

February 8, 2026
Sunday of Meat-Fare



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., FEB. 8 SUNDAY of MEAT-FARE

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., FEB. 11 St. Blaise Bishop and Martyr

6:00 P.M. Typika with Holy Communion

FRI., FEB. 13 St. Martinian Venerable

9:00 A.M. Typika with Holy Communion

SUN., FEB. 15 SUNDAY of CHEESE-FARE

10:45 A.M. THIRD HOUR

11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY

Intention: + Curtis Shropshire, requested by Carol Fellenstein

1:00 P.M. FORGIVENESS VESPERS

Fr. Anthony will be away until February 9th. Please call Fr. Joseph Raptosh our Protopresbyter, at St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in Canonsburg at 724-745-7117 in case of a sacramental emergency.

Happy Birthday Greetings:

None for the week

Wedding Anniversaries:

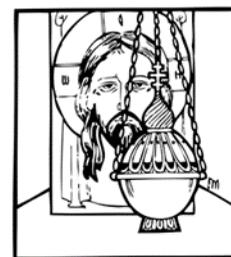
None for the week

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

February 8 - 14, 2026

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

The Parishioners

Parish Offerings for February 1, 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	\$830.00
Loose Currency	\$55.00
Candles	\$6.00
Holy Day	\$15.00
TOTAL:	\$760.00

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

Happenings...

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.

2026 | Ambridge, PA

Great Fast Traditional Guidelines:

No meat or dairy for all the fast. Fish with a backbone permitted only on Annunciation, Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday (shellfish allowed). Wine and Olive Oil allowed only on Weekends and Feast Days

Great Fast Minimum Requirements from the Archeparchy:

Simple Abstinence: The law of simple abstinence forbids the use of meat but permits the use of eggs and dairy products. All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe simple abstinence when prescribed. Abstinence is obligatory on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast.

Strict Abstinence: The law of strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use and consumption of all meat, eggs and dairy products. All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe strict abstinence when prescribed. Strict abstinence (fast) is to be observed in 2026 on **Clean Monday, February 16th** (the first day of the Great Fast), and on **Great and Holy Friday, April 3rd**.

St. George Divine Services for the Week:

TUE., FEB. 10 St. Charalampus, Martyr
5:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY with Panachida
(Please note: this Tuesday's Liturgy is one hour earlier than usual)
Intention: + Paul Prigorac, requested by Renee Pintado

WED., FEB. 11 St. Blaise Bishop and Martyr
7:00 A.M. FIRST & THIRD HOUR

THUR., FEB. 12 St. Meletius Archbishop
6:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY
Intention: + Sr. Mary Phillip, requested by Sr. Mary Virginia

SUN., FEB. 15 SUNDAY of CHEESE-FARE
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., FEB. 14 SUNDAY of CHEESE-FARE
5:00 P.M. VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY
Intention: + George Hanczar, requested by Mike and Jodi Hanczar

Pre-Lenten Sundays

The Sunday of the Last Judgment gives the third piece of important information to us in our preparation for the Great Fast-Lent. We have learned that to be saved one must not judge others, and feel the weight of personal sins and ask God for mercy. We have seen the process of repentance, from the onset of sin, its destructive affects, self-realization of sin, and the importance process to "arise and go" to our Father, and the critical detail, without which we would never complete our repentance and be saved – our Father will go to us, as we are trying to change, and comfort us and empower us to complete the good work we have started. Today's Gospel about the last judgment shows the end result of true repentance, and also the "flip side" – the outcome for those who do not repent. It is a frightening spectacle, and not a pleasant one to meditate upon, but absolute necessary for us to remember. Let us talk about how Jesus Christ came the first time, how His second coming will be, and what we must do to hear the blessed words: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world".

A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

Today, Meat-fare Sunday, is the last day in which meat is traditionally consumed until Pascha. This upcoming week dairy products and eggs would be consumed until they too would cease being eaten next Sunday, Cheese-fare Sunday.

Next Sunday following fellowship we will have the beautiful service of Forgiveness Vespers at 1:00pm at St. Mary's, all are invited to attend from each of our Churches. In this service, we ask each other's forgiveness so that we might be reconciled with our brothers and sisters in Christ as we begin our Lenten journey.

We are now at the part of the year in which we have "alitururgical days." These are penitential days in which the Divine Liturgy is not permitted to be celebrated. Because of the great emphasis on the Resurrection during the Divine Liturgy, it is our tradition to not celebrate it during penitential times. This week, Wednesday and Friday are alitururgical days. This week we will be replacing our Wednesday and Friday Divine Liturgies with the service of Typika. This service takes about a half-hour and includes the chanting of the psalms, Scripture readings, and the distribution of Holy Communion. On these days we also will begin to incorporate **prostrations** into our liturgical prayer. More explanation of this to come next week!

Next week, the Great Fast begins and the weekdays of the Great Fast (with the exception of the Annunciation) are alitururgical days. In the evening, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, a truly beautiful service that combines Vespers with the Distribution of Holy Communion. We will celebrate this service Tuesday through Friday evenings. **Please note that on Clean Monday we will have a special 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy with guest homilist Fr. John Naugle, who has been tasked with giving us a pep talk as we begin our Lenten journey!**

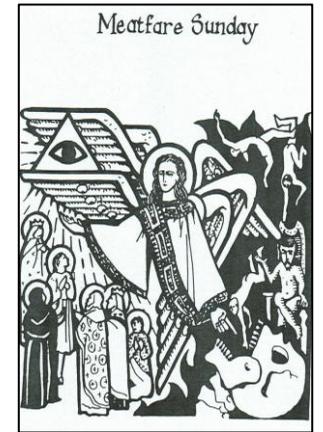
Finally, please sign up in the back of the Church if you wish to attend our upcoming Wednesday adult education course, "Byzantine Lent 101." There is no cost, but registration is required.

In Christ,
Fr. Anthony

"If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you"

Meat-Fare Sunday - Sunday of the Last Judgment

In today's Gospel (Luke 25: 31-46) and on Meat-fare Sunday, the Church places before us the awe-filled vision of the Last Judgment. Christ the King comes in glory and separates the nations, not by what they claimed to believe, but by how they loved in concrete ways. The question He asks is simple and terrifying: Did you recognize Me?



The Lord identifies Himself with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and the imprisoned. "As you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (Mt 25:40). For Byzantine Catholics, this Gospel reminds us that salvation is lived, not merely confessed. Faith is proven through mercy.

This reading stands at the threshold of the Great Fast. As we prayerfully consider to what degree we'll embrace the traditional practice of abstaining from meat following this Sunday until Pascha, the Church warns us not to reduce fasting to food alone. St. John Chrysostom teaches that fasting without compassion is empty: if we refrain from meat but devour our brother through indifference, we have missed the point. True asceticism opens the heart to see Christ in the suffering other.

The judgment described here is not arbitrary. It reveals what has already been formed in us. Those who loved discover they have always been close to Christ, even without realizing it. Those who ignored the suffering find they have been closing themselves to Him all along. Love becomes the measure of eternity.

Living the Gospel as Missionary Disciples

1. Practice intentional mercy. Choose one concrete act this week—feeding someone, visiting the sick, or helping a person in need—and offer it consciously to Christ.
2. Fast from indifference. As Meat-fare begins, let go of excuses that keep you from noticing others. Ask God daily: "Lord, open my eyes to see You."
3. Examine love, not just behavior. In prayer, reflect not only on what you did or failed to do, but on whom you ignored—and why.
4. Prepare for the Fast with compassion. Let your fasting be paired with generosity. What you save through restraint, share with someone who lacks.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." May this Sunday teach us to recognize Christ now, so that we may rejoice to see Him then.

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

OFFICE PHONE: 724-266-2030

CHURCH FAX: 724-266-1834

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

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory”

ST. MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH PRESENTS:

BYZANTINE LENT 101

EXPLAINING WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO AS
BYZANTINE CATHOLICS DURING THE GREAT FAST

FEB 25

7:15 - 8:15 PM

WHY & HOW WE FAST



Differences between
Roman & Byzantine Lent

MARCH 4

7:15 - 8:15 PM

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY



Walkthrough and
explanation

MARCH 11

7:15 - 8:15 PM

PRAYING PRIVATELY



The Jesus Prayer & forms
of personal prayer

MARCH 25

7:15 - 8:15 PM

PREPARING FOR EASTER



Our Holy Week &
Easter services

MARCH 18TH @ 6PM – GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE WILL BE PRAYED

SIGN-UP AT BACK OF CHURCH OR EMAIL STMARYAMBRIDGE@PROTONMAIL.COM

▶▶▶▶▶ 624 PARK RD. AMBRIDGE, PA ◀◀◀◀◀

Weekly Schedule for THE GREAT FAST

SUN	8:15AM ST. GEORGE 1 ST HOUR 8:30AM ST. GEORGE DL OF ST. BASIL 10:45AM ST. MARY 3 RD HOUR 11AM ST. MARY DL OF ST. BASIL
TUE	6PM ST. GEORGE PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY
WED	7AM ST. GEORGE 1 ST & 3 RD HOUR 6PM ST. MARY PRESANCTIFIED DL 7:15PM ST. MARY ADULT EDUCATION
THU	6PM ST. MARY PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY
FRI	9AM ST. MARY 6 TH & 9 TH HOUR 6PM ST. GEORGE PRESANCTIFIED DL
SAT	9AM ST. GEORGE DL OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 5PM ST. NICHOLAS DL OF ST. BASIL

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Wednesday, March 18th 6:00pm St. Mary Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
Wednesday, March 25th Annunciation 12:00pm St. George and 6:00pm St. Mary
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom