

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of the Great Fast, Sunday of Orthodoxy



Veil of Protection

SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

See Handout for Propers, Typical Psalms: pp. 16-17, Beatitudes: pp. 23-24, St. Basil melodies: pg. 96

St. Mary: Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., FEB. 22 FIRST SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, Sunday of Orthodoxy

10:45 A.M. THIRD HOUR

11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil, Procession with icons

Intention: Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Lynn Henry, requested by Carol Fellenstein

WED., FEB. 25 Tarasius Patriarch

6:00 P.M. LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

7:15 P.M. Adult Education, Byzantine Lent 101

THUR., FEB. 26 Porphyry of Gaza, Bishop

4:45-5:45 P.M. Confessions

6:00 P.M. LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

FRI., FEB. 27 Procopius Venerable-Confessor

9:00 A.M. SIXTH & NINTH HOUR

SUN., MARCH 1 SECOND SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST

10:45 A.M. THIRD HOUR

11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil the Great

Intention: +William Plumb (16th anniversary of passing), requested by Greg Plumb

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

None for the week

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the week

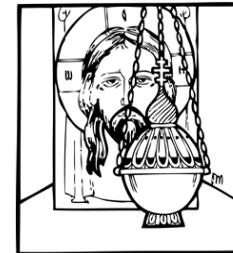
Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

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

February 22 - 28, 2026

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

The Parishioners

Parish Offerings for February 15, 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	\$760.00
Loose Currency	\$20.00
Candles	\$18.00
Total:	\$798.00

Regular Confessions Offered

St. George 4:45-5:45 P.M. on Fridays 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
THE
ANNUNCIATION
OF THE
THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25TH
VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY
6:00 PM

Fr. Ladis J. Cizik of St. Augustine
Parish will be giving the homily:
The Mystery of the Annunciation



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

GUEST HOMILIST

FR. LADIS J. CIZIK

Father Cizik is a Catholic Priest serving as the 'Chaplain' at St. Augustine Parish in Beaver County. He was ordained in 1987. He has offered the Traditional Latin Mass in various places around the country and world.

Besides serving in several parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, he was the Executive Director and Vice President of the National Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima and was posted at its headquarters in Washington, New Jersey from 2000 to 2003. His duties included directing the Blue Army's National Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Washington, NJ, and administration of the Blue Army's hotel for pilgrims in Fatima, Portugal, *Domus Pacis*. During this time, Father Cizik served as the Editor and as a writer for the Blue Army's official worldwide publication, *SOUL* magazine.

Father Cizik has led numerous pilgrimages to Catholic Shrines around the world, most notably to Fatima, Portugal many times, as well as numerous trips to Rome and to San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, where St. Padre Pio served. Other countries visited on pilgrimage included: Israel, Spain, France, Mexico, Canada and various locations in the United States.

Father Cizik served as a writer for various traditional Catholic publications, including "the Remnant" newspaper and "Catholic Family News." Father served as Chaplain, since 1988, to the Divine Child Jesus Saint Padre Pio Prayer Group and, since 2003, to the Beaver Valley Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, both presently meeting at Saint Blaise Church in Midland.

St. George: Divine Services for the Week:

TUE., FEB. 24 First and Second Findings of the Head of John the Baptist
6:00 P.M. LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

WED., FEB. 25 Tarasius Patriarch
7:00 A.M. FIRST & THIRD HOURS

FRI., FEB. 27 Procopius Venerable-Confessor
4:45-5:45 P.M. Confessions
6:00 P.M. LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

SAT., FEB. 28 SECOND ALL SOULS SATURDAY
9:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom, *Panachida, Hramoty*

SUN., MARCH 1 SECOND SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST
8:15 A.M. FIRST HOUR
8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil the Great

Intention: + Mary Elizabeth Olack, requested by Martha Seech

St. Nicholas: Divine Services for the Week:

SAT., FEB. 28 SECOND SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST
5:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil the Great

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

Are you Following the Lord?

"To every thoughtful man there is a benefit" (Proverbs 14:23 LXX) ... and Christ implied more than this when He said, "He that seeks finds." (Matthew 7:8) This is why I no longer wonder how it was that Philip followed Christ. Andrew was persuaded when he heard from John, and Peter was persuaded when heard from Andrew. But Philip, not having learned anything from anyone but Christ who said to him only this, "Follow me," immediately obeyed and did not go back. In fact, he even became a preacher to others. For he ran to Nathaniel and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Laws and the Prophets wrote." Do you see what a thoughtful mind he had, how assiduously he meditated on the writings of Moses, expecting the advent? For the expression "we have found" belongs always to those who are in some way seeking.

(St. John Chrysostom, Homilies on the Gospel of John)

A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

We continue our time of prayer and preparation for Pascha with the 2nd Week of the Great Fast. Don't get discouraged if you didn't get off to a great start to Lent during Clean Week, we still have six weeks to go!

Please note that Tuesday is a noteworthy feast in our calendar, the First and Second Findings of the Head of St. John the Baptist.

Our Lenten Adult Education series begins Wednesday at 7:15pm at St. Mary's.

Note that this Saturday is the 2nd All Souls Saturday. We will have a 9am Divine Liturgy followed by Panachida and Hramoty (praying the names written in our book of the deceased) at St. George

In Christ,
Fr. Anthony

“We bow before your sacred image, O gracious Lord, and beg forgiveness for our offenses, O Christ our God.”

As we celebrate this Sunday of “Restoration of Holy Images”, let us remember that during this Lenten journey we are called to recover within us the image of what it means to be an authentic human being, a genuine person created in the image and likeness of God. This season of Lent is the opportunity of repentance, recreation, and restoration of that image.



What is Kutia?

Kutia is traditionally prepared for the All-Souls Saturdays. It is made of boiled wheat mixed with sugar and spices to be blessed during the All-Souls Liturgy and distributed to the congregation. The offering of Kutia is an ancient custom. It symbolizes the eternal cycle. People, like wheat, must be buried to grow and have new life. We make it for memorial services in remembrance of those who have fallen asleep.

First Sunday of the Great Fast

In today's Gospel (John 1:43-51) we hear Jesus call Philip, who then eagerly invites Nathanael to “Come and see”. Nathanael approaches with skepticism, yet the Lord receives him with a gaze that sees into the depths of his heart: “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you” (John 1:48). This moment of divine recognition transforms Nathanael's doubt into a bold confession: “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel!” (John 1:49).



On the First Sunday of the Great Fast, we celebrate the victory of true worship over distortion, the restoration of holy images, and the affirmation that God truly became man. The Gospel today resonates with this commemoration: Christ reveals that He is the One who bridges heaven and earth. “You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man” (John 1:51).

This is an image-rich revelation, one fitting for a Sunday that proclaims that the invisible God has become visible. Just as icons make God's presence perceptible to our senses, Jesus makes the Father known in His very person. The disciples see in Christ the “true icon” of the Father, and through Him the heavens are opened to us.

Great Lent invites us to the same transformation offered to Nathanael: to move from doubt or indifference into deeper discipleship by encountering the living Christ. The Lord sees us before we come to Him. He knows our struggles, our sins, our fears. And still He calls us: Follow Me. Come and see.

Living the Gospel as Missionary Disciples

1. Respond to Christ's Call with Simplicity. Take a few minutes each morning to quietly say: “Here I am, Lord. I desire to follow You today.”
2. Let Yourself Be Seen by God. Spend time in an honest, unhurried examination of conscience. Allow Christ's loving gaze to reveal—not condemn—what needs healing.
3. Invite Someone to “Come and See”. Like Philip, gently encourage someone in your life to encounter Christ: invite them to Lenten services, share a Scripture verse, or offer to pray for them.
4. Keep an Icon Before You. Set an icon in a place where you will notice it during the day. Let it remind you that Christ opens heaven to us and walks with us through the fast.

SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRIEST: FATHER ANTHONY COSTANTINO

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CHURCH FAX: 724-266-1834

CHURCH HALL: 724-266-8642

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmaryambridge.org

Cantors: Rebecca Leroy, Mike McCann, Naedia McCann

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

Faith + prayer and fasting = power to overcome even the greatest sin