

September 13, 2026
Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross



Veil of Protection

SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Propers for this Sunday: See handout

St. Mary: Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., SEPT. 13 SUNDAY before the EXALTATION of the CROSS

10:45 A.M.THIRD HOUR

11:00 A.M.DIVINE LITURGY

Intention: + Anthony Thaddeus Burke, requested by Pete Masciontonio

MON., SEPT. 14 EXALTATION of the HOLY CROSS, **Solemn Holy Day**

6:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY with Veneration of the Holy Cross

Intention: Special Intention requested by Mike & Patty Costantino

WED., SEPT 16 Euphemia, Great-Martyr

6:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY

Intention: Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Dennis Ragsdale, requested by Patricia Costo

7:15 P.M.Men’s & Women’s Group

THUR., SEPT. 17 Sophia and Others, Martyr

7:45 A.M.DIVINE LITURGY

Intention: Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Aquil Faruq, requested by Grant Gaylord

FRI., SEPT. 18 Eumenius, Bishop

9:00 A.M.DIVINE LITURGY

Intention: + Annie Miles, requested by Karen Luksis

SUN., SEPT. 20 SUNDAY after the EXALTATION of the CROSS

10:45 A.M.THIRD HOUR

11:00 A.M.DIVINE LITURGY

Intention: +Margaret Koshute, requested by Mark Koshute & David Oleksa

Happy Birthday Greetings:

Sept. 13: Melissa Reda

Wedding Anniversaries:

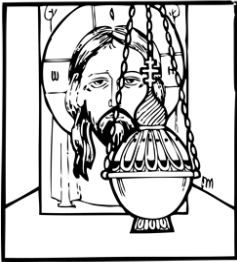
Sept. 14: Bob & Toni Klacik

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

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

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

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!
Слава Иисусу Христу! Слава на вики!



THIS WEEK’S SANCTUARY LAMP

September 13 - 19, 2026

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

Our Parishioners

Parish Offerings for September 6, 2026

Not Available

Regular Confessions Offered

St. George Beginning 5:00 P.M. on Tuesdays and before every Sunday Divine Liturgy

St. Mary Beginning 5:00 P.M. Wednesdays and following every Sunday Divine Liturgy

St. Nicholas 4:00-4:45 P.M. before Vigil Liturgy on Saturdays

The Cross: God’s way of uniting suffering with love.

THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS



JOIN US ON OUR PARISH FEAST DAY

OCTOBER 1, 2026

6:00pm Divine Liturgy
7:15pm Program begins
Q&A to follow

Free of Charge
(Free Will Offering will be accepted)



A talk with scholar
Dr. Peter Kwasniewski

"Exploring the Common Riches of the Byzantine Rite and the Roman Rite"

Peter A. Kwasniewski holds a B.A. in liberal arts from Thomas Aquinas College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in philosophy from the Catholic University of America, with a specialization in the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas.

After teaching at the International Theological Institute in Austria, he helped establish Wyoming Catholic College in 2006, where he taught theology, philosophy, music, and art history and directed the choir and schola until 2018.

Today, he is a full-time writer, speaker, and publisher, who co-founded the traditional Catholic digital platform Pelican Plus; he writes at the Tradition & Sanity Substack, and directs Os Justi Press, which publishes popular and academic books by many authors on a wide variety of subjects.

Dr. Kwasniewski himself has written more than twenty books, with special attention to the traditional Roman liturgy, and his work has been translated into at least twenty languages. He is also a composer whose sacred choral music has been performed around the world.

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

St. George: Divine Services for the Week:

WED., SEPT. 16 Euphemia, Great Martyr
7:00 A.M. FIRST & THIRD HOUR

THUR., SEPT. 17 Sophia and others, Martyr
6:30 P.M. MOLEBEN to the HOLY CROSS
Following LIFE & LITURGY SERIES, the Divine Office

SAT., SEPT. 19 SATURDAY after the EXALTATION of the CROSS
9:00 A.M. MEMORIAL DIVINE LITURGY for Elizabeth Bare

SUN., SEPT. 20 SUNDAY after the EXALTATION of the CROSS
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: Divine Services for the Week:

SAT., SEPT. 19 SUNDAY after the EXALTATION of the CROSS
5:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY
Intention: Emily K. Wilson and Kathy Todora, requested by Todd and Ann Wilson

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

As we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, let us remind ourselves that the power of the Cross is given to each and every Christian. But just as a soldier must learn to properly wield his weapons in battle, so a warrior of Christ must learn how correctly to make the sign of the Cross. A shield has no effect if carelessly waved about in the air. Likewise, there are many who receive no benefit from the sign of the Cross because they make it mechanically or haphazardly. The Cross, once a tool of death, has become a means to life, an instrument of our salvation; it gives strength to resist temptation, to refrain from gossip or harsh words and it dispels fear. Amen.

A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear parishioners,

This Monday we celebrate the Exaltation of the Cross, a **Solemn Holy Day**. Due to it falling on a Monday, we will have 6:00pm Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's only. We will include the service of veneration of the Holy Cross as part of the Divine Liturgy. It is also traditionally a day of strict fast from meat and dairy products for Byzantine Catholics.

On Wednesday, the St. Mary's men's and women's groups will meet at 7:15pm following the 6:00pm Divine Liturgy.

This Thursday, we are having our monthly Theology on Tap at St. George beginning at 6:30pm. Following a Moleben to the Holy Cross. I will be discussing the Divine Office (Hours, Vespers, and Matins). Drinks and appetizers will be provided as usual. Come and bring a friend!

Please note that there will be no weekday Divine Liturgies next week.

Thank you to all those who signed up to assist with cleaning the Church at St. Mary's. It is a tremendous help.

St. Mary's parish Feast Day is October 1st, the Protection of the Theotokos. The schedule of events is as follows:

Wednesday, September 30th 6:00pm All-Night Vigil (Vespers and Matins) followed by a social. Thursday, October 1st 6:00pm Divine Liturgy followed by Dr. Peter Kwasniewski. Sunday, October 4th 9:30am Matins 11:00am Divine Liturgy followed by Parish Open House.

Note: There will be no 8:30am Divine Liturgy at St. George Sunday, October 4th to allow us to celebrate a combined event at St. Mary's. There will still be the 5:00pm Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Chapel Saturday evening.

In Christ,

Fr. Anthony

Fr. Anthony's Cell #: (878) 226-0878

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CHURCH HALL: 724-266-8642

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PARISH WEBSITE: www.byzantinecatholics.org

Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross

Today's Gospel places us in the quiet of the night, listening to a profound conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. Our Lord says, "No one has ascended into heaven except the One who descended from heaven, the Son of Man" (Jn 3:13).

Here, Christ reveals His divine origin. He is not merely a teacher or prophet, but the eternal Son who came down from heaven for our salvation. In our Byzantine tradition, we sing that His coming was "not a change of place, but the Creator becoming His own creation."



Then Jesus recalls the story from the Book of Numbers, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life" (Jn 3:14–15). The bronze serpent was raised high so that all who looked upon it in faith were healed. This was a foreshadowing of the Cross, the Tree of Life, where Christ would be "lifted up" for the healing of the whole world.

And then comes the verse we know so well, but must never take for granted, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16). The Cross is not a sign of defeat, but the ultimate proof of God's love. It is the place where mercy and justice meet, where death is trampled by death. And Jesus reminds us, "God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him" (Jn 3:17).

Yet many events and circumstances of our times are driving even people of faith to near hopelessness and even doubt about a God who is supposed to be loving and merciful. The Cross, however, shows us that even the worst things can be turned into gift and redemption, but only by way of the Mystery of the Cross. The Cross was the worst thing: a cruel, heinous form of punishment, suffering, and death. And Christ turned that worst thing into the best thing, the instrument of our redemption and the model of the deepest kind of sacrificial love.

As we stand on the threshold of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, we are invited to lift our eyes to Christ crucified, not in despair, but in hope. Just as the Israelites looked to the bronze serpent and lived, so we look to the Cross and receive life.

Let us carry the Cross not as a burden, but as a banner of victory. Let us live in such a way that others, seeing our faith, may also "look upon Him whom they have pierced" (Jn 19:37) and find healing.

SAINT MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRIEST: FATHER ANTHONY COSTANTINO

Deacon Thomas J. Klacik

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Cantors: Alex Broussard, Mike McCann, 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

Слава Иисусу Христу! Слава на вики!