

February 15, 2026  
 Sunday of Cheese-Fare, Forgiveness Sunday



*Veil of Protection*  
 SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Propers: See handout

St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

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

MON., FEB. 16 ..... Clean Monday

6:00 P.M. .... LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS,  
 with Guest Homilist

WED., FEB. 18 ..... Clean Wednesday

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

6:00 P.M. .... LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS,  
 Followed by Men's Group

THUR., FEB. 19 ..... Clean Thursday

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

FRI., FEB. 20 ..... Clean Friday

9:00 A.M. .... SIXTH & NINTH HOUR

SUN., FEB. 22 ..... FIRST SUNDAY of LENT, 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*

**Happy Birthday Greetings:**

February 18: Joseph Plumb, February 21: Diana Jones, Kylee Kuzma

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

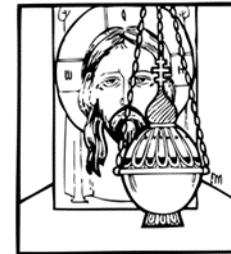
None for the week

**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 15 - 21, 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 .....	\$1,537.38
Loose Currency .....	\$11.00
Candles .....	\$5.00
<b>TOTAL: \$1,553.38</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 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

## Happenings...

### ***AED purchased, volunteers needed to become certified***

A generous parishioner is purchasing an AED machine that can be used in the church and hall. The gift also includes accessories such as a floor stretcher and privacy screen as well as paying for training for 8 people to use the machine. We would like to have at least 8 people trained between the church members and pirohi volunteers but would like more if possible. The church will pay the cost for the additional people to be trained. We plan to establish protocols to be used and would like to form a team of people who would know what to do in the event of a medical emergency. This would allow us to hopefully always have someone on hand if needed. We want to schedule training as soon as possible. Please sign up in the church or hall or call the parish office by February 27. Thank you for your willingness to assist and a huge thank you to our generous benefactor!

#### **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 16<sup>th</sup> (the first day of the Great Fast), and on Great and Holy Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*St. Anthony the Great reminds us:*

*“Do not neglect the Fast; it constitutes an imitation of Christ’s way of life.”*

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

TUE., FEB. 17 ..... Clean Tuesday

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

WED., FEB. 18 ..... Clean Wednesday

7:00 A.M. .... FIRST & THIRD HOUR

FRI., FEB. 20 ..... Clean Friday

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

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

SAT., FEB. 21 ..... The Miracle of St. Theodore

9:00 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY of ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

*Intention: +Sr. Rose Elizabeth, requested by Sr. Mary Virginia*

SUN., FEB. 22 ..... FIRST SUNDAY of LENT, SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY

8:15 A.M. .... FIRST HOUR

8:30 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY of ST. BASIL the GREAT,

**Procession with Icons**

*Intention: + Mary Elizabeth Olack, requested by Martha Seech*

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

SAT., FEB. 21 ..... FIRST SUNDAY of LENT, SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY

5:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY of ST. BASIL the GREAT,

**PROCESSION with ICONS**

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

### ***Let Us Begin the Fast With Joy!***

**The Sunday of Forgiveness is the last Sunday prior to the commencement of Great Lent.** During the pre-Lenten period, the services of the Church include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. On the Sunday of Forgiveness focus is placed on the exile of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, an event that shows us how far we have fallen in sin and separated ourselves from God. At the onset of Great Lent and a period of intense fasting, this Sunday reminds us of our need for God’s forgiveness and guides our hearts, minds, and spiritual efforts on returning to Him in repentance.

### *A Note from Fr. Anthony*

Dear Parishioners,

The Great Fast is upon us. A reminder that Clean Monday is a day of strict abstinence and all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast are days of simple abstinence.

A reminder to pay attention to the Lenten schedule of Divine Services as it is different than what we normally do throughout the year.

Please come on **Clean Monday for a special 6:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's** to start the Great Fast and hear Fr. John Naugle give us a special homily to help us kick off this season. I plan to have additional guest homilists at both St. George and St. Mary throughout the Great Fast.

We will have Men's Group at St. Mary's this Wednesday following Presanctified Divine Liturgy. A reminder that our adult education class, Byzantine Lent 101 begins Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

During the Great Fast, the Church encourages us to go to Confession and repent of our sins. Confessions will be available 4:45-5:45 at St. Mary's on Wednesdays, 4:45-5:45 at St. George on Fridays, before Sunday liturgy at St. Nicholas Chapel and at St. George and after Sunday liturgy at St. Mary's. Fr. Don Voss will also be coming to St. Mary's on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:30am to hear Confessions before and during liturgy.

Next Sunday is the Sunday of Orthodoxy, in which we commemorate the defeat of the iconoclasts, who sought to prevent the veneration of icons. Note that "Orthodoxy" in this context means "right belief." We are celebrating the triumph of true doctrine over error. This does not mean we are celebrating Eastern Orthodoxy as some were wondering about last year. As is traditional on this day, we will have a procession with Icons at all three of our Churches. **Please also feel free to bring icons to be blessed.** I will place them on the Holy Table during liturgy and then sprinkle them with Holy Water afterwards.

A note on icons: If you are in the market for purchasing them we have a wonderful store at St. George! The websites Legacy Icons and Uncut Mountain Supply also make great products made by faithful Christians. I discourage purchasing from Monastery Icons as the makers of them are not actually Christian and instead follow New Age practices.

In Christ,  
*Fr. Anthony*

*“Forgive me” ... “It is God who forgives”*

### *Sunday of Cheese-fare, Forgiveness Sunday*

“What is the treasure of our life? What do we value most?” Let us not answer this question flippantly, or with ease, but let us ask it seriously. The things we value most are those we tend to spend the most time with, and for. What we value most we tend to guard and keep secure. What we value most we tend to have on our mind and on our lips. What we value most we tend to invest our lives in.

A good test may be to consider what we talk about the most when we speak with others. A good test may be to consider what we look forward to most in our life each day, each week and each year.

The time of Great Lent, which begins this Sunday evening with the service of mutual forgiveness, offers us forty days to re-order our lives and make the things which we know are the most important—namely our relationship with the Lord—actually the most important. The time of Lent is a time in which we, with the grace of God, begin to focus our life on God and order all things in relationship to him.

And our relationship with the Lord is not a vague decision which we make. It is a practical reality that affects all aspects of our life; how we spend our time, what and how much we eat and when, where we go for entertainment, what we read, the types of friends we choose, etc. There is no aspect of our life which is hidden from the Lord, and there can be no aspect of our life which is not impacted by our relationship with him.

### *In Forgiving we become like God*

Nothing makes us so like God as our readiness to forgive the wicked and wrongdoer. ... Christ is seeking in every way possible to hinder our conflicts with one another. For since love is the root of all that is good, by removing from all quarters whatever mars it He brings us together and cements us to one another. For there is not one, not a single one, whether father or mother or friend, who loves us as much as the God who created us.

*(St. John Chrysostom, Commentary on Matthew)*



# 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](http://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 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

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*If it is to be real, then we must embrace one another as brothers and sisters. We must look one another in the face and say, "Forgive me."*

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 18<sup>TH</sup> @ 6PM – GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE WILL BE PRAYED

\*\*SIGN-UP AT BACK OF CHURCH OR EMAIL [STMARYAMBRIDGE@PROTONMAIL.COM](mailto:STMARYAMBRIDGE@PROTONMAIL.COM)\*\*

▶▶▶▶▶ 624 PARK RD. AMBRIDGE, PA ◀◀◀◀◀

## Weekly Schedule for THE GREAT FAST

SUN	8:15AM ST. GEORGE 1 <sup>ST</sup> HOUR 8:30AM ST. GEORGE DL OF ST. BASIL 10:45AM ST. MARY 3 <sup>RD</sup> HOUR 11AM ST. MARY DL OF ST. BASIL
TUE	6PM ST. GEORGE PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY
WED	7AM ST. GEORGE 1 <sup>ST</sup> & 3 <sup>RD</sup> HOUR 6PM ST. MARY PRESANCTIFIED DL 7:15PM ST. MARY ADULT EDUCATION
THU	6PM ST. MARY PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY
FRI	9AM ST. MARY 6 <sup>TH</sup> & 9 <sup>TH</sup> 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