

November 17, 2024  
Twenty-Sixth 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!  
Слава Иисусу Христу! Слава на вики!

Typica: pp. 16-17, Beattitudes: pp. 23-24, Resurrectional Tone 1: pp. 125 - 127

St. George Divine Services for the Week:

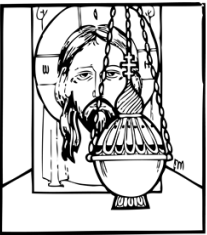
SUN., NOV. 17 .....	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
8:30 A.M. ....	DIVINE LITURGY + Paul Gasper, Jr., offered by Connie & Francis Hersh
TUE., NOV. 19 .....	Holy Prophet Obadiah
6:00 P.M. ....	DIVINE LITURGY + Andrew Kayla Sr., offered by Dan & Jackie Pinchot
7:15 P.M. ....	Catholic Conversations Adult Education
THUR., NOV. 21 .....	ENTRANCE of the THEOTOKOS HOLY DAY
4:45-5:45 P.M. ....	Confessions
6:00 P.M. ....	DIVINE LITURGY Private intention requested by Giorgio
FRI., NOV. 22 .....	Post-Festive Day of the Entrance of the Theotokos
8:30 A.M. ....	Divine Liturgy Private intention requested by Kara Rubino
SUN., NOV. 24.....	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, Post-Festive Day of the Entrance of the Theotokos
8:30 A.M. ....	DIVINE LITURGY, ECF classes following Deceased Members of Aliquippa Class of 1974 requested by Richard Mudron

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

Wedding Anniversaries:  
None for the week

Please Pray for Our Sick, Shut-ins, and those in need of prayer  
Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Erik Fetkovich, Joanne Futato, 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 – November 17: Dan Pinchot – November 24: Johnathon Dohanich  
Ushers – Stand in as needed  
Troica Holders – November 17: Rich Mudron – November 24: M. Bobanic



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP  
November 17 - 23, 2024  
*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*  
+ Alice Haber  
*(In Loving Memory)*  
Offered By:  
John & Darlene Simunick

Do you love God? Or do you love your stuff?  
It is true that a man's life does not come from his possessions or from having an overabundance of them. He is who is rich toward God is very blessed and has glorious hope. Who is he? Evidently, one who does not love wealth but instead loves virtue, and to whom few things are sufficient (see Luke 10:42). It is one whose hand is open to the needs of those in poverty, according to his means and the utmost of his ability. He gathers in the storehouses that are above and lays up treasures in heaven. Such a man will find the interest of his virtue and the reward of his right and blameless life. *(St. Cyril of Alexandria)*

Regular Confessions Offered  
St. George ..... 4:45-5:45 P.M. on Thursdays and **before** every Sunday Divine Liturgy  
St. Mary ..... 4:45-5:45 P.M. on Wednesdays and **following** every Sunday Divine Liturgy  
St. Nicholas ..... 4:00-4:45 P.M. before Vigil Liturgy on Saturdays

# St. Nicholas Dinner & Celebration

Our annual dinner for parishioners and friends of St. George and St. Mary parishes in anticipation of the Christmas season will be on **Saturday, December 7**. This year it will be a **St. Nicholas Dinner Celebration**. Fr. Anthony will celebrate a special Saturday evening vigil 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 once again the fun gift exchange game. Sign-up sheets are now in the narthex and center.

*Sign-up  
today!*

**Plan to participate in our fun gift exchange by bringing a wrapped gift (around \$15 value). Everyone who brings a gift will leave with a gift and have fun playing a game along the way!**

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

## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual St. Matrona Cookie Walk

Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie) will be holding their 20th annual St. Matrona Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 14 from 10 AM - 2 PM (or until sold out). A variety of Eastern European holiday cookies, traditional favorites, homemade nut rolls & gluten free cookies will be available. Most cookies sold by the pound. For questions, email: [smladiessociety@gmail.com](mailto:smladiessociety@gmail.com).

## Free Christmas Day Dinner in Beaver Falls

Christian Assembly in Beaver Falls will be hosting their 31<sup>st</sup> annual Free Christmas Day Dinner so that folks without family or friends will not have to be lonely or hungry on Christmas Day. They are looking for donations of new clothing: sweatshirts, sweat pants, blankets, gloves, hats, scarves, and socks for all ages, birth to adult. If you'd like to donate, please call their CARE Outreach ministry at 724-846-3751. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Darcy Casey at 724-333-1375.

## Vintage Christmas Market Coming Soon!

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

## St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

WED., NOV. 20 ..... ENTRANCE of the THEOTOKOS HOLY DAY, *Anticipated*  
4:45-5:45 P.M. ....Confessions  
6:00 P.M. .... VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY  
For the People of St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas

SAT., NOV. 23 ..... Post-Festive Day of the Entrance of the Theotokos  
9:30 A.M. .... Matins

SUN., NOV. 24 ..... TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST,  
Post-Festive Day of the Entrance of the Theotokos  
11:00 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY  
+ Rita Shuster, offered by Mike & Sue Shuster & family

## St. Nicholas Chapel Divine Services for the Week:

SAT., NOV. 23 ..... TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST,  
Post-Festive Day of the Entrance of the Theotokos  
5:00 P.M. ....VIGIL DIVINE LITURGY  
For health of cousin Dave Hanczar & the memory of his brother Daniel, requested by Mike & Jodi Hanczar

## Nativity Fast Nov.15 - Dec.24

The six weeks prior to Christmas (the Nativity of our Lord in the Flesh) is a fasting period that many call Advent. Advent means “coming.” It is that period of time when we find ourselves waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ. (All three terms mean the same thing.) For most of us, we are anxious to get to the feast — we want the days to rush by. Our preparation usually consists of shopping and decorating, not to speak of the endless parties that we are invited to attend. Here is where the notion of waiting comes into play. We must discipline ourselves through self-control and patience. We are to read the Scriptures, specifically the prophecies that speak of the coming of the Messiah. We are to turn our focus to a Godly way of life that calls for sacrificing and almsgiving (acts of mercy). Let us think of charity and the giving of our time, talents, and resources to others that may be in need. There is no better way to imitate Christ than to be loving and charitable towards others. A word to the wise — put Christ back into Christmas. Find the meaning of the feast by understanding the importance of the Son of God taking on human flesh. Remember the real reason for the season is that Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah, came into the world and dwelt among men, taking on Himself the sins of the world so that we might have life in Him.



### A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

It is good to start off Philip's fast and begin our journey towards Christmas. You will notice that we are singing the Beatitudes and Typical Psalms on Sundays at St. George's and St. Mary's during this Penitential season.

Construction is underway on the driveway and retaining wall at St. Mary's. Additionally, the middle section of the front steps that are damaged and a safety hazard are being torn out and replaced with new concrete and the rest of the steps are being patched. Some good news I would like to share is that **the repair work for the steps is being paid for by the generosity of an anonymous benefactor and will not cost the parish any money. Additionally, a new computer has been donated for the office at St. Mary's. We sincerely thank these individuals for their great generosity.**

Please turn in completed parish registration forms in the back of our Churches. We are trying to update envelopes for next year.

This upcoming Thursday, November 21st is a Solemn Feast Day, the Entrance of the Theotokos. There will be a 6pm Vesperal Liturgy at St Mary's Wednesday night and a 6pm Liturgy at St George's Thursday night. Following the Wednesday liturgy, there will be a men's group meeting in the rectory at St Mary's of a group run by Johnathan Dohanich, one of our St. George parishioners. There will be a teaching, meatless pizza and other refreshments. Please email Johnathan at [Jondo@loavesandfish.org](mailto:Jondo@loavesandfish.org) if you are interested in attending.

To celebrate Thanksgiving as a parish family, we will have a 6pm Vigil Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's on Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and at **9am** at St. George's on Thanksgiving Day. Evening Confession and Liturgy will be cancelled on Thanksgiving.

We have a lot to look forward to in upcoming weeks especially to celebrate St. Nicholas, Patron Saint of Byzantine Catholics in America. On Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at St. Nicholas Chapel we will have our regular 5pm Liturgy followed by a social in honor of St. Nicholas, the patron of the Chapel, at 6:15 pm at the Seven Oaks Country Club. This is meant to be a time to celebrate our patron saint, to reconnect with long-time attendees of St. Nicholas Chapel and hopefully meet some new faces. Reservations are required to attend the dinner social and may be made through the following link - <https://gcuusa.com/pages/spring-st-nicholas-event>. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, two young adults I worked with in Detroit will be sharing their testimonies of radically following the Lord's call for their lives following a 6pm Vesperal Liturgy at St. George's. The following day at St. Mary's I will have a special 6pm Divine Liturgy followed by a young adult trivia night that I will be hosting. See flyer in the bulletin for details.

Please sign up in the back of the Churches if you plan to attend our combined St. Nicholas celebration party at St. George's on Saturday, December 7th. We will have a special 4:30pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy for the Maternity of Anna to begin our festivities. There still will be the regular 5pm Liturgy at St. Nicholas and liturgy at 11am at St. Mary's the next day, but the 8:30am Divine Liturgy will be cancelled at St. George on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

In another week or two, I will be releasing the schedule for Christmas and Theophany.

In Christ,  
*Fr. Anthony*

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

### *Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple*

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, the Great Feast we celebrate on November 21, rests on a story found in a second-century work, *The Protoevangelion of James*. This work tells of the birth and infancy of the Theotokos and was revered by the Christians of their day but not considered canonical Scriptures because their content was not at the heart of the apostolic proclamation or the early Creeds.

The prayers and icon of this Feast focus on two elements of the *Protoevangelion* story. In the first, Mary at the age of three is presented to God in the temple at Jerusalem accompanied, as the text reads, "by the daughters of the Hebrews that are undefiled." There "the priest received her, kissed her and blessed her."



After describing the scene, the *Protoevangelion* continues: "And Mary was in the temple of the Lord like a dove that is being nurtured: and she received food from the hand of an angel" (8:1). The image of the Virgin receiving food from an angel, often represented in our icon of the Feast, points to the sacred environment in which Mary was raised and which prepared her for her future role as Theotokos.

The second vignette is usually shown in the upper right hand corner of this icon. There Mary sits in the innermost sanctuary of the temple, the Holy of Holies, ministered to by an angel. According to Jewish Law, no one entered the Holy of Holies: "*only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year...*" (Heb 9:8). It is unthinkable that a child would be not only allowed there but actually live there as the *Protoevangelion* avows.

By placing Mary in the Holy of Holies, the *Protoevangelion* is saying that the way into the Holy Place – the presence of God – now is disclosed. It is Christ, who would be incarnate in the womb of this same Mary the Theotokos. For this reason the story and its celebration have been embraced by the Tradition as affirmations of the Gospel.

God's people will no longer reach heaven via Jerusalem; rather the heavens have been opened to us and God's temple, the Theotokos, is become for us the way to heaven through her childbearing. Mary is now the temple of the incarnate God, the one for whom the Jerusalem temple was only a prefiguration.

*Today is the prelude of God's benevolence!*

### Twenty Sixth 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. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

**PRIEST: FATHER ANTHONY COSTANTINO**

Fr. Anthony's Cell #: (878) 226-0878

OFFICE PHONE: 724-375-2742

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**

**Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh – Church Office: Judy Dzumba**



**Holy Mystery of Reconciliation** ..... Thursdays 4:45-5:45 P.M. & before Sunday Liturgy

**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

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



# ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

INVITES YOU  
TO BE INSPIRED BY STORIES OF

# RADICALLY FOLLOWING JESUS:

ESCAPING TO BE BAPTIZED AND GIVING UP A DREAM CAREER  
TO PURSUE MISSIONARY WORK.

THURSDAY  
**DEC. 5TH**

VESPERAL LITURGY  
**6:00PM**

TALK  
**7:15PM**

**ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
1001 CLINTON ST,  
ALIQUIPPA, PA 15001

## NATHAN DRASOVEAN

GUEST SPEAKER

**Nathan Drasovean** works as an automotive engineer in Detroit. He was raised as a Romanian Baptist, and converted to the Faith during his time at the University of Michigan. He is currently studying for an MDiv.



## CZEENA KATE DEVERA

GUEST SPEAKER

**Czeena Kate Devera** is a former children's book editor who felt the pull of the Holy Spirit and left her dream career (and dream downtown life) to serve and live as a missionary in Detroit's most underserved neighborhoods. Before her mission year, she co-founded Hot & Holy: Hearts on Fire for Christ, a Catholic singles ministry that she continues to lead today. Devera now channels her passion for storytelling and her faith by working as an acquisitions editor at a Catholic publishing house.



2024 | Aliquippa, PA

ST. MARY BYZANTINE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# ST. NICHOLAS FEAST DAY CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULT TRIVIA NIGHT

**7PM**

**FRI.  
12/6**

*Come, test your knowledge!  
Food, Friends, Trivia, and Prizes for our winners!*

Celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas of Myra, Patron Saint of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America. Bring your brain and a friend and try your best to **conquer our hilarious and thought-pondering questions.**

Stop by at 6pm for Divine Liturgy on Friday December 6th, (feast of St. Nicholas of Myra) and join us afterwards for a battle of wits! You could be the winner!

**Please RSVP so we can have enough food!**



*Hint: Make sure you brush up on your knowledge  
of collective nouns.*

2024 | Ambridge, PA

DIVINE LITURGY

**6:00PM**

YOUNG ADULT EVENT

**7:00PM**

AGES

**18-39**

**SAINT MARY BYZANTINE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
624 PARK ROAD  
AMBRIDGE, PA. 15003