

May 5, 2024

Sunday of the Man Born Blind, 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!  
Хрїсто́сь воскресе! Воистину воскресе!*

Propers for this Sunday: pp. 189 - 191

Divine Services for the Week:

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

SUNDAY of the MAN BORN BLIND  
DIVINE LITURGY

+ Sr. Rose Elizabeth, offered by James Mudron

*(At. St. Mary: Thursday, May 9, 6:00 PM, Divine Liturgy for the Ascension Holy Day)*

SUN., MAY 12  
8:30 A.M.

SUNDAY of the FATHERS of the 1<sup>ST</sup> ECUMENICAL COUNCIL  
DIVINE LITURGY

+ For our deceased Mothers, Grandmothers, and Godmothers  
God's Blessings for our Mothers, Grandmothers, and Godmothers

**Be Lifted Up!**

The Ascension of Christ is our elevation. Hope for the body is also invited where the glory of the Head precedes us. Let us exult, dearly beloved, with worthy joy and be glad with a holy thanksgiving. Today we not only are established as possessors of paradise, but we have even penetrated the heights of the heavens in Christ. *(St Leo the Great, Sermon 73)*

*Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He blessed them, He parted from them, and was carried up into heaven...*

**Happy Birthday Greetings:**

May 10: Marian Yurosky, May 11: Mary Ann Jugan

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

May 6: Ed & Isabel Maruhnich

**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

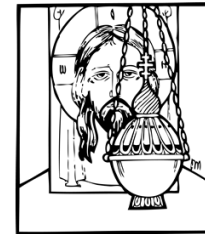
Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

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

Epistle Readers – May 5: Dan Pinchot – May 12: Joanne Futato

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – May 5: M. Bobanic – May 12: F. Hersh



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**

May 5 – May 11, 2024

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

+ Joseph Olack

*(In Loving Memory)*

Offered By:

Wife, Mary Elizabeth

*Calendar of Upcoming Events*

- 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**

## Mother's Day Breakfast

Join us for a nice sit-down breakfast for Mother's Day following the Divine Liturgy next **Sunday, May 12**. Our hard-working cooks will prepare this delicious **homemade** breakfast in honor of our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and those who play a motherly role in our lives. Whether your mother is with you or not, join us in her honor. *Everyone is invited!*



## *Pirohi Sale This Week*

Our final pirohi sale before taking a summer break will be this coming **Friday, May 10**. Orders should be called in by **Thursday at noon to (724) 375-6652**. *Thank you!*



## It's St. George Flea Market Time!

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.



*Fun, food, and fellowship were had by all who attended the St. George bowling night on Thursday, May 2 at Sheffield Lanes in Aliquippa. Thank you to all who attended!*

## Young Adult Retreat

June 21-23 is the date of the upcoming Young Adult Retreat at Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer, Uniontown. The weekend invites men and women into "Strengthening Discipleship." The program runs from 7 pm Friday to 12 pm Sunday; the offering is \$115. Scholarships available. Registration due June 14. To register call 724-438-7149 or email [hpmsm@verizon.net](mailto:hpmsm@verizon.net)

## A Note from Fr. Christiaan

Dear Parishioners,

This has been an exciting week, despite the hiatus in pierogi production. Sixteen men stayed at your Seminary in Pittsburgh, all to bear the expense and drudgery of travel to discern entry into the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, which is ordinarily a five-year program of study. They stayed and prayed with our seminarians in hopes of figuring out what their future holds. Upon the heels of their departure from what is called a *Come and See* weekend, I am now going through applications of future seminarians who plan on starting their five-year program with us. We average about 10 priestly seminarians and 15 deacon candidates per year, a healthy number for a church that may be about 30, 000 people.

The envelopes for the seminary that you see each year in your bundle might have felt disconnected from your daily church experience until, perhaps, Deacon Brian Norrell and his wife began staying at the Ambridge-St. Mary rectory a couple of years ago. Now *Fr.* Brian serves in our area as pastor in Avella, PA and Weirton, WV. His parishes are healthy, and he has quite an outreach to the university of Steubenville.

Hope is very present at the seminary too since we have many lay students who are getting Master's degrees, some of whom have a scholarship meant to train them to go back to their own Byzantine parishes and serve there. Our churches are small and our resources are limited, but good things are happening for our future. This May is a celebratory month for our seminary as we have our largest graduating class of 10 students (half of them deacons) receiving their Master's.

But what of Ambridge-Aliquippa, how does this connect to us? These men are all in the pool of future clergy for St. George's and St. Mary's. The generations of American clergy that I've had the privilege of training over 12 years have inspired confidence in me over the years. Dedicated, prayerful, and – yes – even practical servants have issued from our training ground. I am humbled to see how they are willing to sacrifice much, be evaluated and critique for four years, only in order to serve Byzantine Catholics. You'll be seeing future announcements of more ordinations this summer!

As for our parishes and me, it's becoming obvious, I hope, that I am getting to know and to enjoy you more each week. I felt much more connected with everybody after joining you for our Paschal celebrations, St. George's festival, and – naturally – by our fun interactions at the pierogi factories. I also keep feeling grateful that I am given parishes where Fr. Geoff had either inherited or cultivated supportive volunteers who have really made it enjoyable to be here. Perhaps, as some claim, there is a honeymoon period of 6 months (priestly lore, perhaps applied to other venues too), but I'm not convinced after 25 years of service in the church that this is some sort of inexorable law of the universe. I am seeing a culture of service at our churches. So far, for me, the striking of a balance has felt possible because of your support. I certainly would feel happy to stay with you as long as the archbishop allows me to be here... Next week, my final pierogi experience will not go undocumented, so stay tuned!

*Fr. Christiaan*



## ***Fifth Paschal Sunday***

Simplicity of faith argues with crafty unbelief. Faith, coming to the blind man who received sight, enlightened his mind's eyes, and he clearly saw the truth. See how everything was logical for him. They ask him: "What do you say of Him who gave you sight?" "He is a prophet," he answered, that is, the messenger of God, clothed in miracle-working power. An indisputably true conclusion! But learned erudition does not want to see this trueness and seeks to evade its consequences. However, this being impossible, it approaches unlearned simplicity with the suggestion: Give God the praise, we know that this man is a sinner. Simplicity of faith does not know how to connect these concepts — sinfulness and miracle-working - and expresses this openly: "Whether he be a sinner or not, I don't know; one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see." What can one say against such deduction? But the logic of the unbelievers is obstinate, and even in the face of obviousness it is not ashamed to affirm that it does not know where he who opened the blind man's eyes is from. "Herein is a marvellous thing," the sensible logic of faith says to them, "that ye know not from whence He is, and yet He hath opened mine eyes. Now we know that God hears not sinners, but if any man be a worshipper of God, and does His will, him he hears. Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, He could do nothing" (John 9:17–33). It would seem as though after this nothing remained other than to bow down before the power of such a conclusion. But learned erudition could not stand the sensible logic of faith, and drove it away... Go now, prove the truth of the faith to those whose mind has been corrupted with obstinate unbelief. The unbelievers of all times are cut from the same cloth.

*St. Theophan the Recluse*



## **Touched by Divine Light**

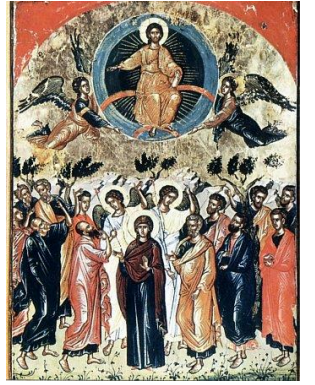
St. Ambrose of Milan teaches that the blind man touched by Jesus received more than just his sight. In one instant we see both the power of his divinity and the strength of his holiness. As the divine light, he touched this man and enlightened him. As priest, by an action symbolizing baptism he wrought in him his work of redemption. The only reason for his mixing clay with the saliva and smearing it on the eyes of the blind man was to remind you that he who restored the man to health by anointing his eyes with clay is the very one who fashioned the first man out of clay, and that this clay that is our flesh can receive the light of eternal life through the sacrament of baptism. **You, too, should come to Siloam, that is, to him who was sent by the Father, as he says in the Gospel: "My teaching is not my own; it comes from him who sent me."** Let Christ wash you, and then you will see.

*Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! ~ Христосъ воскрес! Воистину воскрес!*

## ***The Ascension of Our Lord***

On the fortieth day after His Passover, Jesus ascended into heaven to be glorified with God the Father, Who had sent Him into the world to accomplish the work the Father gave Him to do. In the Ascension resides the meaning and fullness of Christ's Resurrection.

Having destroyed the power of death, the Lord now leaves us in order to glorify us with Himself, to "prepare a place" for us and to take us into the blessedness of God's presence in the "heavenly sanctuary ... the Holy Place not made by hands". He goes in order to send the Holy Spirit to bear witness to Him and His gospel in the world, making Him powerfully present in the lives of disciples.



## **Christian Greeting During Ascensiontide**

Throughout Ascensiontide, we are called upon to proclaim the sublime reality that following the Ascension event with this Christian greeting, "**Christ is glorified!**" As we joyously render the response to this festive greeting, we affirm to all people everywhere that we must "**Exalt Him forever!**"

## **The Leave-taking of Pascha**

After Wednesday's end, we cease chanting the Paschal hymns. The canon, the stichera, even the ubiquitous tropar: Christ is Risen... all come to an end. It is the last day to rejoice in the pure Paschal joy in the presence of the Risen Lord before his Ascension. For the next nine days there is a kind of silence hovering over the Church's liturgy. There is still a certain Paschal joy and expectation for Pentecost; for example, we still do not kneel...but there is an air of waiting, of not quite full Paschal joy...

**But for today, sing your heart out! It is the last chance till next year.**

**Christ is Risen!**

## **Many Thanks**

Thank you to everyone who came together for prayer, fellowship, good food and drinks for our parish patronal celebration. Thank you for your generous donations. It was a very special occasion for all! We give thanks to God for our places 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 families and our fellowship. **May we continue to come together as parish families to give thanks and build our Churches!**

**Thank you to everyone who worked to make our Parish Feast Day Special!**

# 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, October - May

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*You are a shining light to those in darkness!*