy of the Lord this Sunday, let us be reminded that it is not by our own strength that we will be saved, but by our willingness to allow the Lord to act in our life. As we approach the feast of the Nativity – the feast of God’s humility in taking on our human nature – let us become small that the Lord who is Great might lift us up to Glory.

SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

624 Park Rd.- Ambridge, PA 15003

PRIEST: FATHER ANTHONY COSTANTINO

Deacon Thomas J. Klacik

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CHURCH HALL: 724-266-8642

PARISH WEBSITE: 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 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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

JOIN US FOR OUR

2026 NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH

ST. MARY'S BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

7:30PM-VIGIL (VESPERS & MATINS)

9:45 PM-LITURGY OF BASIL THE GREAT

11:00PM-NEW YEARS CELEBRATION

31st DEC 2025  **624 PARK RD.
AMBRIDGE, PA**

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 22ND

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

NATIVITY of our LORD - DEC 24TH /25TH

OBLIGATION
HOLY DAY

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



SOLEMN
HOLY DAY

SYNAXIS of the THEOTOKOS - DEC 26TH

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

SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS - DEC 27TH /28TH

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 31ST / JAN 1ST

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 3RD / 4TH

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 5TH /6TH

OBLIGATION
HOLY DAY

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