

November 19, 2023
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

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

Proper for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 8, pp. 161 - 163

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., NOV. 19
8:30 A.M.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
DIVINE LITURGY
+ **George David**, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba

MON., NOV. 20
6:00 P.M.

ENTRANCE of the THEOTOKOS HOLY DAY, Anticipated
VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY
+ **George Peya**, offered by daughter, Prudy

(At. Mary: Tue. Nov. 21, 6:00 PM, Divine Liturgy for Entrance of the Theotokos Holy Day)

SUN., NOV. 26
8:30 A.M.

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
DIVINE LITURGY
+ **George David**, offered by Prudy Peya

Thanksgiving Prayer

Father in Heaven, Creator of all and source of all goodness and love, please look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude in this time of giving thanks. Thank you for all the graces and blessings. You have bestowed upon us, spiritual and temporal: our faith and religious heritage. Our food and shelter, our health, the loves we have for one another, our family and friends. Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity, please grant us continued graces and blessing throughout the coming year. Amen.

Happy Birthday Greetings:
November 22: Francis Hersh (Jr.)

Wedding Anniversaries:
None for the week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

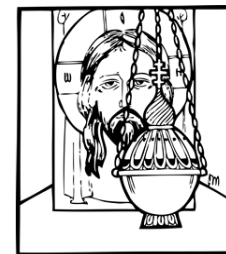
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

Epistle Readers – November 19: Dan Pinchot – November 26: Prudy Peya

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holder s – November 19: F. Hersh – November 26: M. Bobanic



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
November 19 - 25, 2023

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ **Mary Ann Kon**

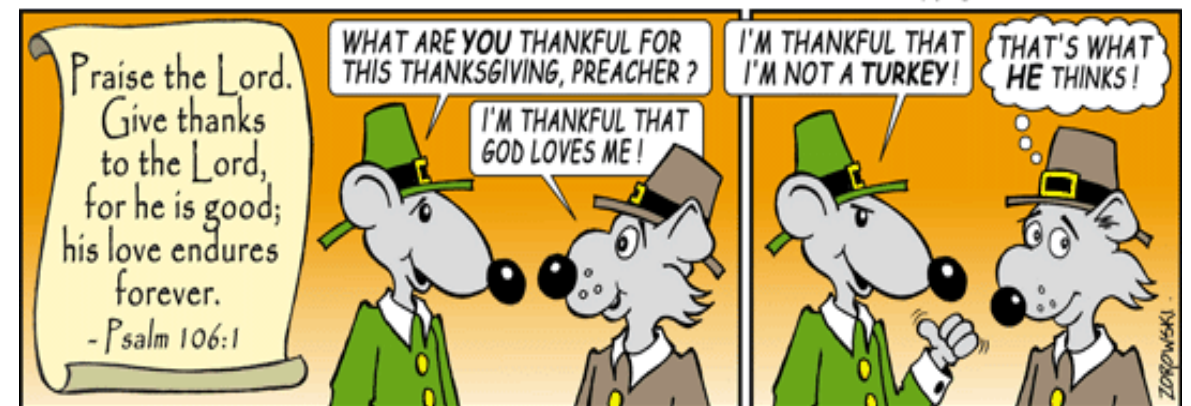
(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Butch & Judy Dzumba

Church Mice

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SAVE THE DATE:

Christmas Dinner & Celebration

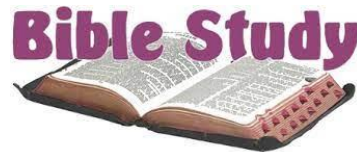
Mark your calendar for **Saturday, December 16**, for the **Christmas Dinner & Celebration** for parishioners and friends of St. George and St. Mary parishes. Fr. Geoff will celebrate a special Saturday evening liturgy at 4:30 p.m. at St. George, followed by the celebration in the church hall. Expect great food and fellowship as well as music and entertainment, including a white elephant gift exchange game. Dinner is free, but donations will be accepted. Sign-up sheets will be available at each church beginning November 26. Watch the bulletin for more details.

Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!

Bible Study continues Wednesday, Nov. 22

The Story of Scripture, Part 1

We are walking through 100+ of the most significant portions of Holy Scripture, which will give us an overarching view of the *whole, consistent story* of God's interaction with humankind in the Scriptures. The remaining dates are **November 22 and December 13 at 6:00 PM**. Feel free to join even if you missed past sessions. Let's dig into the sources of our theology and tradition together and see the mighty works of God! (We will continue with Part 2 in 2024)



Christmas Market

There is a "Vintage Christmas Market" set up in the Center. If there is anything you like, simply leave a donation for your purchase. *Thank You!*

Opportunities for the Nativity Fast at Mt. St. Macrina

Mount Saint Macrina is offering opportunities to prepare for the coming Christmas festivities. On **Saturday, Dec. 9** from **9:30 AM - 1:00 PM** they will hold a **Christmas Preparation Program** led by Fr. Valerian Michlik. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered along with a Conference, Reflection, Prayer Service, and Lunch. Offering: \$40. Registration due: Dec. 4. To register, email: hpmsm@verizon.net. Then, on **December 12 & 19 from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM** they are offering **Sanctuary Sessions for Sanity**, consisting of guided prayer and quiet meditation in the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Led by Sister Barbara Jean, OSBM. A free will offering will be taken; no registration is required for the sessions.

A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This past week we began the Nativity Fast and this coming week we will, sort of ironically, celebrate the "feast" of Thanksgiving. It is an anomaly that in America we have this national celebration and feast in the middle of a penitential season of fasting. But whether at a time of feast or of fasting, it is *always* appropriate for us to give thanks to God. Gratitude is a great virtue from which many other virtues proceed.

As the days get shorter and the nights longer, I thought the following part (Ikos 4) of the Akathist of Thanksgiving would be an appropriate meditation for this week.

*When the sun sets on earth,
when reigns the calm of sleep unending
and the silence of the fading day,
I see your bridal chamber beneath the image of shining tents,
and the dawn of tabernacles in the clouds.
Fire and purple, gold and deep blue,
prophetically they speak of the unspeakable beauty of your dwellings,
and in triumph cry aloud: Let us go to the Father!*

*Glory to you, in the quiet hour of evening.
Glory to you, outpouring great calm upon the world.
Glory to you for the farewell ray of the setting sun.
Glory to you for the rest of healing sleep.
Glory to you for the goodness of darkness
when the world is far away.
Glory to you for the tender emotion of a soul moved to prayer.
Glory to you for the promised awakening to joy everlasting,
of the day without ending.
Glory to you, O God, unto the ages.*

I pray that in this time of year when we spend more time in darkness than in light, you would be given many "quiet hours" of God's "great calm" poured out upon you. And I pray that your Thanksgiving Day is filled with the joy of the Lord, grateful hearted praise to the Father, and an opportunity for love and mercy to be shared in fellowship.

To God be the Glory!

Fr. Geoff

Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

But God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." How do we become "poor in spirit"? By detaching ourselves from everything that we hold on to so dearly. To be "poor in spirit" is to be free of attachments, to be free from things, to nurture relationships that are free and unencumbered by desires and expectations, to let go of our own self-definitions and to rest in the knowledge and experience of God who is "in all places, filling all things." As we continue our journey of the Nativity Fast-Advent we are to remember to let go of earthly things, possessions and the cares of this life and to be grateful to God in every situation. In this way we cleanse the inside of the cup, as Jesus said, and begin to shine like the stars of heaven from within. Amen.



St. Philips Fast Nov.15 - Dec.24

"But you", He said, "Who do you say that I am?" Then Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Christ," he said, "the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:15-16. "Who do you say that I am?" Was there ever such a penetrating question? Our answer to this question reveals not only who we think Christ is, but also who we are. Many of those who first heard Jesus ask this question were men and women of the Law. This is why they thought Jesus only a prophet. But Simon Peter could truly see Jesus for Who He Is. In his answer Peter revealed himself to be a man of God. What of our answers to the question of Jesus? What do our answers say about us? Are we men filled with the Holy Spirit? One of the most ancient titles Christians give themselves was "Christ-bearers." From the very first we have been aware that we are called "to bear the mysteries of God," to bear Christ to the world. As we prepare to greet Christ in His Nativity and His Baptism in the Jordan, we should look to our life. Do we bear Christ in all of our life, or only in those parts of our life we consider "religious" or "spiritual"? May our life during this season bear witness to the reality that "Christ is among us!" May our life answer that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God."



"Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!"

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

November 21

Today is the prelude of God's benevolence and the herald of our salvation; for the Virgin openly appears in the Temple of God and foretells Christ to all. Let us also with full voice exclaim to her; Rejoice, Fulfillment of the Creator's plan!

The Feast Day of the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple is not recorded in the Gospels. Rather it is a story derived from an ancient text known as the Protoevangelion of James which some scholars think dates to the 1st century AD and preserves some authentic traditions which were not included in the canonical Gospels. The Church makes heavy use of this text for her understanding of many of the events in the life of the Theotokos and the early life of Christ.

According to the Protoevangelion, as we see presented in the icon, Mary, a child of promise born to the childless couple Joachim and Anna, was promised by her parents to be returned to God. When she was three-years old, her parents brought her to the Temple; she was received by the priest Zacharias, the future father of St. John the Baptist. To their surprise, not only did Mary have no desire to return to her parents, she, in fact, did a "dance of joy" on the third step of the altar, and ran up the stairs to the Holy of Holies where she spent about the next 10 years living in the presence of God and being fed by an angel.

The icon, naturally, focuses on Mary being received by Zacharias, who is wearing the little "pill box" hat which indicates a prophet. The main theme of the feast of Mary's entrance to the Temple, repeated many times in the liturgical services, is that she enters the temple to become herself the Living Temple of God, thus inaugurating the New Testament in which are fulfilled the prophecies of old that "the dwelling of God is with man" and that the human person is the sole proper dwelling place of the Divine Presence. (Ezekiel 37:27; John 14:15-23). Thus, the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple celebrates the end of the physical temple in Jerusalem as the dwelling place of God. In this feast, we also celebrate that - in the person of the Theotokos - we, too, are the house and tabernacle of the Lord.



Sanctuary Candles for 2024

The 2024 weekly sanctuary candle intentions are available for you to sponsor with your intention in memory of a deceased loved one or friend, or for the health and well-being of a friend or loved one. Please see Joanne Futato at the candle table in the narthex if you wish to sponsor a weekly candle.

Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!

ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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FAX: 724-375-8776

ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652

PARISH EMAIL: stgbyz@gmail.com

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org

Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238



Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik, Dan Pinchot

Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff - Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies, or by appointment

Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the pastor

Holy Mystery of Anointing Contact the pastor prior to surgery or in the event of illness

Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

Pirohi Sales 2nd Friday of each month

St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club Everyone welcome to participate

Opportunities for Stewardship Church and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month.

O Christ the Savior, our true God, come to us and save us!