

February 16, 2025  
Sunday of the Prodigal Son



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!*

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 6, pp. 152 - 153, Prodigal Son, pg. 216

St. George Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., FEB. 16 ..... SUNDAY of the PRODIGAL SON

10:00 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY

**Pre-Lenten Morning of Reflection following**  
**+Malava Hall Gettsinger, requested by Prudence Peya**

TUE., FEB. 18 ..... Holy Father Leo, Pope of Rome

6:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY

**Spiritual & temporal welfare of Natalie Jane Smith, requested by Grant Gaylord**

THUR., FEB. 20 ..... Venerable Father Leo, Bishop of Catania

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

6:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY

**Private Intention requested by Giorgio Navarini**

SUN., FEB. 23 ..... MEATFARE SUNDAY

8:30 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY

**+ John Dzumba, requested by Richard Mudron**

**Birthdays:**

February 22: Reagan Cody

**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

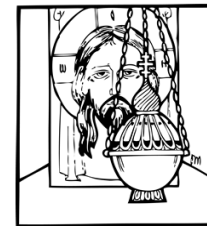
Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

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

Epistle Readers – February 16: JoAnn Hersh – February 23: Johnathan Dohanich

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – February 16: F. Hersh – February 23: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

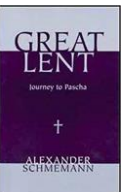
February 16 - 22, 2025

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

The Parishioners

**Great Lent by: Father Alexander Schmemmann**

*"When Christ comes to judge us, what will be the criterion of His judgment? The Parable of the Last Judgment answers: love — a concrete and personal love for the human person, any human person, that God makes me encounter in my life. Christian love is the "possible impossibility" to see Christ in another man, whoever he is, and whom God, in His eternal and mysterious plan, has decided to introduce into my life, be it only for a few moments, not as an occasion for a "good cheer" or an exercise in philanthropy, but as the beginning of an eternal companionship in God Himself." (Available in our Church library)*



**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

**The Upcoming Lenten Schedule is published in today's bulletin.**

# ST. MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



## FIRST STEPS OF THE JOURNEY TO EASTER

Observe **Clean Monday**, the first day of the Great Fast. We've invited Fr. Canice McMullen to be a special guest homilist to share his insightful perspective on getting off to the right foot on your lenten journey.

MONDAY  
**MAR. 3RD**

PRESANCTIFIED  
DIVINE LITURGY  
**6:00PM**

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

**FATHER CANICE  
MCMULLEN**  
GUEST HOMILIST



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### St. George, Lenten Schedule

#### Tuesdays:

**6:00 P.M. Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy**

#### Fridays,:

**4:45 P.M. Confessions**

**6:00 P.M. Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy**

#### Saturdays:

**9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy (All Souls, Sat. of Akathist, etc.), announced weekly**

### St. Mary, Lenten Schedule

#### Wednesdays:

**4:45 P.M. Confessions**

**6:00 P.M. Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy**

**7:15-8:15 P.M. Adult Education (See Ad)**

#### Thursdays:

**6:00 P.M. Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy**

#### Fridays:

**9:00 A.M. Matins or 3<sup>rd</sup>/ 6<sup>th</sup> Hour with Typika, announced weekly**

### St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

**WED., FEB. 19 ..... Holy Apostle Archippus**

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

**6:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY**

+ **Philomene Ragui**, requested by Giorgio Navarini

**FRI., FEB. 21 ..... Venerable Father Timothy of Symbola**

**9:00 A.M. .... Divine Liturgy**

Spiritual & temporal welfare of Natalie Jane Gaylord, requested by Grant Gaylord

**SUN., FEB. 23 ..... MEATFARE SUNDAY**

**11:00 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY**

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

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

**SAT., FEB. 22 ..... MEATFARE SUNDAY**

**5:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY**

Spiritual & temporal welfare of Brittany & Nicholas Navarini, requested by Giorgio

### Get up and Run

Christ chooses those who stand. **Rise and run to the Church.** Here is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He who hears you pondering in the secret places of the mind runs to you. When you are still far away, He sees you and runs to you. He sees in your heart, He runs, perhaps someone may hinder and He embraces you. His foreknowledge is in the running, his mercy in the embrace and the disposition of fatherly love. He falls on your neck to raise you when you are prostrate and burned with sins. He brings you back when you have turned from the earth to heaven. Christ falls on your neck to free your neck from the yoke of slavery and He hangs his sweet yoke upon your shoulders. (*St. Ambrose*)

*We are all prodigals in our own way, but let us be like the younger prodigal Son, let us realize that we live in a strange land full of sin, and we need to return and live in our Father's kingdom where love and peace rule. As the hymn from Vespers for this Sunday says: "Therefore before the end cry out to Christ our God: receive me as the Prodigal Son, O God, and have mercy upon me."*

- James Iliou



### A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear parishioners,

Please note the changes in the weekday schedule (Beginning March 3) and Confession time for the Great Fast. As is in accordance with our Byzantine Catholic Tradition, our standard Divine Liturgy is not celebrated during the weekdays of Lent (with the exception of the Annunciation) as part of the penitential nature of the season. Instead, we replace it with the beautiful Presanctified Divine Liturgy in which we distribute the Holy Gifts that were consecrated the Previous Sunday.

Next week the fasting guidelines will be published for the Great Fast. This upcoming Sunday, Meatfare Sunday, is traditionally the last day in which meat is consumed until Easter! While contemporary practice is more relaxed, some hardy souls continue to maintain the Church's ancient tradition in this regard.

As you can see, we have some exciting events coming up in upcoming weeks. We are excited to welcome Fr. Canice McMullen, a very dear friend of mine, as a guest homilist to kick off our Lenten season at our First Presanctified Divine Liturgy during the Great Fast on Clean Monday.

Please sign up in the back of any of our Churches if you would like to join us for the Adult Education course on "Great Lent" by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann. The class is free but we need to know how many books to order so please register by Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the latest.

This Friday, we are pleased to welcome St. Augustine School's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade class to our 9am Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's. Please give them a warm welcome as they come to learn more about our Byzantine Catholic Tradition.

We will not be observing the First All Souls Saturday on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, but we will be observing all the others.

In Christ,  
*Fr. Anthony*

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

## *Sunday of the Prodigal Son*

*I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You had given me. Therefore, I cry to You like the Prodigal: "I have sinned before You, O compassionate Father; receive me a penitent and make me as one of Your hired servants."*

On the third Sunday of preparation for Lent, we hear the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Together with the hymns on this day, the parable reveals to us the time of repentance as man's return from exile. The prodigal son, we are told, went to a far country and there spent all that he had. A far country! It is this unique definition of our human condition that we must assume and make ours as we begin our approach to God. A man who has never had that experience, be it only very briefly, who has never felt that he is exiled from God and from real life, will never understand what Christianity is about. And the one who is perfectly "at home" in this world and its life, who has never been wounded by the nostalgic desire for another Reality, will not understand what repentance is.

Repentance is often simply identified as a cool and "objective" enumeration of sins and transgressions, as the act of "pleading guilty" to a legal indictment. Confession and absolution are seen as being of a juridical nature. But something very essential is overlooked - without which neither confession nor absolution have any real meaning or power. This "something" is precisely the feeling of alienation from God, from the joy of communion with Him, from the real life as created and given by God. It is easy indeed to confess that I have not fasted on prescribed days, or missed my prayers, or become angry. It is quite a different thing, however, to realize suddenly that I have defiled and lost my spiritual beauty, that I am far away from my real home, my real life, and that something precious and pure and beautiful has been hopelessly broken in the very texture of my existence. Yet this, and only this, is repentance, and therefore it is also a deep desire to return, to go back, to recover that lost home....

*- Excerpt from Great Lent, by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann*



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

*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.*

***I was Lost but Now I Am Found.*** As we draw closer to the Great Fast, today we hear the parable of the Prodigal Son. Hearing Christ's parable about God's loving forgiveness, we are called to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves in a "far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the movement of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that the Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go", confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong.

# 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**



**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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*“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*

ST. MARY BYZANTINE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

YOUNG ADULT  
**Cheese Party!**

PLEASE BRING CHEESE  
OR ANOTHER DAIRY PRODUCT TO SHARE!  
NO MEAT PERMITTED.

Surrounded by friends, faith, and food, we invite you to join us the final day before lent celebrating God and His delicious creation.

**Cheesefare Sunday** is quickly approaching, (also known as Forgiveness Sunday) the last day before Lent begins. This was traditionally the last day in which dairy products could be consumed until Easter.

**Forgiveness Vespers** is also celebrated this day, in which we ask our brothers and sisters in Christ for forgiveness for the ways in which we sinned against them over the last year. We reconcile with one another so we can enter into the Great Fast in a spirit of mutual charity and repentance.

SUNDAY  
**MAR. 2ND**

FORGIVENESS VESPERS  
**6:00PM**

YOUNG ADULT EVENT  
**7:00PM**

AGES  
**18-39**

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ST. MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH PRESENTS:

**CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS**  
on  
**GREAT LENT**

Join us for Catholic Conversations, an adult education series taught by Fr. Anthony at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church for six consecutive Wednesdays, reading and discussing 'Great Lent: Journey to Pascha' by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

WEDNESDAYS

MAR. 5TH - APR. 9TH  
[SIX WEEKS]

7:15PM - 8:15PM

AFTER 6:00PM PRESANCTIFIED  
DIVINE LITURGY

ST. MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

624 PARK RD, AMBRIDGE, PA 15003

Sign up for free (by Mar. 2nd) in the back of church  
or email [stmaryambridge@protonmail.com](mailto:stmaryambridge@protonmail.com)

All materials provided by the church but registration is required.

This class will be aimed at helping us understand the meaning of Lent in our Byzantine Catholic Tradition. We will discuss the spiritual and ascetic practices of the Great Fast, as well as the liturgical calendar in order to aid our preparation for Easter.

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