

April 21, 2024
Sunday of the Paralytic Man, Christ is Risen!



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

*Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!
Христосъ воскресе! Воистину воскресе!*

Propers for fourth Sunday of Pascha: pp. 181 - 183

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., APRIL 21
8:30 A.M.

SUNDAY of the PARALYTIC MAN
DIVINE LITURGY
+ Sr. Rose Elizabeth, offered by James Mudron

MON., APRIL 22
6:00 P.M.

ST. GEORGE the GREAT MARTYR HOLY DAY, *Anticipated*
VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY

SUN., APRIL 28

SUNDAY of the SAMARITAN WOMAN
ST. GEORGE the GREAT MARTYR, commemorated
DIVINE LITURGY, *Patronal Feast Day Luncheon following*
For the Parishioners

*10:00 A.M.

Combined Parishes Divine Liturgy NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, April 28, we will have a joint parishes Divine Liturgy, at 10:00 A.M. to celebrate the Patronal Feast Day of St. George. **This will be the only Liturgy next Sunday for both parishes.** A luncheon will follow. The parish family of St. Mary in Ambridge is also invited to attend Liturgy along with staying for the breakfast/luncheon. We welcome all parishioners and guests to come and honor our Patron, St. George the Great Martyr and to celebrate together as a parish family. A sign-up sheet for the luncheon is in the Narthex. **Sign up today!**

Happy Birthday Greetings:

April 25: John Gural

Wedding Anniversaries this week:

None for the week

Please Pray for Our Sick and Shut-ins

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

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

Epistle Readers – April 21: JoAnn Hersh – April 28:

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – April 21: F. Hersh – April 28:



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

April 21 - 27, 2024

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Nicholas Maruhnich

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Ed & Isabel Maruhnich

*In the middle of the feast, quench the thirst of my soul with streams of devotion.
For you, O Savior, have exclaimed to all: Let anyone who thirsts come to me
and drink. O Christ our God, Fountain of Life, Glory to You!*

Troparion of the Feast

*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!
Христосъ воскресе! Воистину воскресе!*

Date announced!

St. George Family Bowling and Fellowship Night

In continuation of our Patronal Feast Day celebration, we will once again have a bowling and fellowship night at Sheffield Bowling Lanes in Aliquippa on **Thursday, May 2 at 7:00 PM**. Even if you do not wish to bowl or are not able to bowl, you can still join us for fellowship and food. Ricky Dee's Pizza and soft drinks are included in the event. Sheffield Bowling Lanes also has a lounge. Cost to be determined depending on the number who sign-up and 50/50 drawing proceeds, \$10.00 or less (Last year ended up with no cost). So, plan on joining us for this Church family fun event! Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex and center.



Mark Your Calendar!!

Our annual Flea Market, Haluski, and Bake Sale will be on Friday & Saturday, June 21 & 22 Plan on volunteering in any capacity from planning, set-up, advertising, or working the sale. Details to follow. *We are NOW accepting donations for our annual Flea Market. Any time you have an item to donate, please leave it in the Center.*

Upcoming Event Which Features Various Slavic Heritage

The **Jadran Beaver Valley Junior Tamburitians** will present their 66th Annual Spring Concert on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at Ambridge Area High School, 901 Duss Ave, Ambridge PA. The curtain will open at 3:00 P.M. Dances and songs from Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Ukraine will be presented. In addition to the Junior Tamburitians, there will be a local group to round out the show; Sacred Heart Adult Tamburitians. Following the performance, a reception will be held at the Aliquippa Croatian Center located at 2365 Concord St. Aliquippa, PA 15001. The dedicated staff of the Center will prepare a wonderful buffet dinner for our guests. There will be music during and after dinner for listening and dancing throughout the evening. The group's parent organization will hold a bake sale with many homemade treats and there will be Chinese auction with many great baskets up for grabs. Ticket prices for the concert and reception are as follows: Adult Concert and Reception \$25.00 (Concert only \$10.00 / Reception only \$15.00) Children under 12 Concert and Reception \$15.00 (Concert only \$5.00 / Reception only \$10.00) Children under 2 are free. The group looks forward to seeing all our family and friends as we present our annual spring concert. Hope to see you there. *St. George parishioners Alex Hersh is director and choreographer, and Louisa Hersh is an assistant director. Both are alumni of the group.*



*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!*

A Note from Fr. Christiaan

Dear Parishioners,

Christ is Risen! I look forward to our Monday evening vesperal liturgy that welcomes in the Holy and Great St. George, Martyr. We'll celebrate at 6 pm as per usual. Additionally, next weekend marks our solemn Sunday celebration of St. George, with mirovanije and a meal, commencing at 10 am. Remember there will be *only* one common liturgy at St. George's church for both parishes on that day!

More interesting than perhaps any other thing in life right now are the questions following my initial pierogi tour: What happened, how did it go? Well, although I did not have the disastrous effect of my presence on the quality of packages (thus, no butter all over me after working), St. Mary's team left me with an education as well. First, some pinchers and cooks alike began to think of me as a "thaumaturge" that is a "wonderworker" like some of our saints. Why? I entered into the basement all in black, at which time I was warned that I would leave looking like a powdered donut. However, I caused marvel and awe after a couple hours avoiding getting flour on myself, though I was a dough-mule. The community remains divided whether I have special powers or I skillfully pretended to work being without normal human signs of touching flour. Could I have just spent all my time hanging around coffee stand? In response, my initial efforts to frequent the coffee stand continually were thwarted by the constant presence of George there. So, I quickly understood he kept an eye on the workers or the coffee, making such a plan DOA. How I managed to do it remains a clerical secret. Now, St. Mary's was a different experience. Whereas at St. George's I learned how to package and mark pierogi containers, failing to convince them that I could handle a live pierogi without harming it, St. Mary's George put me in the thick of it immediately. I was relishing the opportunity to be instructed in the mysteries of the pierogi, what were its secrets and to be initiated in such matters.

In reality, my real lessons at St. Mary's were learning about the fact that my sermons were timed and had far surpassed the limit imposed the Holy Tradition of my predecessors. Instead of finding the recipe to any secret sauce, I spent discovered myself honing my debate and rhetorical skills to convince some pinchers that they needed to move forward in the pews and that I don't have to move to the back of the church to hear! I had forgotten to assure them that they might want to move up and hear a sermon first before they again petition me to preach in the nave. After all, should they hear a sermon first, then maybe they'll have buyer's remorse only to use our next joint pierogi experience to convince me to return back to the sanctuary pulpit for preaching (after realizing they should have been careful what they asked for)! In short, St. Mary's was an entertaining education. I think the major take aways for me were: The kraut pinchers are at the top of the pincher pyramid and that it is a best practice, if barely socially acceptable, to keep passing water through the same coffee filter and simply add more grounds as needed. All in all, it's been very fun. So, naturally, I will be back for more before the end of the season.

Thanks to all you volunteers who keep our parishes going! It's good to be a small part of your sacrifices of time and effort to ensure that we can gather each Sunday in our own facilities and give God his due. Christ is risen!

Fr. Christiaan

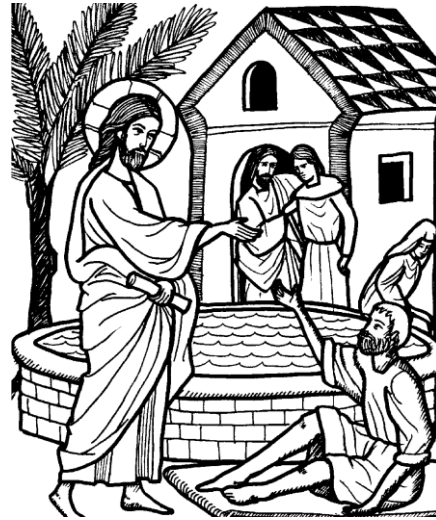
Sunday of the Paralytic Man

How tragic today's story of life is...A man had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. He had lain at a short distance from healing, but he, himself, had no strength to merge into the waters of ablution. And no one - no one in the course of all these years - had had compassion on him.

We are surrounded by people who are in need. It is not only people who are physically paralyzed who need help. There are so many people who are paralyzed in themselves, and need to meet someone who would help them. Paralyzed in themselves are those who are terrified of life, because life has been an object of terror for them since they were born: insensitive parents, heartless, brutal surroundings. How many are those who hoped, when they were still small, that there would be something for them in life. But no, there wasn't. There was no compassion. There was no friendliness. There was nothing...

So we are surrounded, all of us, by people who are in the situation of this paralytic man. Do you see that paralyzed person in your life, in your family or in your neighborhood? As Christians we are responsible for each of them. We are responsible, mutually, for one another; because when we look right and left at the people who stand by us, what do we know about them? Do we know how broken they are? How much pain there is in their hearts? How much agony there has been in their lives? How many broken hopes, how much fear and rejection and contempt that has made them contemptuous of themselves and unable even to respect themselves - not to speak of having the courage of making a move towards wholeness, that wholeness of which the Gospel speaks in this passage and in so many other places?

On this Sunday, let us look at one another with understanding, with attention. Christ is there. He can heal; yes. But we will be answerable for each other, because there are so many ways in which we should be the eyes of Christ who sees the needs, the ears of Christ who hears the cry, the hands of Christ who supports and heals or makes it possible for the person to be healed. Let us look at this Gospel reading of the paralytic with new eyes; not thinking of this poor man two thousand years ago who was so lucky that Christ happened to be near him and in the end did what every neighbor should have done. Let us look at each other and have compassion, active compassion; insight; love if we can. And then this Gospel reading will not have been spoken or this event will not have been related to us in vain. Amen.



He has risen, He is not here.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 22	6:00 PM Vespers Divine Liturgy for our Patron St. George
April 24	Mid-Pentecost
April 28	Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM, Patronal Feast Luncheon following
May 2	Bowling Night at Sheffield Lanes
May 9	Feast of the Ascension, <u>Holy Day of obligation</u>, Liturgy time TBA
May 10	Last Pirohi Sale before summer break
May 12	Mother's Day Breakfast, following Liturgy
May 18	Fifth and final All-Souls Saturday
May 19	Pentecost Sunday, wear green to Church
May 27	Memorial Day May 27
June 28	Apostle's Fast
June 16	Father's Day Breakfast, following Liturgy
June 21 & 22	Flea Market, Haluski, and Bake Sale (info in bulletin)
June 29	Saints Peter & Paul Holy Day, <u>Holy Day of obligation</u>
August (Date T.B.A.)	Church Picnic

St. George, April 23

The well-known image of Saint George shows him thrusting a long spear into a menacing beast, a dragon, but accounts of his life don't include such an episode. Yet it is an appropriate image, because it reflects his courage in challenging powerful evil, and overcoming its might through prayer. The image reminds us that we also must stand up to evil and defend the faith. We also need to be people of prayer who can face "dragons" of various kinds rather than running away from them.



Saint George continues to be venerated today. He is the patron saint of England; the city of Moscow has several statues and other depictions of him; countless Orthodox and Byzantine Catholic Churches are named for him. People still look to him for miracles and healing, too. Among many shrines is a small, unimposing one at Beit Jala, near Bethlehem. Visitors, both Muslim and Christian, come in great numbers to pray, to ask for healing, and to honor this beloved "slayer of the dragon."

We will have a Vespers Divine Liturgy on Monday, April 22 at 6:00 PM and we celebrate next Sunday at 10:00 AM!

Mid-Pentecost

Mid-Pentecost celebrates the midpoint between the feasts of Pascha and Pentecost. Specifically, it falls on the 25th day of Pascha, this year April 24. The theme of the feast is Christ as Teacher, based upon the words of the Gospel of the day (John 7:14-30): "Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught... Jesus answered them and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."

ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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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 Liturgies, or by appointment

Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the priest

Holy Mystery of Anointing Contact the priest 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

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Христос Воскресе! Восстину Воскресе!