

March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast



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., MARCH 15 FOURTH SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, St. John Climacus
10:45 A.M. THIRD HOUR
11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil the Great
Intention: For the Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Susan Goetz requested by Carol Fellenstein

WED., MARCH 18 GREAT CANON of St. Andrew of Crete
6:00 P.M. GREAT CANON
Following. Men's & Women's Group

THUR., MARCH 19 ... GREAT CANON of ST. ANDREW of CRETE
4:45-5:45 P.M. Confessions
6:00 P.M. LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

FRI., MARCH 20 Venerable Fathers of the St. Sabbas Monastery
9:00 A.M. SIXTH & NINTH HOUR

SUN., MARCH 22 FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT, St. Mary of Egypt
10:45 A.M. THIRD HOUR
11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil the Great
Intention: + Elsie Plumb, requested by Greg Plumb

Happy Birthday Greetings:

March 20: Joyce Rose, March 21: Ashley Shuster

Wedding Anniversaries:

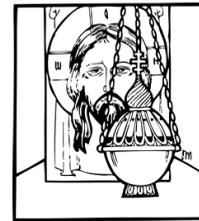
March 11: Scott & Diane Wood

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

March 15 - 21, 2026

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

The Parishioners

Parish Offerings for March 8, 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	\$843.55
Loose Currency	\$36.00
Candles	\$42.00
Total:	\$921.55

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 training on April 11

The training has been scheduled for Saturday, April 11 at 1:30 pm in the hall at St. Mary's. The session will last approximately 2 hours. There is no cost for the training. If you have not already signed up but would like to attend, please let Patty Costantino know. Thank you again to our generous benefactors!

Have you attended the Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts during this Fast?

Then you noticed how the first half of this service is a Lenten vespers. The second half is a Communion service modeled in part on the Divine Liturgy... with one essential difference. After the usual litanies there is a Great Entrance. In this Entrance there are no gifts of bread and wine carried to the holy table. Instead, it is the Gifts sanctified last Sunday which are carried and we sing: *“Now the powers of heaven are serving with us invisibly, for behold the King of Glory enters. They escort the mystical sacrifice already accomplished”* People bow and prostrate before the Eucharist as the procession enters the holy place. The service continues with the litany before the Lord’s Prayer. The entire heart of the Divine Liturgy is skipped – the Creed, the anaphora, the offering and consecration of the Gifts – because the Gifts we receive at this service are “pre-sanctified.” The rest of the service follows much of the usual form of the Liturgy. When we find ourselves tired by Lenten fasting we should remember that Christ is there in the Pre-sanctified Gifts to refresh us spiritually and renew our commitment to Him through the Great Fast.

It's Never too Late

"If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him not be afraid of being too late; for he shall suffer no loss. If any have delayed until the ninth, let him not hesitate but draw near. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him not fear on account of his lateness; for the Lord, who is gracious, receives the last even as the first."

It is never too late, to pick up and begin again, or to begin at all



St. George: Divine Services for the Week:

TUE., MARCH 17 Alexis, Man of God Venerable
6:00 P.M. LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFT

WED., MARCH 18 Cyril of Jerusalem Archbishop
7:00 A.M.TYPIKA with COMMUNION

FRI., MARCH 20 Fathers of the St. Sabbas Monastery
4:45-5:45 P.M. Confessions
6:00 P.M. LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

SAT., MARCH 21 Akathistos Saturday
8:15 A.M. Akathist Hymn
9:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom
Intention: + Sr. Rose Elizabeth, requested by Sr. Mary Virginia
10:00 A.M. Church Cleaning

SUN., MARCH 22 FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT, St. Mary of Egypt
8:15 A.M.FIRST HOUR
8:30 A.M.DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil the Great
Intention: For the people of St. George, St. Mary, & St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas: Divine Services for the Week:

SAT., MARCH 21 FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT, St. Mary of Egypt
5:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil the Great
Intention: + Donald Marnek, requested by Renee Pintado

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast

“Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly the angel who guards you will honor your patience. While a wound is still fresh and warm it is easy to heal, but old, neglected and festering ones are hard to cure, and require for their care much treatment, cutting, plastering and cauterization. Many from long neglect become incurable. But with God all things are possible [Matthew 19:26].”
“The first stage of this tranquility consists in silencing the lips when the heart is excited. The second, in silencing the mind when the soul is still excited. The goal is a perfect peacefulness even in the middle of the raging storm.” + *St. John Climacus*

A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

This Wednesday evening, we will celebrate the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete at 6:00pm at St. Mary's. This is a beautiful service of repentance in which we beseech God's mercy upon us. The full service has over 300 prostrations. We will be doing an "abbreviated version" that should last roughly two hours. You are welcome to come late or leave early. You are not required to do the prostrations if you are unable, please just come and pray. All that's to say, this service is quite a workout so wear comfortable clothes! I strongly encourage all who have been attending our Adult Ed class to come for this as this is a key moment in Byzantine Lent.

Due to the Canon being celebrated Wednesday evening, I will celebrate Typika with Holy Communion at 7:00am at St. George Wednesday morning so there is an opportunity to receive our Lord in the Eucharist this day.

Because the Canon is so physically taxing, there is a mitigation for wine and oil in the traditional fasting scheme from Wednesday to Friday. The men's group will meet after the Canon for fellowship and refreshments. At the request of parishioner and cantor Catherine Richthammer, we will also be launching a **St. Mary's Women's Group**, which she will oversee. There will be a brief meeting following the Canon for refreshments as well as discussion of what the group will entail. The idea is to have the men's and women's group at the same time each month.

This Saturday is Akathistos Saturday. We will pray the Akathist hymn, a beautiful Marian devotion native to the Byzantine Rite at 8:15am followed by 9:00am Divine Liturgy at St. George.

Next Wednesday, March 25th is the one of the 12 Greats Feasts, the Annunciation. It is the sole weekday of Lent in which Divine Liturgy is celebrated, ideally in the evening. We will have a 1:00pm Divine Liturgy at St. George and a 6:00pm Vespers Divine Liturgy with guest homilist Fr. Ladis Cizik followed by our final Adult Ed class at St. Mary. Each liturgy will be offered for the intentions of the respective pirohy workers of each parish, who have been working very hard this Lent.

We will have an **Easter Basket making class at St. George's on Saturday March 28th at 10:00am** following Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday. This is a great opportunity to learn the spiritual meaning of what we put into our Easter baskets and to be exposed to a beautiful Rusyn custom.

Please sign up if you wish to join us for our parish field trip to Christ the Bridegroom Monastery for Bridegroom Matins on Wednesday, April 1st at 10:00am. Bishop Robert will not be able to celebrate this year, but it will still be a wonderful opportunity to visit the Monastery for its patronal feast and see the nuns.

In Christ,
Fr. Anthony

The Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast

Teachings of St. John of the Ladder

Our Holy Father among the Saints St John Climacus is the author of a powerful spiritual work that is divided into about thirty chapters, called "steps", as part of the overall book entitled, "The Ladder of Divine Ascent." As the Great Fast is about our ascending to the things of Heaven, it is entirely appropriate that the Church focus on the ascetical enterprise as presented by this work and on the person of its author who is celebrated on the Fourth Sunday of the Fast.

THE LADDER begins with the rejection of worldliness, and ends with God, Who is love. As we climb the ladder of virtues while making our way toward Christ, we must remember that our focus must remain on the Person and power of our Saviour. As we advance in the spiritual life slowly, taking it one "step" at a time, we need to be in a state of constant prayer, especially the "Jesus Prayer". A Christian is one who imitates Christ in thought, word, and deed, as far as is possible for human beings. Follow Christ without anxiety or hesitation, always looking heavenward and expecting help from there. I do not know whether we must all teach others: but teach yourselves at all costs. Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. If anyone could see their own vices accurately without the veil of self-love, they would worry about nothing else in this life. If the Holy Spirit is peace of soul, then nothing so prevents the presence of the Spirit in us as anger.



This is a very vivid icon of the Ladder of Divine Ascent. It shows people ascending toward heaven with angels helping them. It also shows demons pulling people off the ladder, causing them to fall into the pits of hell. In today's Gospel passage, we are shown that through faith in Christ all things are possible. We too need to cry as the father in today's Gospel, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief." Furthermore, this passage reveals that faith to conquer our demons comes only from prayer and fasting. At this point, Christ begins to reveal to the disciples about His upcoming suffering.

For your reflection:

1. Who could not cast out the evil spirit?
2. What three things did Jesus say about their lack of faith?
3. What is a requirement of healing?

Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief!

SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
PRIEST: FATHER ANTHONY COSTANTINO



Deacon Thomas J. Klacik
624 Park Road – Ambridge, PA 15003
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.byzantinecatholics.org

Cantors: Alex Broussard Mike McCann Naedia McCann Catherine Richthammer

E.C.F. coordinator: Jonathon 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

*“Forgetting offenses is a sign of sincere repentance. If you keep the memory of them,
you may believe you have repented but you are like someone running in his sleep.”*
- St. John Climacus



3RD ANNUAL

SPRING ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION



Join us on the first Sunday in May at the GCU St. Nicholas of Myra Chapel in Beaver, PA, as we gather to honor our patron saint, St. Nicholas! This special celebration, established by Fr. Val Michlik, is a meaningful opportunity for all the faithful to come together in devotion. We'd love to see you there!

DIVINE LITURGY

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Sunday, May 3, 2026, at St. Nicholas Chapel at 3^{PM} celebrated by Bishop Artur Bubnevych

MUSEUM

At the conclusion of Divine Liturgy, the GCU Museum, combining Greek Catholic, and Carpatho-Rusyn histories, will be opened to all visitors until 5^{PM}

BANQUET

A banquet at Seven Oaks Country Club will follow. \$40 for adults, \$20 for children (12 & under). Must be registered and prepaid online.

SUN, MAY 3RD

3^{PM} - 7^{PM}

ST. NICHOLAS
BYZANTINE CHAPEL
5400 Tuscarawas Rd
Beaver, PA 15009

Banquet to follow at:
SEVEN OAKS COUNTRY CLUB
132 Lisbon Rd, Beaver, PA 15009

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Registration required for both the Liturgy & Banquet. Due to the size of the chapel, the Liturgical celebration is limited to the first 80 who reserve a spot.

Register today!



gcuusa.com/pages/spring-st-nicholas-event



2026 | Beaver, PA

Happenings...

2026 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE of LITURGIES

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

LAZARUS SATURDAY - MARCH 28TH

9am | Divine Liturgy at St. George

10am | Easter Basket Making Class at St. George

5pm | Palm Sunday Vigil Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas

PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 29TH

8:30am | Divine Liturgy at St. George

11am | Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's

HOLY & GREAT MONDAY - MARCH 30TH
No Divine Services Scheduled

HOLY & GREAT TUESDAY - MARCH 31ST
6pm | Presanctified Divine Liturgy with Holy Anointing at St. George

HOLY & GREAT WEDNESDAY - APRIL 1ST
6pm | Presanctified Divine Liturgy with Holy Anointing at St. Mary's

HOLY & GREAT THURSDAY - APRIL 2ND
9am | Matins of the Commemoration of the Mystical Supper at St. George
6pm | Vespers Liturgy of Basil the Great at St. Mary's

HOLY & GREAT FRIDAY - APRIL 3RD

9am | Matins of the Twelve Passion Gospels at St. George

1pm | Royal Hours of Good Friday with Burial Procession at St. George

6pm | Vespers of the Burial of our Lord, God, & Savior Jesus Christ
(with fast-friendly snacks available afterwards) at St. Mary's

8:15pm | Jerusalem Matins at St. Mary's



HOLY & GREAT SATURDAY - APRIL 4TH

9am | Vespers Liturgy of Basil the Great at St. Mary's

4pm | Paschal Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Easter Baskets at St. Nicholas

6:30pm | Midnight Office of Pascha at St. George

7pm | Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Easter Baskets at St. George

PASCHA - APRIL 5TH

10am | Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Easter Baskets at St. Mary's

St. George
Byzantine Catholic Church
Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 27, 2026

6 pm



Guest Homilist
Fr. Ryan Liebhaber

Administrator of St. Michael's
Byzantine Catholic Church in
Pleasant City, OH

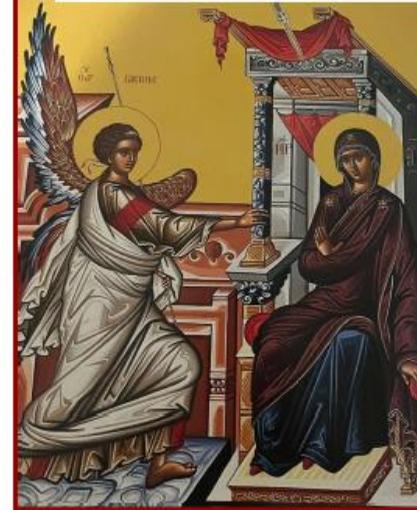
*Fr. Ryan will be available for confessions
beginning at 5 pm*



1001 Clinton St.
Aliquippa, PA 15001

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.