

December 1, 2024
Twenty-Eighth 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 вѣки!

Typica: pp. 16-17, Beatitudes: pp. 23-24, Resurrectional Tone 3: pp. 135 – 137

St. George Divine Services for the Week:

- SUN., DEC. 1 TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
+ Nicholas Fetkovich, requested by Pat & Vicki Fetkovich
- TUE., DEC. 3 Holy Prophet Zephaniah
6:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY
Private intention requested by Giorgio
- THUR., DEC. 5 Holy Father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Solemn Holy Day
6:00 P.M. VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY
Private intention requested by Kara Rubino
7:15 P.M. Talk by Nathan Drasovean and Czeena Devera
- SAT., DEC. 7 TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, Anticipated
MATERNITY of the HOLY ANNA Solemn Holy Day
4:30 P.M. VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY, St. Nicholas Dinner following
+ Lori Dickey Stevik, requested by Connie & Francis Hersh
- SUN., DEC. 8 NO DIVINE LITURGY

Note: In order to aid our preparation for Christmas, in addition to our regular times, Confessions will be available during the 4:30pm Vesperal Liturgy on Saturday, December 7th with a special guest confessor.

Happy Birthday Greetings:
December 1: Joseph Yurosky, December 2: Amy Hagan

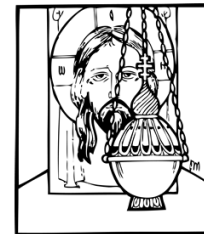
Wedding Anniversaries:
None for the week

Please Pray for Our Sick, Shut-ins, and those in need of prayer
Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, John Dzumba, 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 – December 1: JoAnn Hersh – December 7: Dan Pinchot

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – December 1: F. Hersh – December 7: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
December 1 - 7, 2024
Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:
+ Stephen & Elizabeth Hodovanich
(In Loving Memory)
Offered By:
Daughter, Joanne Futato

Love God or your possessions? Choose one.

St. Cyril of Alexandria teaches: The pain of abandoning is the same whether one abandons much or little. Come and let us see the real meaning of the matter by a trivial example. Suppose two men had to stand naked. The one took off expensive clothes while the other put off only what was cheap and easy to get. Would not the pain of the nakedness be equal in both cases? It can be very difficult for all men to give up love of possession in order to love God.

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

THIS **Saturday, December 7**, we will have our **St. Nicholas Dinner & Celebration**, in anticipation of Christmas, for parishioners and friends of St. George and St. Mary parishes. Fr. Anthony will celebrate a special Saturday evening vigil liturgy (*anticipated Sunday 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, entertainment, and raffles, including once again the fun gift exchange game. Sign-up sheets are now in the narthex and center. Dinner is free, but donations will be accepted. 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!

Christmas Market

There is a “Vintage Christmas Market” set up in the Center. If there is anything you like, simply leave a donation for your purchase. *Thank You!*

*Attention
parishioners!*

Christmas Cookie Trays Raffle

We are kindly asking parishioners, who are willing and able, to bake 2 different kinds of cookies, 4 dozen of each (or any amount you are able), to donate to our cookie tray raffle for the St. Nicholas Dinner. Cookies should be brought to the Church kitchen on Thursday, December 5. The cookie raffle will benefit the St. George Ladies Guild which supports many of our Church expenses and our pirohi supplies.

Thank you for your help!

Choir Presents 2024 Christmas Program

The PBCAC (Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir) invites you to experience the joy of the Nativity season on **Sunday, December 22** as they present “*Joyfully We Sing!*” a choral showcase of beloved music of the Holy Birth of our Lord. The program will begin at **2:00 pm** at St Elias Church, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road in Munhall, Pa. The Choir’s signature “Cookie Reception” will be held in the church social hall following the program. All are warmly welcome!

St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

WED., DEC. 4 Holy Great Martyr Barbara
4:45-5:45 P.M. Confessions
6:00 P.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
For the People of St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas

FRI., DEC. 6 Holy Father Nicholas the Wonderworker, **Solemn Holy Day**
6:00 P.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
Private Intention requested by Todd & Ann Wilson
7:00 P.M. **Young Adult Trivia night at the rectory**

SAT., DEC. 7 Pre-festive Day of the Maternity of the Holy Anna
9:00 A.M. Matins

SUN., DEC. 8 **TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST,**
MATERNITY of the HOLY ANNA, Solemn Holy Day
11:00 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
For the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Pirohi workers, requested by Fr. Anthony

St. Nicholas Chapel Divine Services for the Week:

SAT., DEC. 7..... **TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST,**
MATERNITY of the HOLY ANNA Solemn Holy Day
5:00 P.M. **VIGIL DIVINE LITURGY**
For the spiritual and temporal welfare of Judi Rubino requested by Todd & Ann Wilson

Nativity Fast Nov.15 - Dec.24

How can we prepare for Christ’s arrival?

One way is by increasing our prayer. “The two great movements of the soul have always been withdrawal and return...withdrawal into God’s presence through prayer for strength...without prayer, the quality of our service deteriorates. Without prayer we forget the world; with prayer we remember.” Advent is a time to remember that in God, we move and breathe and have our being, and we must be *with* Him and consciously *in* Him before we can have authentic love and relationship with others.”

~ Fr. Anthony Coniaris



A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

This week we celebrate a Solemn Feast Day in our Church, St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia. He is the Patron Saint of Byzantine Catholics in America so this is a big feast for us and we will be having several celebrations!

We will have a 6:00pm Vesperal Liturgy at St. George's on Thursday, December 5th, followed by a talk by two friends of mine from Detroit, who will be sharing their story of radically following Jesus and doing mission work in inner city Detroit. St. Mary's will have a 6:00pm Divine Liturgy on Friday, December 6th with a 6:00pm Divine Liturgy followed by a young adult trivia night in the rectory.

On Saturday, December 7th, I will celebrate a special 4:30pm Vesperal Liturgy at St. George's followed by a St. Nicholas Party. Please sign up in the back of the Church if you wish to attend.

As I have spoken about several times, Confession is an integral part of our spiritual lives and it is particularly fitting to go during our Church's penitential season. **To give everyone an extra opportunity to experience the grace of this wonderful sacrament, Fr. Frederick Gruber has graciously agreed to hear Confessions during our 4:30pm Vesperal Liturgy.** He is a wonderful priest and I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

We will still have the 5:00pm Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Chapel on Saturday, December 7th (I arranged a substitute) and 11:00am Divine Liturgy the next morning at St. Mary. **There will be no 8:30am Liturgy at St. George on Sunday, December 8th.**

Finally, we are preparing contribution envelopes for the upcoming year. If you are not receiving envelopes and wish to begin receiving them, please make sure to fill out the parish registration forms located in the back of the Churches.

In Christ,
Fr. Anthony

Next Pirohi Sale: December 13. Plan your Christmas orders!



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

Twenty-Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

In Luke 18:18-27, we find a rich young ruler who approaches Jesus with a question about eternal life. This encounter gives us valuable insights into the nature of salvation and the challenges that wealth can present.

The rich young ruler begins by addressing Jesus as "Good Teacher" and asks what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus responds by reminding him of the commandments, to which the young man claims he has faithfully adhered since his youth. However, Jesus challenges him further, instructing him to sell all his possessions, give to the poor, and follow Him.

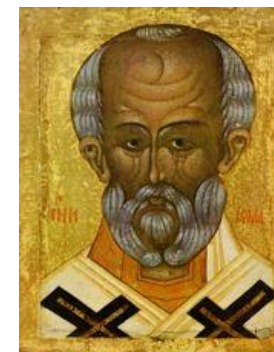


This response shocks the young ruler, as he is very wealthy. He walks away saddened, unable to let go of his material possessions. Jesus then remarks that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.

This passage highlights the tension between wealth and discipleship. While riches can provide comfort and security, they can also hinder one's ability to fully surrender to God. Jesus emphasizes the need to prioritize our relationship with Him over material possessions, reminding us that true wealth lies in following Him wholeheartedly.

St. Nicholas Day, December 6

Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra is transformed in our modern secular culture as Santa Claus - the man in the red suit who brings gifts at Christmas to all those who are good. It is interesting - and telling - to consider what the Church remembers him for. Yes, he is said to have punched Arias in the nose for denying the divinity of Jesus. But most of the stories that come to us through history are of him living the Christian life - like providing a dowry to three young women so they could marry and avoid slavery (the three bags of gold he threw through their windows landed in their stockings, and so today we hang our stockings by the chimney with care). All of the stories about Archbishop Nicholas that come to us through history are about his love for people - especially the poor. St. Nicholas was good. So good that his goodness shines through history - and radiates even from the man in the red suit. Such goodness can only be found in one who dwells intimately with the Lord - for He is the only good One (Mt 19:17).



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

PARISH WEBSITE: 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 2nd Friday of each month

Opportunities for StewardshipChurch and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday, Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month, October - May

O Christ the Savior, most holy Fruit of the most-pure Virgin, come to us and save us!

Christmas Services Schedule

St. George

THURS., DEC. 19
6:00 P.M. ROYAL HOURS

TUE., DEC. 24..... NATIVITY of our LORD, *Anticipated*, **Obligation Holy Day**
7:00 P.M..... GREAT COMPLINE with LITIA,
DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

THUR., DEC. 26 SYNAXIS of the THEOTOKOS, **Solemn Holy Day**
6:00 P.M..... DIVINE LITURGY,
Traditional procession with the Gospels

FRI., DEC. 27 STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR, **Simple Holy Day**
9:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY

St. Mary

WED., DEC. 25..... CHRISTMAS DAY, **Obligation Holy Day**
9:30 A.M..... MATINS
11:00 A.M..... DIVINE LITURGY of ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

St. Nicholas Chapel

TUE., DEC. 24..... NATIVITY of our LORD, *Anticipated*, **Obligation Holy Day**
4:00 P.M..... VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY of ST. BASIL the GREAT

Pre-Nativity Troparion

Bethlehem, make ready, Eden has been opened for all. Ephrathah, prepare yourself, for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Virgin in the cave. Her womb has become a spiritual paradise in which divinity has been planted. If we partake of it, we shall live and not die like Adam. Christ is born to raise up the likeness that had fallen.



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,
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87101



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.



CZZENA KATE DEVERA
GUEST SPEAKER

Czzena 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 | Albuquerque, NM

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!

DIVINE LITURGY
6:00PM

YOUNG ADULT EVENT
7:00PM


AGES
18-39

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

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-provoking 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