

March 15, 2026  
Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast



**SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!*

See handout for Propers, Typical Psalms: pp. 16-17, Beatitudes: pp. 23-24, St. Basil melodies: pg. 96

**St. George: Divine Services for the Week:**

SUN., MARCH 15 ..... FOURTH SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, St. John Climacus

8:15 A.M. .... FIRST HOUR

8:30 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil the Great

*Intention: For the people of St. George, St. Mary, & St. Nicholas*

TUE., MARCH 17 ..... Alexis, Man of God Venerable

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

WED., MARCH 18 ..... Cyril of Jerusalem Archbishop

7:00 A.M. .... TYPIKA with COMMUNION

FRI., MARCH 20 ..... Fathers of the St. Sabbas Monastery

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

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

SAT., MARCH 21 ..... Akathistos Saturday

8:15 A.M. .... Akathist Hymn

9:00 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom

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

10:00 A.M. .... Church Cleaning

SUN., MARCH 22 ..... FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT, St. Mary of Egypt

8:15 A.M. .... FIRST HOUR

8:30 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil the Great

*Intention: For the people of St. George, St. Mary, & St. Nicholas*

**Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:**

March 21: Mary Ann Popovich

**Wedding Anniversaries this Week:**

None for the week

**Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins**

**HOME** – Eileen Batcha, Mary Dickey, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Neil Jugan

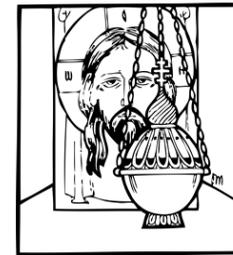
Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

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

**Epistle Readers – March 15: Dan Pinchot – March 22: JoAnn Hersh**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – March 15: R. Mudron – March 22: F. Hersh**



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

March 15 - 21, 2026

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

**+ Mary Ann Jugan**

*(in loving memory)*

Offered By:

Butch & Judy Dzumba

There are 30 rungs to the *Ladder of Divine Ascent*, one for each year of the life of Christ prior to His baptism and the beginning of His public ministry. The goal of the Christian life is love.

*Renouncing the world and its distractions –quiet desperation, aimless distractions*

*Obedience –learning the meaning of “Thy will be done!”*

*Anger –the root of hatred and violence*

*Simplicity and meekness –being honest with yourself and surrendering to God*

*Stillness -quietly resting in God –hesychia, the rejection of all that is merely noise*

*Love –“God is Love” (1 John 4:8), inebriation of the soul, the summit of the ascent*

**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

## *Happenings...*

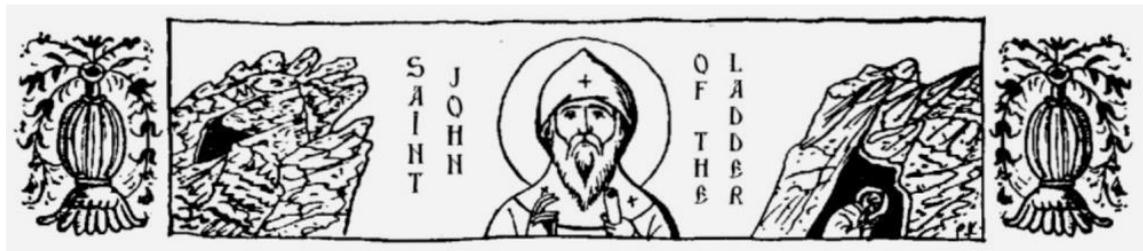
### Special Announcement

Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> will be Spring Sanctuary Cleaning Day at St. George. Please join us at 10:00am (following 9:00am Divine Liturgy) to sweep, mop, dust, and clean the surfaces in the sanctuary and sacristy. Please help us prepare a fitting space to worship God in these upcoming most important weeks of our Church year. Please bring cleaning supplies! Many hands make light work, we realistically need 4 volunteers for an hour and a half. Please let Jackie Pinchot know if you are able to help to ensure we have sufficient participation or email the office.

*We accept donations throughout the year for our annual Flea Market. Any time you have items to donate, please leave it in the Center marked as for the Flea Market. Thank you!*

### *Have you attended the Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts during this Fast?*

Then you noticed how the first half of this service is a Lenten vespers. The second half is a Communion service modeled in part on the Divine Liturgy... with one essential difference. After the usual litanies there is a Great Entrance. In this Entrance there are no gifts of bread and wine carried to the holy table. Instead, it is the Gifts sanctified last Sunday which are carried and we sing: *“Now the powers of heaven are serving with us invisibly, for behold the King of Glory enters. They escort the mystical sacrifice already accomplished”* People bow and prostrate before the Eucharist as the procession enters the holy place. The service continues with the litany before the Lord’s Prayer. The entire heart of the Divine Liturgy is skipped – the Creed, the anaphora, the offering and consecration of the Gifts – because the Gifts we receive at this service are “pre-sanctified.” The rest of the service follows much of the usual form of the Liturgy. When we find ourselves tired by Lenten fasting we should remember that Christ is there in the Pre-sanctified Gifts to refresh us spiritually and renew our commitment to Him through the Great Fast.



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

WED., MARCH 18 ..... GREAT CANON of St. Andrew of Crete  
6:00 P.M. .... GREAT CANON  
Following. .... Men’s & Women’s Group

THUR., MARCH 19 ... GREAT CANON of ST. ANDREW of CRETE  
4:45-5:45 P.M. .... Confessions  
6:00 P.M. .... LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

FRI., MARCH 20 ..... Venerable Fathers of the St. Sabbas Monastery  
9:00 A.M. .... SIXTH & NINTH HOUR

SUN., MARCH 22 ..... FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT, St. Mary of Egypt  
10:45 A.M. .... THIRD HOUR  
11:00 A.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil the Great  
*Intention: + Elsie Plumb, requested by Greg Plumb*

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

SAT., MARCH 21 ..... FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT, St. Mary of Egypt  
5:00 P.M. .... DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil the Great  
*Intention: + Donald Marnek, requested by Renee Pintado*

### *Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast*

“Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly the angel who guards you will honor your patience. While a wound is still fresh and warm it is easy to heal, but old, neglected and festering ones are hard to cure, and require for their care much treatment, cutting, plastering and cauterization. Many from long neglect become incurable. But with God all things are possible [Matthew 19:26].”  
“The first stage of this tranquility consists in silencing the lips when the heart is excited. The second, in silencing the mind when the soul is still excited. The goal is a perfect peacefulness even in the middle of the raging storm.” + *St. John Climacus*

### *It's Never too Late*

"If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him not be afraid of being too late; for he shall suffer no loss. If any have delayed until the ninth, let him not hesitate but draw near. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him not fear on account of his lateness; for the Lord, who is gracious, receives the last even as the first."

**It is never too late, to pick up and begin again, or to begin at all**

## A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear Parishioners,

**This Wednesday evening, we will celebrate the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete at 6:00pm at St. Mary's.** This is a beautiful service of repentance in which we beseech God's mercy upon us. The full service has over 300 prostrations. We will be doing an "abbreviated version" that should last roughly two hours. You are welcome to come late or leave early. You are not required to do the prostrations if you are unable, please just come and pray. All that's to say, this service is quite a workout so wear comfortable clothes! I strongly encourage all who have been attending our Adult Ed class to come for this as this is a key moment in Byzantine Lent.

Due to the Canon being celebrated Wednesday evening, I will celebrate Typika with Holy Communion at 7:00am at St. George Wednesday morning so there is an opportunity to receive our Lord in the Eucharist this day.

Because the Canon is so physically taxing, there is a mitigation for wine and oil in the traditional fasting scheme from Wednesday to Friday. The men's group will meet after the Canon for fellowship and refreshments. At the request of parishioner and cantor Catherine Richthammer, we will also be launching a **St. Mary's Women's Group**, which she will oversee. There will be a brief meeting following the Canon for refreshments as well as discussion of what the group will entail. The idea is to have the men's and women's group at the same time each month.

**This Saturday is Akathistos Saturday.** We will pray the Akathist hymn, a beautiful Marian devotion native to the Byzantine Rite at 8:15am followed by 9:00am Divine Liturgy at St. George.

**Next Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> is the one of the 12 Greats Feasts, the Annunciation.** It is the sole weekday of Lent in which Divine Liturgy is celebrated, ideally in the evening. We will have a 1:00pm Divine Liturgy at St. George and a 6:00pm Vespers Divine Liturgy with guest homilist Fr. Ladis Cizik followed by our final Adult Ed class at St. Mary. Each liturgy will be offered for the intentions of the respective pirohy workers of each parish, who have been working very hard this Lent.

We will have an **Easter Basket making class at St. George's on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am** following Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday. This is a great opportunity to learn the spiritual meaning of what we put into our Easter baskets and to be exposed to a beautiful Rusyn custom.

Please sign up if you wish to join us for our parish field trip to Christ the Bridegroom Monastery for Bridegroom Matins on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am. Bishop Robert will not be able to celebrate this year, but it will still be a wonderful opportunity to visit the Monastery for its patronal feast and see the nuns.

In Christ,  
*Fr. Anthony*

*Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief!*

## ***The Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast***

### **Teachings of St. John of the Ladder**

Our Holy Father among the Saints St John Climacus is the author of a powerful spiritual work that is divided into about thirty chapters, called "steps", as part of the overall book entitled, "The Ladder of Divine Ascent." As the Great Fast is about our ascending to the things of Heaven, it is entirely appropriate that the Church focus on the ascetical enterprise as presented by this work and on the person of its author who is celebrated on the Fourth Sunday of the Fast.

THE LADDER begins with the rejection of worldliness, and ends with God, Who is love. As we climb the ladder of virtues while making our way toward Christ, we must remember that our focus must remain on the Person and power of our Saviour. As we advance in the spiritual life slowly, taking it one "step" at a time, we need to be in a state of constant prayer, especially the "Jesus Prayer". A Christian is one who imitates Christ in thought, word, and deed, as far as is possible for human beings. Follow Christ without anxiety or hesitation, always looking heavenward and expecting help from there. I do not know whether we must all teach others: but teach yourselves at all costs. Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. If anyone could see their own vices accurately without the veil of self-love, they would worry about nothing else in this life. If the Holy Spirit is peace of soul, then nothing so prevents the presence of the Spirit in us as anger.



This is a very vivid icon of the Ladder of Divine Ascent. It shows people ascending toward heaven with angels helping them. It also shows demons pulling people off the ladder, causing them to fall into the pits of hell. In today's Gospel passage, we are shown that through faith in Christ all things are possible. We too need to cry as the father in today's Gospel, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief." Furthermore, this passage reveals that faith to conquer our demons comes only from prayer and fasting. At this point, Christ begins to reveal to the disciples about His upcoming suffering.

### **For your reflection:**

1. Who could not cast out the evil spirit?
2. What three things did Jesus say about their lack of faith?
3. What is a requirement of healing?

***Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief!***

# SAINT 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](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** ..... Fridays during Lent 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

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

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

*"Forgetting offenses is a sign of sincere repentance. If you keep the memory of them, you may believe you have repented but you are like someone running in his sleep."*

*- St. John Climacus*



St. George  
 Byzantine Catholic Church  
*Presanctified Liturgy*

Friday, March 27, 2026

6 pm



**Guest Homilist**  
**Fr. Ryan Liebhaber**  
 Administrator of St. Michael's  
 Byzantine Catholic Church in  
 Pleasant City, OH

*Fr. Ryan will be available for confessions  
 beginning at 5 pm*



1001 Clinton St.  
 Aliquippa, PA 15001

## 2026 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE of LITURGIES

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

**SAINT MARY'S**  
 BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
 624 PARK RD.  
 AMBRIDGE, PA 15003

**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
 BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHAPEL  
 5400 TUSCARAWAS ROAD  
 BEAVER, PA. 15009

### LAZARUS SATURDAY - MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>

9am | Divine Liturgy at *St. George*  
 10am | Easter Basket Making Class at *St. George*  
 5pm | Palm Sunday Vigil Divine Liturgy at *St. Nicholas*

### PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>

8:30am | Divine Liturgy at *St. George*  
 11am | Divine Liturgy at *St. Mary's*

### HOLY & GREAT MONDAY - MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>

No Divine Services Scheduled

### HOLY & GREAT TUESDAY - MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>

6pm | Presanctified Divine Liturgy with Holy Anointing at *St. George*

### HOLY & GREAT WEDNESDAY - APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>

6pm | Presanctified Divine Liturgy with Holy Anointing at *St. Mary's*

### HOLY & GREAT THURSDAY - APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>

9am | Matins of the Commemoration of the Mystical Supper at *St. George*  
 6pm | Vespers of Basil the Great at *St. Mary's*

### HOLY & GREAT FRIDAY - APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>

9am | Matins of the Twelve Passion Gospels at *St. George*  
 1pm | Royal Hours of Good Friday with Burial Procession at *St. George*  
 6pm | Vespers of the Burial of our Lord, God, & Savior Jesus Christ  
 (with fast-friendly snacks available afterwards) at *St. Mary's*  
 8:15pm | Jerusalem Matins at *St. Mary's*



### HOLY & GREAT SATURDAY - APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>

9am | Vespers of Basil the Great at *St. Mary's*  
 4pm | **Paschal Divine Liturgy** with Blessing of  
 Easter Baskets at *St. Nicholas*  
 6:30pm | **Midnight Office of Pascha** at *St. George*  
 7pm | **Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy**  
 with Blessing of Easter Baskets at *St. George*

### PASCHA - APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>

10am | Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy  
 with Blessing of Easter Baskets at *St. Mary's*