

February 9, 2025
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee,
Leave-Taking of the Encounter of our Lord with Simeon



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! - Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!

Resurrectional Tone 4, pp. 146 - 148, Meeting of our Lord, pp. 321 – 324, Publican & Pharisee, pg. 215

St. George Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., FEB. 9 SUNDAY of the PUBLICAN and the PHARISEE,
LEAVE-TAKING of the ENCOUNTER of our LORD
8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
For the People of St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas Chapel

TUE., FEB. 11 Holy Martyr Blaise
6:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY
Spiritual and temporal welfare of Dave Salmon, requested by Grant Gaylord

THUR., FEB. 13 Holy Father Martinian
4:45-5:45 P.M. Confessions
6:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY
Spiritual and temporal welfare of Andres Ramos, requested by Grant Gaylord

SUN., FEB. 16 SUNDAY of the PRODIGAL SON
* 10:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
Pre-Lenten Morning of Reflection following
+Malava Hall Getsinger, requested by Prudence Peya

* Next Sunday, February 16, we will have a joint parishes Divine Liturgy, at 10:00 A.M. here at St. George Church, followed by a talk with Mother Cecilia from Christ the Bridegroom Monastery. A light refreshment social will follow. See the advertisement in today's bulletin.

Birthdays:

February 10: David Klacik

Please Pray for Our Sick, Shut-ins, and those in need of prayer

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

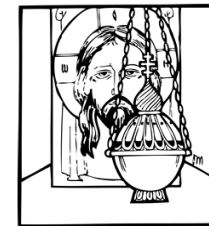
Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

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

Epistle Readers – February 9: Prudy Peya – February 16: JoAnn Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – February 9: M. Bobanic – February 16: F. Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

February 9 - 15, 2025

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

The Parishioners

Questions to Ponder

Do we often live a double-life? Do we act polite and nice to those around us while harboring resentment or anger toward those same people? Do we say one thing with our mouths and think another thing with our heart?

In the Divine Liturgy do we pray for everyone and ask for God's mercy and forgiveness? Have we truly forgiven others in the way that we ask God to forgive us?

Is there someone in our life whom we are angry with or that we have not really forgiven from our heart? Can we find a way to forgive them and show them that we love them?

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

Pirohi Sale This Week



Our next pirohi sale will be this Friday, February 14. **We will peel potatoes TODAY during/after coffee hour. Workdays are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 9:00 AM and Fridays beginning at 6:30 AM.** Any amount of time you can spare will be greatly appreciated. Thank you! **To order call: 724-375-6652 by Thursday at noon or order in person today.**

ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

INVITES YOU TO A:

PRE-LENTEN MORNING OF REFLECTION: **WHO, ME? CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER?**

Prepare to enter the Great Fast by renewing your relationship with the One who loves you deeply and wants to pour Himself into you!

Contemplative prayer may sound like a complicated undertaking that's just for monks and nuns, but the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains that it is "the simplest expression of the mystery of prayer" (2713).

In this talk, Mother Cecilia will help us to start from the beginning: "What is God's purpose for us?" From this foundation, she will explain **what contemplative prayer actually is** and will then give **tips for stirring up the flame of the Holy Spirit** that is within us.

SUNDAY
FEB. 16TH

DIVINE LITURGY
10:00AM

TALK
11:00AM
SOCIAL WITH LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
TO FOLLOW

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



MOTHER CECILIA
GUEST SPEAKER

Mother Cecilia is the hegumena (abbess), of Christ the Bridegroom Monastery in Burton, Ohio. She was raised Byzantine Catholic in her home parish, St. Joseph's in Brecksville, Ohio. She earned a bachelor's degree in communications from The University of Akron in 2008. She co-founded the monastery in 2009. There she has served the community as protos, ecclesiarch, communications director, a spiritual mother, and other roles. She enjoys silence, prayer, the outdoors, art, and writing music and poetry.

2025 | Aliquippa, PA

St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

WED., FEB. 12 Holy Father Meletius

4:45-5:45 P.M. Confessions

6:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY

For the People of St. George, St. Mary, & St. Nicholas Chapel

FRI., FEB. 14 The Passing of Cyril, Apostle to the Slavs

9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Spiritual and temporal welfare of E.L. Gaylord, requested by Grant Gaylord

SUN., FEB. 16 NO LITURGY AT ST. MARY

St. Nicholas Chapel Divine Services for the Week:

SAT., FEB. 8 SUNDAY of the PRODIGAL SON

5:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY

+George Hanczar, requested by Michael & Jodi Hanczar

Pre-Lenten Sundays - There are four more Sundays within Byzantine Pre-Lent (including today). The "Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee" calls us to consider our life, and to repent of our sins for repentance is the door through which we enter the Holy Forty Days Fast. The "Sunday of the Prodigal Son" calls us to "come to ourselves" and return to the Father, who eagerly awaits our return. The "Sunday of the Last Judgment" reminds us that while the Lord's mercy is immeasurable even He does not forgive those who do not repent. And, finally, on "Forgiveness Sunday" we remember Adam's expulsion from Paradise and the proper method of fasting (don't put on a gloomy face).

Stay for Fellowship Hour - We extend a warm welcome to our parishioners, visitors, and friends. We are thankful that you have come to worship with us today. We invite you to extend to join us following the Sunday Divine Liturgy for Fellowship Coffee and doughnuts every Sunday! *We invite EVERYONE to STAY and join us.*



We are accepting donations throughout the year for our annual Flea Market. Any time you have items to donate, please leave them in the Center marked as for the Flea Market.

A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear parishioners,

This week following the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is a **fast-free week**. Even on Friday, we are permitted and encouraged to eat meat this week so as to ward off any spiritual pride that might enter our hearts before the Great Fast. This week is supposed to be a reminder that it is ultimately through the interior conversion of our hearts and not through external observance of the law that we are justified. While fasting is important, what is most important is that we are in right relationship with God.

A final reminder that we will be having a combined Divine Liturgy next Sunday at 10:00am at St. George followed by a talk by Mother Cecilia, hegumena of Christ the Bridegroom Monastery. **There will be no 11am Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's this week.**

I hope to have a full Lenten Schedule out by next week and a Holy Week schedule by the end of the month so everyone can plan ahead. I appreciate your patience and understanding as it is not possible to have everything exactly as it has been in the past due to me being entrusted with three separate Churches.

In Christ,
Fr. Anthony

Don't Hide from Yourself

To sustain my mask before others takes much energy. One clever way to maintain my mask and to avoid seeing myself as I am is to continuously compare my actions with the actions of those persons whom I consider less than myself. And into what a clever trap I have fallen, for I will always find someone whose outward actions appear to fall short of mine. I will constantly be looking outward toward others and never inward at the movements of my own heart. I will have taken upon myself the heart of the Pharisee, puffed up with emptiness, judgmental and condemning, while thanking God that I am not like another. I will have taken upon myself the heart of the Pharisee, but because of my mask, I will only know myself as the Publican.

(Sister Seraphim Olsafsky)

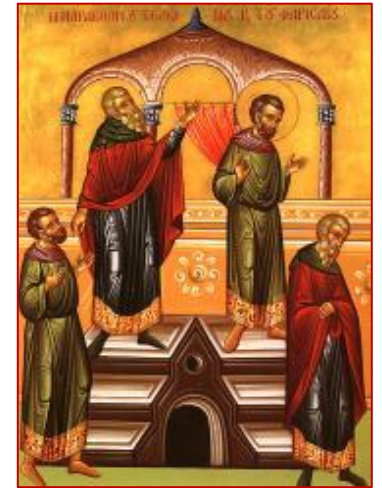
God gives us His Grace, when we are humble. (Elder Porphyrios)

Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner!

Sunday of Publican and Pharisee

"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

There is a great difference between the Publican and the Pharisee in today's Gospel reading. The Pharisee didn't know who he really was. He kept telling God how different he was from other men. But he never said who he actually was. That is why he could do nothing but talk. The Publican, on the other hand, knew exactly who he was... "I am a sinner," he said. Because he knew himself, he was able to do something about it. He asked for forgiveness.



In the Eastern Church, today is the beginning of the Lenten Triodion which is three weeks of preparation for the Lenten season of repentance and renewal. The Kontakion for the Divine Liturgy helps us in this preparation by telling us to avoid pride and to practice humility like the Publican.

Why place emphasis on humility...Because humility is for us the beginning of true repentance. Eastern Christian spirituality, following the example of Christ, has as its basic principle, the admonition that humility is an infallible sign that we are on the road to God. Reading Holy Scripture, we see the example Our Lord gives us: He said, "Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart." On Holy Thursday Our Lord washed the feet of His Apostles. In the end, He suffered the humiliation of death on the Cross. Yet even from the Cross, He forgave His tormentors and those responsible for His death.

Keeping these examples in mind, we should spend as much time as we can trying to know ourselves as we really are... knowing who we really are, we can then do something about it. On this Sunday let us remind ourselves to BE HUMBLE....STOOP TO CONQUER.

Non-Fasting Week

This week (from the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee to the Sunday of the Prodigal Son) according to our Liturgical calendar, is a fast free week. The prayer of the Pharisee was to boast that he fasts twice a week. In order to eliminate all pride before the beginning of the Great Fast, the holy fathers directed that we do not fast at all this week.

ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

PRIEST: FATHER ANTHONY COSTANTINO

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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



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

“Let your prayer be completely simple, for both the publican and the prodigal son

were reconciled to God by a single phrase.”

- St.. John Chrysostom