

February 15, 2026
Sunday of Cheese-Fare, Forgiveness Sunday



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Propers: See handout

St. George Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., FEB. 15SUNDAY of CHEESE-FARE

8:15 A.M.FIRST HOUR

8:30 A.M.DIVINE LITURGY

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

TUE., FEB. 17 Clean Tuesday

6:00 P.M. LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

WED., FEB. 18 Clean Wednesday

7:00 A.M.FIRST & THIRD HOUR

FRI., FEB. 20 Clean Friday

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

6:00 P.M. LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

SAT., FEB. 21 The Miracle of St. Theodore

9:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Intention: +Sr. Rose Elizabeth, requested by Sr. Mary Virginia

SUN., FEB. 22 FIRST SUNDAY of LENT, SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY

8:15 A.M.FIRST HOUR

8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of ST. BASIL the GREAT,

Procession with Icons

Intention: + Mary Elizabeth Olack, requested by Martha Seech

Happy Birthday Greetings:

February 7: John Poiarkoff, February 10: David Klacik

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

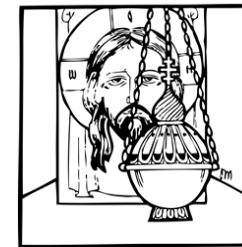
Eileen Batcha, Mary Dickey, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan

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 – Feb. 15: Prudy Peya – Feb 22: JoAnn Hersh

Troica Holders – Feb. 15: M. Bobanic – Feb. 22: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

February 15 - 21, 2026

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Roberta Dzumba

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Daughter, Janet

During the Great Fast, attend the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts every Tuesday and Friday at 6:00 P.M. (*Other Pre-Sanctified Liturgies will be at St. Mary in Ambridge every Wednesday and Thursday at 6:00 P.M.*). **The Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts takes precedence over all other Lenten devotions.**

Regular Confessions Offered

St. George 4:45-5:45 P.M. on Fridays 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 Three Aspects of the Fast

According to Byzantine tradition, the discipline of the fast consists of three parts:

Corporal (bodily) **fast**, by which we give up certain foods, drinks and amusements, in order to break the hold that such things may have over us.

Spiritual or **internal fast**, by which we seek to turn from any sin, wickedness or evil habits in our lives, so that we may come into God's presence well-prepared to celebrate our Lord's Resurrection and our redemption.

Spiritual renewal, by which we seek a greater practice of the virtues, a deeper life of prayer, repentance for our sins, and a greater conversion (metanoia) of heart, which manifests itself in good works. All of these are oriented to a deeper union with God – *theosis*.

The Lenten discipline is summarized in the **Prayer of Saint Ephrem the Syrian**.

Great Fast Traditional Guidelines:

No meat or dairy for all the fast. Fish with a backbone permitted only on Annunciation, Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday (shellfish allowed). Wine and Olive Oil allowed only on Weekends and Feast Days

Great Fast Minimum Requirements from the Archeparchy:

Simple Abstinence: The law of simple abstinence forbids the use of meat but permits the use of eggs and dairy products. All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe simple abstinence when prescribed. Abstinence is obligatory on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast.

Strict Abstinence: The law of strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use and consumption of all meat, eggs and dairy products. All faithful of the Archeparchy who receive the Eucharist are obliged to observe strict abstinence when prescribed. Strict abstinence (fast) **is to be observed in 2026 on Clean Monday, February 16th** (the first day of the Great Fast), **and on Great and Holy Friday, April 3rd.**

Prayer of Saint Ephrem

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter.

(Prostration)

Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love.

(Prostration)

Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

(Prostration)

St. Mary Divine Services for the Week:

MON., FEB. 16 Clean Monday

**6:00 P.M. LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS,
with Guest Homilist**

WED., FEB. 18 Clean Wednesday

**6:00 P.M. LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS,
Followed by Men's Group**

THUR., FEB. 19 Clean Thursday

6:00 P.M. LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

FRI., FEB. 20 Clean Friday

9:00 A.M. SIXTH & NINTH HOUR

SUN., FEB. 22 FIRST SUNDAY of LENT, SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY

10:45 A.M. THIRD HOUR

**11:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY of ST. BASIL the GREAT,
PROCESSION with ICONS**

Intention: Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Lynn Henry requested by Carol Fellenstein

St. Nicholas Chapel Divine Services for the Week:

SAT., FEB. 21 FIRST SUNDAY of LENT, SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY

**5:00 P.M. DIVINE LITURGY of ST. BASIL the GREAT
PROCESSION with ICONS**

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

Let Us Begin the Fast With Joy!

The Sunday of Forgiveness is the last Sunday prior to the commencement of Great Lent. During the pre-Lenten period, the services of the Church include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. On the Sunday of Forgiveness focus is placed on the exile of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, an event that shows us how far we have fallen in sin and separated ourselves from God. At the onset of Great Lent and a period of intense fasting, this Sunday reminds us of our need for God's forgiveness and guides our hearts, minds, and spiritual efforts on returning to Him in repentance.

Address to send
letters only to
Daniel Foister:

AB Foister, Daniel
3231 TRS/FLT 218
1320 Truemper St. Unit 364061
JBSA Lackland AFB, TX 78236-6432

A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

The Great Fast is upon us. A reminder that Clean Monday is a day of strict abstinence and all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast are days of simple abstinence.

A reminder to pay attention to the Lenten schedule of Divine Services as it is different than what we normally do throughout the year.

Please come on **Clean Monday for a special 6:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's** to start the Great Fast and hear Fr. John Naugle give us a special homily to help us kick off this season. I plan to have additional guest homilists at both St. George and St. Mary throughout the Great Fast.

We will have Men's Group at St. Mary's this Wednesday following Presanctified Divine Liturgy. A reminder that our adult education class, Byzantine Lent 101 begins Wednesday, February 25th.

During the Great Fast, the Church encourages us to go to Confession and repent of our sins. Confessions will be available 4:45-5:45 at St. Mary's on Wednesdays, 4:45-5:45 at St. George on Fridays, before Sunday liturgy at St. Nicholas Chapel and at St. George and after Sunday liturgy at St. Mary's. Fr. Don Voss will also be coming to St. Mary's on Sunday, March 15th beginning at 10:30am to hear Confessions before and during liturgy.

Next Sunday is the Sunday of Orthodoxy, in which we commemorate the defeat of the iconoclasts, who sought to prevent the veneration of icons. Note that "Orthodoxy" in this context means "right belief." We are celebrating the triumph of true doctrine over error. This does not mean we are celebrating Eastern Orthodoxy as some were wondering about last year. As is traditional on this day, we will have a procession with Icons at all three of our Churches. **Please also feel free to bring icons to be blessed.** I will place them on the Holy Table during liturgy and then sprinkle them with Holy Water afterwards.

A note on icons: If you are in the market for purchasing them we have a wonderful store at St. George! The websites Legacy Icons and Uncut Mountain Supply also make great products made by faithful Christians. I discourage purchasing from Monastery Icons as the makers of them are not actually Christian and instead follow New Age practices.

In Christ,
Fr. Anthony

“Forgive me” ... “It is God who forgives”

Sunday of Cheesefare, Forgiveness Sunday

“What is the treasure of our life? What do we value most?” Let us not answer this question flippantly, or with ease, but let us ask it seriously. The things we value most are those we tend to spend the most time with, and for. What we value most we tend to guard and keep secure. What we value most we tend to have on our mind and on our lips. What we value most we tend to invest our lives in.

A good test may be to consider what we talk about the most when we speak with others. A good test may be to consider what we look forward to most in our life each day, each week and each year.



The time of Great Lent, which begins this Sunday evening with the service of mutual forgiveness, offers us forty days to re-order our lives and make the things which we know are the most important—namely our relationship with the Lord—actually the most important. The time of Lent is a time in which we, with the grace of God, begin to focus our life on God and order all things in relationship to him.

And our relationship with the Lord is not a vague decision which we make. It is a practical reality that affects all aspects of our life; how we spend our time, what and how much we eat and when, where we go for entertainment, what we read, the types of friends we choose, etc. There is no aspect of our life which is hidden from the Lord, and there can be no aspect of our life which is not impacted by our relationship with him.

In Forgiving we become like God

Nothing makes us so like God as our readiness to forgive the wicked and wrongdoer. ... Christ is seeking in every way possible to hinder our conflicts with one another. For since love is the root of all that is good, by removing from all quarters whatever mars it He brings us together and cements us to one another. For there is not one, not a single one, whether father or mother or friend, who loves us as much as the God who created us.

(St. John Chrysostom, Commentary on Matthew)

St. Anthony the Great reminds us:

“Do not neglect the Fast; it constitutes an imitation of Christ’s way of life.”

ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

PRIEST: FATHER ANTHONY COSTANTINO

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

ST. GEORGE PHONE: 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, Oct. - May

St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club... All men & women are members and welcome to participate

Opportunities for StewardshipChurch and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday, Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month, October – May, Flea Market and food sale: June

If it is to be real, then we must embrace one another as brothers and sisters. We must look one another in the face and say, "Forgive me."

ST. MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH PRESENTS:

BYZANTINE LENT 101

EXPLAINING WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO AS
BYZANTINE CATHOLICS DURING THE GREAT FAST

FEB 25

7:15 - 8:15 PM

WHY & HOW WE FAST



Differences between
Roman & Byzantine Lent

MARCH 4

7:15 - 8:15 PM

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY



Walkthrough and
explanation

MARCH 11

7:15 - 8:15 PM

PRAYING PRIVATELY



The Jesus Prayer & forms
of personal prayer

MARCH 25

7:15 - 8:15 PM

PREPARING FOR EASTER



Our Holy Week &
Easter services

MARCH 18TH @ 6PM – GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE WILL BE PRAYED

SIGN-UP AT BACK OF CHURCH OR EMAIL STMARYAMBRIDGE@PROTONMAIL.COM

▶▶▶▶▶ 624 PARK RD. AMBRIDGE, PA ◀◀◀◀◀

Weekly Schedule for THE GREAT FAST

SUN	8:15AM ST. GEORGE 1 ST HOUR 8:30AM ST. GEORGE DL OF ST. BASIL 10:45AM ST. MARY 3 RD HOUR 11AM ST. MARY DL OF ST. BASIL
TUE	6PM ST. GEORGE PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY
WED	7AM ST. GEORGE 1 ST & 3 RD HOUR 6PM ST. MARY PRESANCTIFIED DL 7:15PM ST. MARY ADULT EDUCATION
THU	6PM ST. MARY PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY
FRI	9AM ST. MARY 6 TH & 9 TH HOUR 6PM ST. GEORGE PRESANCTIFIED DL
SAT	9AM ST. GEORGE DL OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 5PM ST. NICHOLAS DL OF ST. BASIL

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Wednesday, March 18th 6:00pm St. Mary Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
Wednesday, March 25th Annunciation 12:00pm St. George and 6:00pm St. Mary
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom