

April 28, 2024  
Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, 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 fifth Sunday of Pascha: pp. 186 – 188, Troparion of St. George: pg. 332

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., APRIL 28

\*10:00 A.M.

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

SUN., MAY 5  
8:30 A.M.

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

**Welcome Parishioners, Visitors, and Friends!**

We extend a warm welcome to our parishioners, visitors, and friends. We are glad that you have come to worship with us today to celebrate our Patron Saint. We pray that your participation in our parish will be enriching to you. Following today's Sunday Divine Liturgy will be a luncheon in honor of our Patron, St. George.

*The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life. "Sunday is the day on which the paschal mystery is celebrated in light of the apostolic tradition and is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church."*

*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!*

**Happy Birthday Greetings:**

April 29: Isabel Maruhnich, April 30: Robert Dzumba, Ed Maruhnich

**Wedding Anniversaries this week:**

None for the week

**Please Pray for Our Sick and Shut-ins**

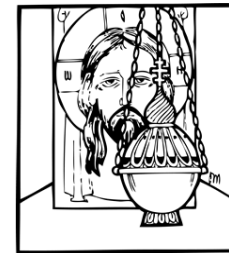
Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Erik Fetkovich, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan

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

**Epistle Readers – April 28: JoAnn Hersh – May 5: Dan Pinchot**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

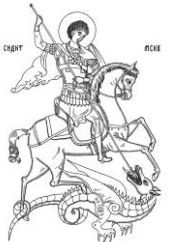
**Troica Holders – April 28: R. Mudron – May 5: M. Bobanic**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**  
April 28 – May 4, 2024  
*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*  
**Our Parishioners,**  
**Living and Deceased**

***Great- Martyr and Wonderworker George***

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.



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

**This Week!**

**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 this **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 TODAY!**



**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 66<sup>th</sup> 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. Following the performance, a reception will be held at the Aliquippa Croatian Center located at 2365 Concord St. Aliquippa, PA 15001. 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.

*Calendar of Upcoming Events*

- May 2 ..... **Bowling Night at Sheffield Lanes**
- May 9 ..... **Feast of the Ascension, Holy Day of obligation**, 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, Holy Day of obligation**
- August (Date T.B.A.) ..... **Church Picnic**

**A Note from Fr. Christiaan**

Dear Parishioners,

At the risk of turning the priest’s column into the *Pierogi Diaries*... I extended my pierogi tour at St. Mary’s last week, knowing this to be their last week. I hope to next revisit St. George’s, Aliquippa in May. Our seminarians often hear from ancient-of-days clergy at your Seminary in Pittsburgh that new priests won’t be much good if they can’t pinch a pierogi. Having transferred from Indianapolis (and therefore unfamiliar with any delicacy not made with corn) I was once just like a seminarian, puzzled by pierogi-wisdom uttered by long-in-the-tooth pastors scaring seminarians straight, lest they veer off the right path to sit in the rectory to watch TV – as young men were wont to do until recent times.

Now, of course, TV is a thing of the past. So, my first Byzantine parish in Tarentum turned out to be a nut-roll only establishment. At St. Mary’s, I had hoped my nut-roll swagger would have impressed the pinchers and cooks, but no matter how I spun my heroic deeds of yore to the kitchen about my former parish, George’s spellbinding collection of fish stories had clearly vitiated their minds so that my tales left everyone unimpressed. Consequently, I took my humble place as a newbie cook this week. I did of course espy the beginning of the dough-making process, how the flour and ingredients were mixed and how they were trucked off, Henry-Ford style, an assembly line. My role was to take newly formed pierogis, dump them into large cauldrons, stir them relentlessly until I agitated them to pop their heads up to the surface of the water, in a sort of catch and release program, I’d scoop them up in a sort of fishing net, throw them into cold water to shock ‘em, and then release the dazed pierogi into a serene pool where they would get comfortable, completely unaware of the fate that awaited them in the matter of minutes: To be covered in butter and unions, sold, and never to be seen again.

The catch and release program was *mostly* successful, but my training had been lackluster, as I was not forewarned that pierogis can get agitated in boiling water. So, when you catch them in the net, they have a tendency to jump out and fall on the floor. Apparently, a pierogi that has successfully reached its longed-for freedom out of the hunter’s snare is no longer able to held in captivity, and sold off, so it has to be put down. I admit, and not because of having butterfingers, pierogis were lost on my watch. In all honesty, pierogi making is among the more pleasant experiences I’ve had in ministry... No, I have not reflected on or examined how or why that could possibly be, and don’t intend to do so! The philosophers’ conundrum remains: whether it is better to say that “the unexamined life is not worth living,” or “the un-lived life is not worth examining”! At any rate, our volunteers often thanked me for being there. My immediate feeling (and stated response) was: “If you weren’t here, then I couldn’t even be here”! While I meant to convey that their volunteering allowed me as a priest to minister and be present as our churches’ needs rely on this as our supplementary income... my attempt to be deep led one savvy volunteer to trade philosophical profundities (he equally thought he’d put me at ease by letting me know he had not beaten up a priest since he was an altar boy): “Well Fr., wherever you find yourself, there you are.” I realized that this reformed hammer-of-clergy was none too impressed by Sphinx-like riddled way of saying thanks. So, thank you St. Mary’s volunteers, we could not exist in the Ambridge community without you!

*Fr. Christiaan*



## Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

### Epistle:

In today's Epistle we hear of the early Evangelical work of the Church as the Gospel message spread beyond Jerusalem to the city of Antioch, the birthplace of the Melkite Church, and began to take root in the hearts of those who were not of the "chosen race." This initial sharing of the Gospel with non-Jews would cause great concern among some in the Jerusalem Christian Community and eventually the Council of the Apostle would be called to consider how to deal with this situation. By placing this epistle within the context of the Gospel message, the church holds up Christ's Ministry as the example to be followed. Just as Jesus brought salvation to the Samaritan woman, and through her to the whole Samaritan Village, so we cannot keep the Good News of Christ to ourselves and to our community alone. Today Christ calls each of us who have experienced the joy of the Gospel to share this gift with those whom we encounter. We have received our new life in Christ as a gift and therefore it is to be lived as a gift.



### Challenge:

We are told in our society today to keep religion out of the public sphere. We are told that we should not talk about religion in Social settings, in school, or at work. We are told that we should not proselytize and make convert to Christianity. We are told to leave others alone to follow their own path. But, if we are truly convinced that Christ is "the way, the truth, and the life," and this is true for all people, how can we possibly stay silent about something which impacts a person's salvation?

In what ways can we bring the message of Christ to others in a way that respects their freedom?

### Gospel:

For the Fifth Sunday of Pascha, the Byzantine tradition lifts up St. Photina, the Samaritan woman who met Christ at the well, as a representation of what Christ offers us as the fruit of his resurrection: the gift of the Holy Spirit.

It was not with a man, but with a woman, and not just any woman, but a Samaritan woman, a woman who was looked down upon by society, even by Jesus' disciples, who was called by him to share in the gifts of the kingdom of God. We all suffer an existential thirst, and the water of life, the Holy Spirit who flows from the Son, is able to satisfy that thirst, even as Jesus, the bread of life, is able to satisfy our spiritual hunger.

The Evangelist Apostle John was able to show the reordering of creation which would happen as a result of the Incarnation itself. Sin disfigured the world, and in that disfigurement, cracks were formed along the great chain of being, where relative distinctions became the basis for hostile division such as race against race, man against woman, and humanity against nature itself.

The light of grace unites everyone in the bond of love so that the effects of sin are overturned, and Together in the Holy Trinity ... One Faith, One Church, One Future! humanity finds itself united as one, "for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28b).

## Today's St. George Luncheon

### Order of Events:

- Following Liturgy today, please proceed to our Center for our celebration luncheon.
- Enjoy drinks until the luncheon food is ready to serve. 50/50 raffle tickets will be sold.
- Blessing of the food.
- Luncheon served (tables will be called).
- Dessert and coffee, social time.
- 50/50 raffle drawing.

*Thank you all for celebrating with us today!*



*O Victorious Great Martyr George, protector of the poor, liberator of prisoners, physician of the sick, and champion of kings, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.*



**HAPPY PARISH FEAST DAY TO ALL!**

### Living Water

Jesus calls the life-giving gift of the Spirit "living water" because mere man is parched to his very roots, rendered dry and barren of all virtue by the crimes of the devil. But now man runs back to his pristine beauty, and drinking in that which is life-giving, he is made beautiful with a variety of good things and, budding into a virtuous life, he sends out healthy shoots of love towards God.

*(St. Cyril of Alexandria)*

Do you partake of "living water" offered by Christ? Do you kindle the desire of others for this "living water"?

# ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

**PRIEST: FATHER CHRISTIAAN KAPPES**

OFFICE PHONE: 724-375-2742

FAX: 724-375-8776

ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652

PARISH EMAIL: [stgbyz@gmail.com](mailto:stgbyz@gmail.com)

PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org](http://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 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** ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each month

---

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



## A Brief History of St. George Church



At the turn of the century, many immigrants settled in the small community of Aliquippa along the Ohio River about 25 miles north of Pittsburgh. The iron and steel industry for which it became known had its beginnings during this time. Although there was no Byzantine Catholic Church conveniently located, the faithful made the necessary sacrifices to attend church on Sundays and Holy Days. This meant walking down to the bank of the Ohio River to board a boat to travel to the nearest churches, located in McKees Rocks and Pittsburgh's South Side.

Transportation improved somewhat with the advent of trains and more frequently scheduled stops. Despite the inconvenience, the faithful always managed to carry their Easter baskets to be blessed on Easter Sunday. Distance and time did

not deter them from worshipping and keeping their traditions.

Their desire to have their own church materialized after more families moved into the area. On March 15, 1915, the first Greek Catholic Church of Aliquippa was organized at the home of Andrew Kovacs. Under the leadership of Father Arnold Suba of McKees Rocks, property was purchased. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the church in honor of St. George, the Great Martyr, took place in May of 1916. The church was completed in 1917 and was consecrated on July 4, 1917, by Very Reverend Gabriel Martyak, Apostolic Administrator. Among the additions were church bells in 1927, an icon screen in the late 1930s and stained-glass windows in 1945.



By 1947, the congregation had grown from 150 to 1,200 people. The church was so crowded during the two Sunday liturgies that a third Liturgy was added. Msgr. Michael A. Simodejka, the pastor,



encouraged the people to participate in fund-raising for a new church. By 1962, an adequate sum of money was saved and a nearby 14.6 acre tract of land was purchased. The new St. George Church, rectory and Educational Center were solemnly dedicated during the parish's Golden Jubilee Year on October 29, 1967, by Rev. Msgr. Edward V. Rosack, Apostolic Administrator.



*Framework of church*



St. George's Church complex is dominated by the church itself which has 53-foot towers on either side of the arched front entrance. A corridor connects the Educational-Social Center to the church. In the Center are classrooms, a conference room, a large social hall, and lounges. A wooden iconostas was erected in memory of Msgr. Michael Simodejka

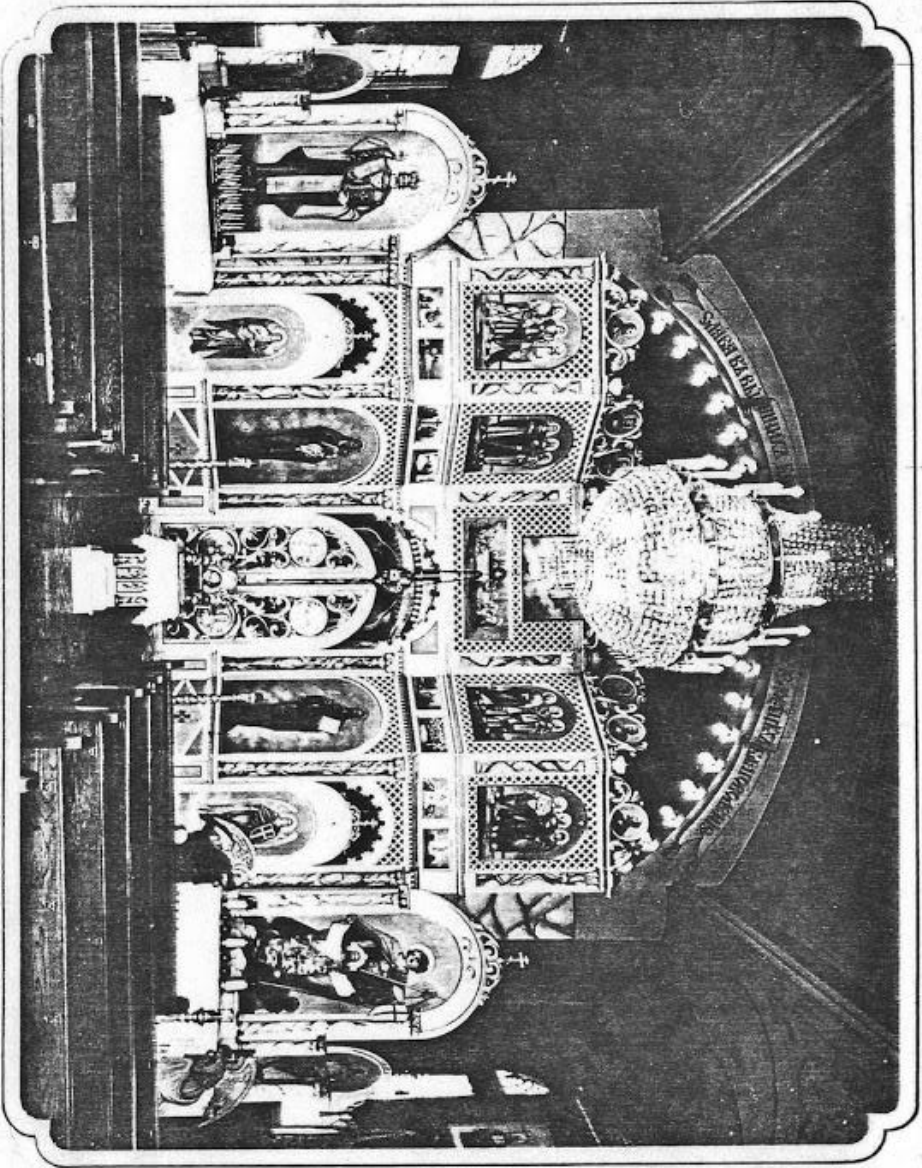
under the direction of Fr. Elias O'Brien. Upon completion, the Church was rededicated, and the new iconostas and holy table were blessed on May 4, 2003, by Archbishop Metropolitan Basil Schott. The remaining field and wooded area that borders the original property was purchased. Saint George's property now consists of 80 acres.



We give God thanks. We also rejoice in the generosity and dedication of generations of faithful parishioners, who have sacrificed and worked hard to enable this Church, rooted in ancient traditions, to witness the vitality of the Christian faith, to new generations.

St. George the Great Martyr Byzantine Catholic Church celebrated 100 years in 2015.

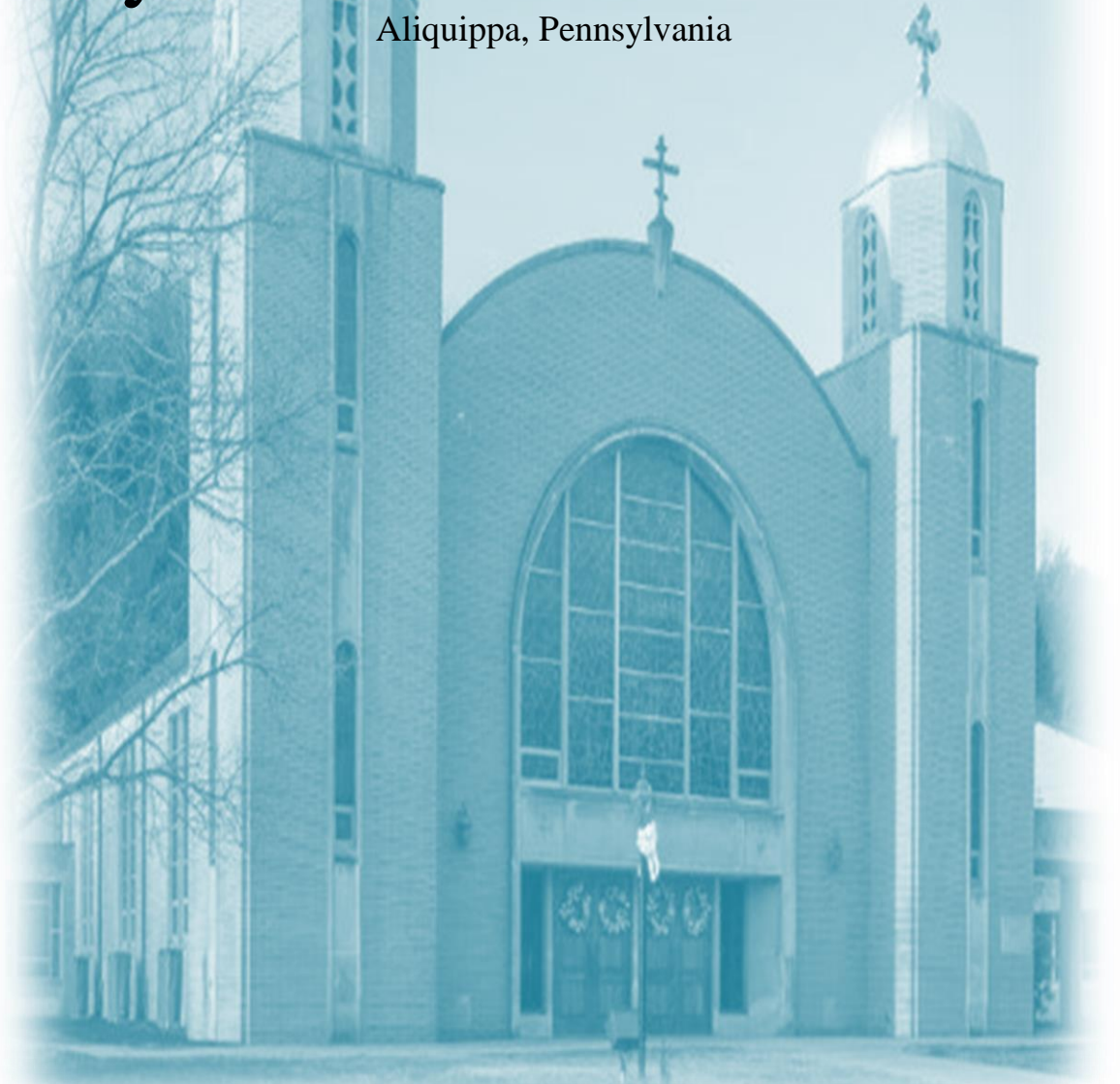




St. George's  
Church  
West Aliquippa  
Pennsylvania  
—  
Rev. John Kallala  
Pastor

# St. George Byzantine Catholic Church

Aliquippa, Pennsylvania



*We give thanks to God for our place of worship, for His innumerable mercies to us, for the intercession and protection of the Mother of God on our walk through life, and for our parish family and our fellowship.*