

March 31, 2024

Pascha, the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord



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!*

Proper for Pascha: pp. 164 - 171

Divine Services for the Week:

SAT., MARCH 30 PASCHA, the RESURRECTION of our LORD, *anticipated*
7:00 P.M. RESURRECTION MATINS, DIVINE LITURGY, *Blessing of Artos*
For the Parishioners

There will be Blessing of Baskets and a Reception in the Center following the Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy. Join us as we break the fast and indulge in our traditional Easter foods!

SUN., APRIL 7 THOMAS SUNDAY, *Distribution of the Artos*
8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
+ Raymond Ozimok, offered by Phyllis Ozimok

Eternal Memory

Blessed repose for Anna E. (Selley) Hallas. Fr. Christiaan celebrated a graveside service with the family of Anna on Good Friday. Please keep her, as a parishioner of St. George's in your prayers this Easter Season. In blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to the soul of Your departed servant Anna and remember her forever! *Vičnaja jej pamjat'!*

Come, Receive the Light Which Never Fades!

By His death and resurrection Christ has defeated Death once and for all. He destroys our enslavement to sin. Through faith He offers us new life. Let us celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and, in faith, allow Him to transform our lives.

Happy Birthday Greetings:

None for the week

Wedding Anniversaries this week:

None for the week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

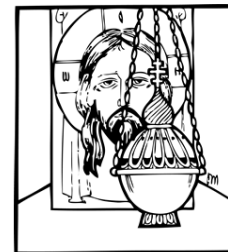
Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan

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

Epistle Readers – March 30: Cantors – April 7: Joanne Futato

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – March 24: M. Bobanic – March 30: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

March 31 – April 6, 2024

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Carol Huchko

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Mary Elizabeth Olack

*Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!
Христосъ воскресе! Воистину воскресе!
Χριστός ανέστη! Ἀληθῶς ανέστη!
al-Masīh qām! Haqqan qām!
¡Cristo ha resucitado! ¡En Verdad ha resucitado!
Foltamadt Krisztus! Valoban Foltamadt!
Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!*



Privileged Week

During Bright Week (Sunday of Pascha to the Sunday of St. Thomas), there is no fasting at all. Bright Week is seen, liturgically speaking as one single day – a continuation of Pascha throughout the whole week.

St. George Patronal Feast Day Celebration

Our St. George Patronal Feast Day is on Tuesday, April 23. To celebrate, on the following **Sunday, April 28**, there will be a Sunday Divine Liturgy moved to **10:00 A.M.** followed by a celebration luncheon. The parish family of St. Mary in Ambridge is also invited to attend Liturgy along with staying for the 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.

What is a Patronal Feast?

All Catholic and Orthodox Churches are dedicated to the worship of God, of course, and when Christians first became able to build Churches they built them on Holy sites associated with events in scripture, the life of Christ, or over the tombs of the martyrs. And if there was no Holy site at hand, nonetheless a Church would be dedicated in the name of a person or an event marked on the Church calendar. *We continue this tradition.*

In short, our Churches always have their own special feast day. This is sometimes called the Altar Feast or the Feast of Dedication or the Patronal Feast. The celebration of a parish feast ought to be something special, full of prayer and good fellowship. It is kind of like a birthday party. **It is something that every parishioner should participate in**, giving 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, for our parish family and our fellowship.

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 (*Date, time, and cost to be announced*). 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. So, plan on joining us for this Church family fun event!

Blessing of the Easter Foods

The Holy Spirit reminds us "not to reject the traditions of our elders, which they have learned from their fathers" (Sirach 8:9). Together with the Byzantine Rite, we have inherited many meaningful customs which make our liturgical worship inspiring, spiritually rich and close to the heart of our people. Among these venerable customs we count the custom of blessing food at Easter.

In earlier times, meat and dairy products were excluded from the daily diet during the entire season of the Great Fast, beginning with Cheesefare Sunday. As the end of the strict fast approached, the people showed their joy and gratitude by taking their food to church to be blessed and eaten after the Easter Liturgy. This is the reason why the liturgical books prescribe the blessing of the food after the Divine Liturgy on Easter Sunday.

This venerable custom was brought to the United States by our forefathers. As we celebrate the Pasch, a feast of new life, we bless the food sustaining our physical life. Thus, our custom has its meaning even today and, therefore, it should be piously observed.

A Note from Fr. Christiaan

Dear Parishioners,

Christ is Risen! Happy Easter!

We begin our journey of hope toward our own resurrection as we sing and pray in the liturgies of Saturday and Sunday commemorating the seasonal event, the Spring moon after the Spring equinox, when Christ – beyond the possibilities of human invention – reconstituted his own soul and body into the same biological human that walked the earth from thirty years, who healed the sick and gave sight to the blind, and who died in a dramatic and seemingly irrecoverable way on the Great and Holy Friday or Good Friday.

Altogether, Christ's resurrection is the sign of bodily hope for those of us who are convinced that being in the body (not a mere spirit or disembodied soul) feels human and complete. There's something in our constitution that makes me intuit that I am less than whole, less than a full person if I do not possess my body, even should I possess it but have no control over its main parts, then I feel that I am not myself. This inborn desire to be one with my body, to have the thinking and free part of me always in union with my beating heart and growling stomach is the message of the resurrection. As God united spirit and flesh, immaterial and material realities into one intelligent creature, humans, so our destiny is to possess this into the future, even if a temporary death, like Christ's on the cross, separates our bodies and souls.

The incorruptible bodies of the saints are a reminder that we are not merely spewing rhetoric, a flood of nice and hopeful words, but that we are serious: The bodies for example of St. Bernadette Soubirous is 130 years old and that of St. John-Mary Vianney is 175 years old (which I had the privilege of seeing at his shrine). The lesson that inexplicably uncorrupted human bodies teach us, as a Christian phenomenon, is that the body is important to us, to God, and has the ability beyond scientific explanation to be immortal. That the soulless bodies of the saints are preserved is a foretaste to the glory of the ensouled bodies of us, as saints, being united together with the resurrected Christ in heaven. Happy Easter!

Fr. Christiaan

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

ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Religious: St. 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 StewardshipChurch and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,
Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month

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

2024 Paschal Message

Christ is Risen!

Truly He is Risen.

Christos Voskrese!

Voistinu Voskrese:

“Come you all: enter into the joy of your Lord. You the first and you the last, receive alike your reward; you rich and you poor, dance together; you sober and you weaklings, celebrate the day” (*Easter Homily of Saint John Chrysostom*)

At dawn when Mary Magdalene and the women went to the empty tomb where Jesus had been laid by Joseph of Arimathea, marks the fulfillment of prophecy and the teaching of Jesus. They expected to find a body which they would care for. They arrived to find the stone had been rolled away. They found only the linens of burial and the Risen Lord.

Jesus died and was resurrected to new life in the spirit. By His death, He conquered death. Not only for himself, but for all who believe in him. At the empty tomb, the women and the Apostles realized and finally understood the meaning of all his teaching and examples, and believed that Jesus was truly Christ, the Messiah, and the Son of God.

When Jesus appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, they were sad because like the Apostles, they did not comprehend that Jesus was the Son of God even after he explained his central role in the salvation of the world. Only after the breaking of the bread did they see that He had passed from death to life. Only then, their eyes and minds were opened to see that the Risen Lord was with them.

Like the apostles and disciples, we have heard the message of the death and resurrection of Jesus thousands of times. Most of us have had to explain the events and meaning of Easter to our children and others. When we explain that Jesus Christ came into this world, taught, suffered, and died for our sins, they sometimes hear the words, but like the apostles, it does not sink into their minds and change their lives.

In their lives and ours, Jesus gives us a wakeup call each time we or someone close to us has a close call with death. Whether it is a car accident or a hospital visit, we are in a situation where we are confronted with the real possibility that we or someone close to us could pass from this life. During those life-or-death moments, our worries for all the less important things of life pale in significance measured against our passing into eternity.

This Easter Sunday, the prayers of Resurrection Matins call us to wake up and see the light of the new day in which Jesus shows by his example that we can overcome death and enter into new life. The smoke is cleared away and the less important things melt away when we realize the power of God’s presence with us each time we celebrate Easter.

All of our actions and thoughts have meaning because they are connected to breaking into the divine light which is all around us if we can see with the eyes of faith. If we open our selves through prayer, fasting, and doing good, we can follow Jesus to spread the Easter message and bring salvation to the world.

On behalf of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church, we thank you for all your fasting and prayer during the Lenten Season of the Great Fast. Also, we thank you for your support and many labors this year to support your church community and carry on the mission given to us by Christ. Continue to carry the good news that Christ is Risen from the dead and has conquered death by death.

In closing,

O Death, where is thy sting?

O Hell, where is thy victory?

Christ is risen, and thou art overthrown!

Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!

Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!

Christ is risen, and life reigns!

Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave.

For Christ, being risen from the dead,

Is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

(Easter Homily of Saint John Chrysostom)

To Him be glory and dominion

Unto ages of ages.

+ William C Skurla

Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D.

Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh

