

January 25, 2026
 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee



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: See handout

St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., JAN. 25 SUNDAY of the PUBLICAN and the PHARISEE
 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., JAN. 28 St. Ephrem the Syrian
 6:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY
Intention: For the Holy Souls most in need, requested by Carol Fellenstein

FRI., JAN. 30 Three Holy Hierarchs, **Simple Holy Day**
 9:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
Intention: Private

SUN., FEB. 1 SUNDAY of the PRODIGAL SON,
 Pre-festive Day of the Meeting of our Lord with Simeon and Anna
 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

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Happy Birthday Greetings:

None for the week

Wedding Anniversaries:

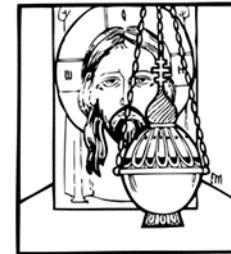
None for the week

Please Pray for Our Sick and Shut-ins:

HOME: Penny Furis, William Killian, Joyce Rose, Eleanor Soltis

Franciscan Manor (71 Darlington Rd., Beaver Falls, PA 15010) - George Cirka

Christ is among us! He is and shall be!
Christos posred' i nas! Jest' i budet!



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
 January 25 -31, 2026

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

The Parishioners

Parish Offerings for January 18, 2026

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)

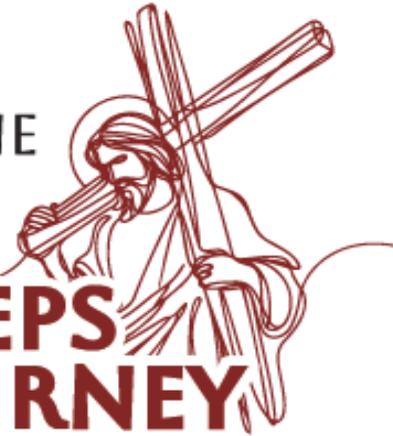
Offertory	\$625.00
Loose Currency	\$15.00
Candles	\$21.00
Christmas	\$100.00
Holy Day	\$30.00
TOTAL:	\$791.00

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

ST. MARY BYZANTINE
CATHOLIC CHURCH



FIRST STEPS OF THE JOURNEY TO EASTER

Come observe **Clean Monday**, the first day of the Great Fast. We've invited Fr. John Naugle to be a special guest homilist to share his insightful perspective on getting off to the right foot on your lenten journey.

MONDAY
FEB. 16TH

PRESANCTIFIED
DIVINE LITURGY
6:00PM

**SAINT MARY BYZANTINE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
624 PARK ROAD
AMBRIDGE, PA. 15003

FR. JOHN NAUGLE
GUEST HOMILIST



Reverend John F. Naugle, M.A., S.T.B. is a Roman Catholic priest serving as the Parochial Vicar at St. Augustine Parish in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. He was ordained in 2009 and has served in several parish assignments in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Fr. Naugle

holds a B.S. in Economics and Mathematics from St. Vincent College, an M.A. in Philosophy from Duquesne University, and a Bachelor of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) from The Catholic University of America. In addition to his parish ministry, he writes regularly on religious, cultural, and social topics for outlets like the Brownstone Institute and Alpha News.

St. George Divine Services for the Week:

TUE., JAN. 27 Translation of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom
6:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY
Intention: + Veronica Jn Baptiste, requested by Sr. Mary Virginia

WED., JAN. 28 St. Ephrem the Syrian
7:00 A.M. FIRST & THIRD HOUR

THUR., JAN. 29 Three Holy Hierarchs, *Anticipated* **Simple Holy Day**
5:00 P.M. Great Vespers with Litija
6:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY
Intention: + Hugh Ermay, requested by Sr. Mary Virginia

SUN., FEB. 1 SUNDAY of the PRODIGAL SON,
Pre-festive Day of the Meeting of our Lord with Simeon and Anna
8:15 A.M. FIRST HOUR
8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
Intention: + Patricia Kayla, requested by Dan & Jackie Pinchot

St. Nicholas Chapel Divine Services for the Week:

SAT., JAN. 31 SUNDAY of the PRODIGAL SON,
Pre-festive Day of the Meeting of our Lord with Simeon and Anna
5:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY
Intention: + John Pinchot on second anniversary of his passing, requested by Dan and Jackie Pinchot

Pre-Lenten Sundays

There are four more Sundays within Byzantine Pre-Lent (including today). The “Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee” calls us to consider our life, and to repent of our sins for repentance is the door through which we enter the Holy Forty Days Fast. The “Sunday of the Prodigal Son” calls us to “come to ourselves” and return to the Father, who eagerly awaits our return. The “Sunday of the Last Judgment” reminds us that while the Lord’s mercy is immeasurable even He does not forgive those who do not repent. And, finally, on “Forgiveness Sunday” we remember Adam’s expulsion from Paradise and the proper method of fasting (don’t put on a gloomy face).

A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear parishioners,

A reminder that this week there is no fasting for Byzantine Catholics. As we begin our journey towards Lent with the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, we eat meat on Friday this week as a reminder that fasting is useless if we do not humble ourselves before God.

This Friday, January 30th is the Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs, a **Simple Holy Day**. Our main celebration will be at St. George the evening prior on Thursday the 29th, with Great Vespers with Litija at 5:00pm and Divine Liturgy at 6:00pm. We will still have the 9:00am Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's as well but without one of our regular cantors.

Monday, February 2nd is The Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon and Anna, a **Solemn Holy Day**. We will have the Blessing of Candles at St. George following Sunday liturgy on Sunday, February 1st. On the feast day itself, we will have a 6:00pm Divine Liturgy with the Blessing of Candles at St. Mary's followed by a social.

I will not be able to have liturgy on Saturday, February 7th, the First All Souls Saturday. We will transfer its celebration to the 6:00pm Divine Liturgy on Thursday, February 5th.

Please submit your list of names that you would like me to pray for aloud during the commemorations for the All-Souls Saturdays if you have not already done so by this upcoming weekend to ensure we have time to add them to the list. If you have submitted names in previous years, those will be automatically included.

In Christ,
Fr. Anthony

Non-Fasting Week

This week (from the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee to the Sunday of the Prodigal Son) according to our Liturgical calendar, is a fast free week. The prayer of the Pharisee was to boast that he fasts twice a week. In order to eliminate all pride before the beginning of the Great Fast, the holy fathers directed that we do not fast at all this week.

Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner!

Sunday of Publican and Pharisee

"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Today in the Gospel we are reminded that there are two "ways" in which we can walk in this life and the outcome or goal of those ways are strikingly different. The first of those "ways" is the way of the world, in which financial success and reputation are prioritized, and the ultimate goal is personal aggrandizement, no matter the "way" in which it is attained. The second "way" is the way of God, in which charity and honesty are not only prioritized, but are the way and the goal as well.

In other words, the second "way," the way of God, is a good in itself, for this "way" is the life of God or eternal life. Following this second "way" leads one to look beyond themselves and live in a way that is always oriented towards others. Just as God the Father, from all eternity, poured out his life in love to the Son, so the one who walks the second "way" lives a life which is a constant act of self-giving love.

Please notice that both "ways" have an interior and hidden aspect that greatly affects which path or "way" that we walk in this life and ultimately it greatly affects how we will live forever. While one may outwardly appear to be walking in the "way" of God, as the Pharisee in the Gospel must have appeared to those around him, it is possible for that person to actually be walking the opposite path in life due to the hidden or interior disposition of his heart.

1. Do we often live a double life? Do we act polite and nice to those around us while harboring resentment or anger toward those same people? Do we say one thing with our mouths and think another thing with our heart?
2. In the Divine Liturgy do we pray do we pray for everyone and ask for God's mercy and forgiveness? Have we truly forgiven others in the way we ask God to forgive us?
3. Is there someone in our life whom we are angry with or that we have not really forgiven from our heart? Can we find a way to forgive them and show them that we love them?



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, Catherine Richthammer

E.C.F. coordinator: Jonathan Dohanich

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

God gives us His Grace, when we are humble. (Elder Porphyrios)