

April 27, 2025
Thomas Sunday, 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!
Хрісто́сь воскресе! Воистину воскресе!*

Proprs for Pascha: pp. 175 - 177

St. George Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., APRIL 27 THOMAS SUNDAY

9:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY, *Distribution of Artos Bread,*
St. George Luncheon following
+ John Dzumba, requested by Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Dickey

THURS., MAY 1 Jeremiah the Prophet

4:45 – 5:45 P.M. Confessions

6:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY

For the health and welfare of Carol Vaccarelli, offered by Richard Mudron

SUN., MAY 4 NO LITURGY AT ST. GEORGE

Proper Posture for Prayer During the Easter Season

During the 50 days of the paschal season, from Resurrection Matins until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost, the proper posture for **all** prayer is to stand rather than to kneel. In Church and at your icon corner at home, there is **NO KNEELING** at any time. Standing is a sign of joy. And what greater joy do we have other than the Resurrection of Christ?

Note: Fr. Anthony will be away Sunday, April 27th until Wednesday, April 30th. Please call Mary Queen of Saints Parish at 724-775-6363 in the case of a sacramental emergency. **No Divine Liturgy Tuesday, April 29th.**

Birthdays this week:

April 29: Isabel Maruhnich, April 30: Rob Dzumba, Ed Maruhnich

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

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, 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 – April 27: JoAnn Hersh – May 11: Dan Pinchot

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – April 27: F. Hersh – May 11: R. Mudron

THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

April 27 – May 3, 2025

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Nicholas Maruhnich

(In loving memory)

Offered By:

Ed & Isabel Maruhnich



NEXT WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

May 4 - 10, 2025

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Jane Klacik

(In loving memory)

Offered By:

JoAnn & Francis Hersh

PRAYER to St. Thomas the Apostle

Almighty and ever living God, who strengthened your apostle Thomas with sure and certain faith in your Son's resurrection: Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN

Confessions This Week:

St. Mary 4:45-5:45 P.M. on Wednesday

St. George 4:45-5:45 P.M. on Thursday

The Fruits of Pascha

During the 50 days which follow Pascha, the liturgical books of the Church are a well-spring of insight and renewal that aids in harvesting the fruit of the Great Fast —a period of nurturing and guidance marked by examples of people of faith answering the call to follow and serve the Risen Christ. The good habits and virtues that have begun to grow during Lent must now be harvested to serve Christ in new ways. In this state of openness to our Lord and His message, now is the time to develop ministries, to create new opportunities for service, and to go wherever Christ calls. Thus each Sunday that leads to Pentecost contains the theme of missions and evangelism in a special way.

Come, let us partake of a new drink, not miraculously produced from the barren rock, but from the Fountain of Immortality, springing up from the tomb of Christ, in Him is our firm strength. (Canon of Pascha)

Sunday of Saint Thomas

Today is the eighth day of the paschal celebration, the last day of Bright Week. In the Gospel we encounter the incredulity of Thomas. His doubt, however, leads to tremendous faith: "My Lord and My God". After his encounter with the Risen Lord, Thomas is sent with the other eleven to baptize all nations in the name of the Holy Trinity. Doubt followed by a commission to serve Christ illustrates how faith empowers us to serve Christ in unbelievable ways. We ourselves have not seen Christ with our physical eyes nor touched his risen body with our physical hands, yet in the Holy Spirit we have seen and touched and tasted the Word of Life, and so we believe.

On this Sunday of St. Thomas let us examine ourselves. Let us be ready to answer before our own conscience and do what is necessary to change our lives in such a way that people meeting us may look at us and say: Such people we have never seen. There is something about them that we have never seen in anyone. What is it? And we could answer: It is the life of Christ abroad in us. We are His limbs. This is the life of the Spirit in us. We are His temple. Amen.

On this Second Sunday of Pascha the Church celebrates the confirmation of the Resurrection of Christ. Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them on the evening of that first day of the week. Despite the testimony of others that they had seen the Lord, Thomas challenged the reality of the Resurrection until he could see for himself. Eight days later they had again gathered behind locked doors. Thomas, upon seeing the risen Lord for himself cried *"My Lord and my God!"* Jesus then said to him: *"Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."* It is not because of historical evidence or miracles that we are called to believe. We are called to believe because we have accepted the grace of God found in the preaching of the Good News.

St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

WED., APRIL 30 James the Greater, Apostle
4:45 – 5:45 Confessions
6:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY
For the Spiritual and Temporal Welfare of E.K. Gaylord requested by Grant Gaylord

FRI., MAY 2 Athanasius the Great, Patriarch
9:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
+ Rick Costantino, requested by Mike and Patty Costantino

SUN., MAY 4 SUNDAY of the MYRHH BEARUNG WOMEN
11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY
+ Paul Modrak, requested by Mike and Patty Costantino

St. Nicholas Chapel Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., MAY 4 SUNDAY of the MYRHH BEARING WOMEN
3:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY
For the people of St. George , St. Mary, & St. Nicholas

The “Glorified-Cross” Designates “Christ Is Risen!” –

Throughout the entire Paschal Period, our Byzantine Catholic Church glorifies the triumphant Cross of Christ So until Pentecost Sunday all of our Byzantine Crosses (even the ones you wear) should be turned in the reversed manner. Thus, the bottom bar should look as though it’s backwards! For the next 50 days, it’s the GLORIFIED CROSS instead of the CRUCIFIED CROSS!



Antipascha: St. Thomas Sunday

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed “The Doubting Thomas.” This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, “The Touching of Thomas.” The Slavonic inscription is, “The Belief of Thomas.” When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts. This day is also known as “**Antipascha**.” This does not mean “opposed to Pascha,” but “in place of Pascha.” Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord’s Resurrection. Sunday is called “Resurrection” in Russian, and “the Lord’s Day” in Greek.



A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

Christ is Risen!

It was an extremely blessed Holy Week and Easter. Thank you to our cantors, lectors, altar servers, office assistants and all the other volunteers who helped make these many Divine Services very beautiful. Attendance was very good, 185 people total for Easter (35 at St. Nicholas for Easter and 75 each at St. George's and St. Mary's). I believe this is a result of our prayers and fasting for our communities. Let us continue to pray that more Byzantine Catholics return and that we continue to attract new members.

Now that Lent is over, Confessions will be available once again 4:45-5:45 on Wednesdays at St. Mary's and after Sunday liturgy, 4:45-5:45 on Thursdays at St. George and before Sunday liturgy, and before Saturday evening liturgy starting at 4:00pm at St. Nicholas Chapel. **Now that the aliturgical days of Lent are over, we will also be resuming the Divine Liturgy schedule we had prior to Lent.**

Several people have inquired about us not using handbells and wooden clackers during Holy Week. These items are Latinizations and not native to the Byzantine rite. Handbells are rung at Roman parishes during the consecration. Wooden clackers are used by Roman Catholics for processions on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. At the direction of the chancery, I gave away Roman Catholic items to a local Roman Catholic parish where they are properly used back in August. It is important that we restore more traditional forms of Byzantine worship, and not just do what has been done for a relatively brief span of 100 years in the Church's life under negative Roman influence. I am sorry if this upset anyone, but at the end of the day, I have to follow the directions of the chancery.

There have also been questions asked regarding immersion Baptism after that occurred at St. George. This is the tradition of the Byzantine rite and what is being taught in seminary. I thought I had given adequate explanation during both my Sunday homily as well as the Baptism itself. However, since there still seem to be questions, I will cover this topic as part of our next adult education series.

The response to the many hours of the Divine Office, such as Matins and Vespers, during Holy Week was fantastic. In the near future, meaning by June at the latest, I will be adding regular public celebrations of the Divine Office to our weekly schedule. Once again, I recognize that these practices may be new to some of you but are actually quite ancient.

I am realizing that there is a true need for more catechesis as many of the practices I have introduced as a result of my training at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary are new to the parishes. **I will be offering adult education on the Divine Office, Divine Liturgy, and sacraments over the summer.**

As always, my cell phone is in the bulletin. If you have concerns, please feel free to contact me and I will happily discuss them with you.

The nomination period for finance and pastoral council has concluded. I will be praying and discerning, then contacting those I wish to have serve, before announcing the selections to our communities on Sunday, May 10th. As previously indicated, a prerequisite for serving on the councils is Divine Liturgy attendance on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (whether at our Churches or somewhere else while traveling) as this is the heartbeat of our life as Byzantine Catholics. Secondly, regular involvement in activities in the life of the Church such as pirohy making, altar serving, adult education, fellowship, maintenance, ECF, etc. will be heavily considered. Finally, our communities at this point have a more diverse age range and demographics than many Byzantine Catholic parishes. This is very good, as growth and newer members are necessary for our communities to be viable long-term. While it goes without saying that long-time parishioners will be heavily represented on our councils, I will be putting on newer members as well to reflect the changing demographics of our parishes.

Finally, thank you so much for your many well-wishes, cards, gifts, etc, for Easter. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is greatly appreciated.

In Christ,
Fr. Anthony

We are NOW accepting and are in need of donations for our annual Flea Market. If you are paring down or spring cleaning, consider donating your items to our Flea Market. Ask family and friends to consider donating items to our Flea Market too! Any time you have items to donate, please leave it in the Center.

Bowling and Fellowship Night Coming Soon

In continuation of our Patronal Feast Day celebration, we will once again have a bowling and fellowship night at Sheffield Bowling Lanes in Aliquippa (*Date, time, and cost to be announced*). With so many events happening so close together, our bowling night will be moved to May or June.

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



- 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

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Хрі́сто́сь воскресе! Воистину воскрес!

Today's St. George Luncheon

Order of Events:

- Following Liturgy today, please proceed to our Center for our celebration luncheon.
- Enjoy drinks until the luncheon food is ready to serve. 50/50 raffle tickets will be sold.
- Blessing of the food.
- Luncheon served (tables will be called).
- Dessert and coffee, social time.
- 50/50 raffle drawing.

Thank you all for celebrating with us today!



O Victorious Great Martyr George, protector of the poor, liberator of prisoners, physician of the sick, and champion of kings, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.



HAPPY PARISH FEAST DAY TO ALL!

Mark Your Calendar!!

Our annual Flea Market, Haluski, and Bake Sale will be on **Friday & Saturday, June 20 & 21**. Plan on volunteering in any capacity from planning, set-up, advertising, baking, 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.*



St. George Church



Haluski Sale, Bake Sale

June 20 & 21

9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

1001 Clinton Street

Aliquippa, PA 15001

www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org