November 15, 2026

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

THE VICTORY BEARER

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!
Слава Исусу Христу! ~ Слава на вики!

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 8: pp. 161 - 163

St. George: Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., NOV. 15 ..... TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
8:30 A.M. .....TYPICA with COMMUNION

WED., NOV. 18 ..... Plato and Roman, Martyrs
7:00 A.M. ..... FIRST & THIRD HOUR, Reader Service

SAT., NOV. 21 ..... ENTRANCE of the THEOTOKOS, Solemn Holy Day
8:15 A.M. ..... FESTAL MATINS
9:30 A.M. .....DIVINE LITURGY
Intention: + Gordon Jn Baptiste, *requested by Sr. Mary Virginia*

SUN., NOV. 22 ..... TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
8:15 A.M. .....FIRST HOUR
8:30 A.M. .....DIVINE LITURGY
Intention: + Johnson Jn Baptiste, *requested by Sr. Mary Virginia*

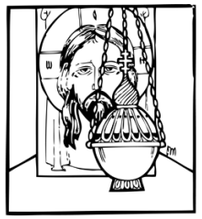
Fr. Anthony is away until Wednesday, November 18th. Please call Fr. Jospeh Raptosh our Protopresbyter, at St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in Canonsburg at 724-745-7117 in case of a sacramental emergency.

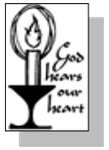
Happy Birthday Greetings:
November 15: James Mudron, November 16: JoAnn Hersh

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins
HOME – Eileen Batcha, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Neil Jugan, Marian Yurosky

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 – November 15: JoAnn Hersh – November 22: Dan Pinchot
Ushers – Stand in as needed
Troica Holders – November 15: C. Winslow – November 22: M. Bobanic





THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
November 15 - 21, 2026
Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:
Our Parishioners

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

Regular Confessions Offered
St. George ……..…..… Before every Sunday Divine Liturgy
St. Mary …. Beginning 5:00 P.M. Wednesdays and following every Sunday Divine Liturgy
St. Nicholas ……..…….…..... 4:00-4:45 P.M. before Vigil Liturgy on Saturdays

St. Nicholas Day
CELEBRATION



For the parishioners and friends of St. George, St. Mary & St. Nicholas Chapel

Saturday, Dec. 12, 2026

St. George Byzantine Catholic Church

Divine Liturgy at 5 pm

Buffet Dinner to follow in church hall

Cookie tray raffle and 50/50 raffle

Bring a wrapped gift ($15 value) for the very popular gift exchange game. There will be an adult game AND a children's game!

Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or by email by Sunday, Nov. 29

stgeorgealiquippa@protonmail.com

We are looking for bakers!

The Ladies Guild is looking for donations of cookies for the very popular Christmas Cookie Tray Raffle at the St. Nicholas party (Dec. 12). Please see Jackie or Isabel if you can help!

St. Mary: Divine Services for the Week:

WED., NOV. 18 …… Plato and Roman, Martyrs
6:00 P.M. ……. DIVINE LITURGY
Following …….. Men's Group
Intention: + John Hredzak, *requested by Jonathan Dohanich*

THURS., NOV. 19 ……Obadiah, Prophet
7:45 A.M. ……. DIVINE LITURGY
Intention: Special Intention, *requested by Patricia Costo*

FRI., NOV. 20 …… ENTRANCE of the THEOTOKOS, Solemn Holy Day, *Anticipated*
6:00 P.M. ……VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY
Following …….. Light Social
Intention: + Dennis Fisher, *requested by Patricia Costo*

SUN., NOV. 22 …….. TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
10:30 A.M. ……Confessions with Fr. Don Voss through end of Divine Liturgy
10:45 A.M. …….. THIRD HOUR
11:00 A.M. ……..DIVINE LITURGY
Intention: Intention: + Antoinette Kurash, *requested by Lesack Family*

St. Nicholas: Divine Services for the Week:

SAT., NOV. 21 ……..TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST
5:00 P.M. …….. DIVINE LITURGY
Intention: For the People of St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas Chapel

If you do not love your neighbor you do not love the Lord

The Lord teaches that the man going down was the neighbor of no one except of him who wanted to keep the Commandments and prepare himself to be a neighbor to everyone that needs help. This is what is found after the end of the parable, "Which of these three does it seem to you is the neighbor of the man who fell among robbers?" Neither the priest nor the Levite was his neighbor, but – as the teacher of the law himself answered – "he who showed pity" was his neighbor. The Savior says, "Go and do likewise."

Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!

A Note from Fr. Anthony

Dear parishioners,

Today we begin the Nativity Fast. A reminder that we are recommended to abstain from meat on Wednesdays in addition to Fridays at the very minimum.

This week we celebrate the Entrance of the Theotokos, one of the 12 Great Feasts. We commemorate Mary being taken to the Temple and dedicated to God as a small child. See above for the schedule.

Next week, we will begin having 9:30am Divine Liturgy on Tuesdays at St. George.

Looking ahead, we will have Thanksgiving Day Divine Liturgy at 9:00am at St. Mary's. Come and give thanks to the Lord for all his great blessings.

Save the date, our combined St. Nicholas dinner and party at St. George will be Saturday, December 12th. We will have a 5:00pm Divine Liturgy followed by our party. Please sign up in the back of the Church. This is an absolutely great party and I cannot recommend coming enough.

In Christ,
Fr. Anthony

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

O Christ the Savior, our true God, come to us and save us!

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



In today's Gospel, Luke 10:25-37, a lawyer asks Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Christ points him back to Scripture: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart…and your neighbor as yourself." Eternal life is not earned through status or knowledge alone. It is received through love, lived fully.

Seeking clarity, the lawyer asks, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus responds with the parable of the Good Samaritan. A man is attacked and left for dead. A priest and a Levite, men of religious standing, see him but pass by. Their actions remind us that faith without mercy is incomplete. Then a Samaritan, considered an outsider, stops. He binds the man's wounds, carries him to safety, and pays for his care. This is love in action.

And what is this love? The Samaritan pours wine and oil into the wounds of the man. These items symbolize the two aspects found in authentic love. The wine, used as an antiseptic, would sting when poured into the wound. Though painful, cleansing is necessary lest the wound deepen. In the same way, authentic love can "sting" when it exposes our own brokenness and calls us to healing. Yet this exposure must always be accompanied by care and encouragement, symbolized by the soothing, protective oil. Finally, the Samaritan was willing to accompany the victim in whatever way his healing required. True love and compassion always ask: "What does this person need me to be for them in this moment?"—without counting the cost to ourselves.

As Byzantine Catholics, we are called to embody this mercy. Christ teaches that our neighbor is not just the familiar or the faithful but anyone in need. We are to love as He loves: generously, sacrificially, without prejudice.

Let us reflect: Do I love God with everything I have? Do I love others as I love myself? The key to Heaven lies in this divine command. May we hear Jesus' words anew: "Go and do likewise."

Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple, Nov. 21



The Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple, also called The Entrance of Our Lady into the Temple, is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Byzantine Rite, celebrated on November 21.

The earliest source of this feast is the non-canonical *Protoevangelium of James*, also called the *Infancy Gospel of James*, composed in Syria around 150 AD. The point of the stories is to emphasize Jesus' divinity, the celibacy of Joseph and Mary, and Mary's perpetual virginity against various heretical movements that denied all of these.

In this legendary story, Mary was solemnly received in the Temple by the priest Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. She was said to have been led inside, accompanied by virgins, to live inside the Holy of Holies, to prepare her to become the living sanctuary of God when she would conceive the Divine Child. She was fed only with bread by the angels, until the age of twelve when she was betrothed to Joseph, who was an old man. This so-called gospel was written with scant knowledge of Judaism and its practices, as a little girl would never have been admitted into the Holy of Holies. Only the High Priest went in, and only once a year.

So why commemorate liturgically something which we know, through biblical archaeology and Jewish studies, to have never taken place? Here is the primary meaning: the symbolism of *today links the Holy-of-Holies in the Temple with the womb of Mary which will become the living chamber of the Most High God.* Also, it emphasizes the *specialness of Mary as a person*: she is indeed an all-pure and all-holy virgin. Finally, living on bread brought by angels prefigures the Holy Eucharist, the Angelic Bread. There were some women associated with the Temple, like Anna the prophetess, but they were not virgins, and certainly not little children.

St. Gregory Palamas preached:

God is born of the spotless and Holy Virgin, or better to say, of the Most Pure and All-Holy Virgin. She is above every fleshly defilement, and even above every impure thought. Her conceiving resulted not from fleshly lust, but by the overshadowing of the Most Holy Spirit. Such desire being utterly alien to her, it is through prayer and spiritual readiness that She declared to the angel: "Behold the handmaiden of the Lord; be it done unto Me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38), and that She conceived and gave birth. So, in order to render the Virgin worthy of this sublime purpose, God marked this ever-virgin Daughter now praised by us, from before the ages, and from eternity, choosing Her from out of His elect.

Nativity Fast

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

NOV 20
FRIDAY / 6:00 PM

VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS
SOLEMN HOLY DAY

LOCATION: ST. MARY'S

NOV 21
SATURDAY / 8:15 AM

8:15 FESTAL MATINS
9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS, **SOLEMN HOLY DAY**
LOCATION: ST. GEORGE



NOV 22
SUNDAY / 10:30 AM

CONFESSIONS WITH FR. DON VOSS OFFERED THROUGH DIVINE LITURGY

LOCATION: ST. MARY'S

NOV 26
THURSDAY / 9:00 AM

DIVINE LITURGY FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

LOCATION: ST. MARY'S

DEC 3
THURSDAY / 6:00 PM

6-7 PM CONFESSIONS WITH FR. MARK LE ROY
6:30 PM EMMANUEL MOLEBEN FOLLOWED BY **THEOLOGY ON TAP**
LOCATION: ST. GEORGE



DEC 8
TUESDAY

MATERNITY OF ANNA
SOLEMN HOLY DAY
9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY AT **ST. GEORGE**
6:00 PM DIVINE LITURGY AT **ST. MARY'S**

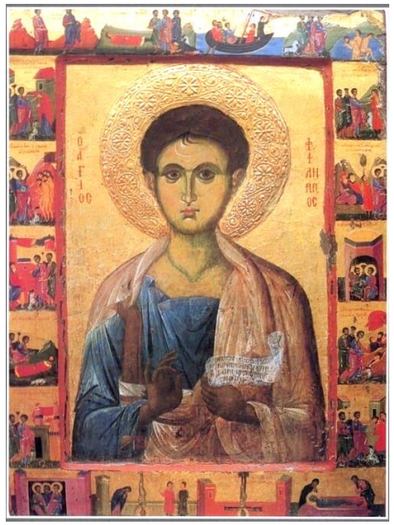
DEC 11
FRIDAY / 6:00 PM

VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE THEOTOKOS OF GUADALUPE FOLLOWED BY A FIESTA

LOCATION: ST. MARY'S

ST. MARY: 624 PARK RD. AMBRIDGE, PA
ST. GEORGE: 1001 CLINTON ST. ALIQUIPPA, PA

St. Philip's Fast/Nativity Fast



The Pre-Christmas Fast, or Saint Philip's Fast (Filipovka) is connected to Saint Philip the Apostle because his feast day is forty days before Christmas, and forty days has a repeated biblical significance. The fasting is designed to help us to prepare to see Christ come into the world, and the beginning of His public ministry on Theophany (January 6).

The Nativity and the Theophany are two sides of one coin. So, when we arrive at Bethlehem on December 25, we should begin to prepare for the Baptism of the Lord. Our enjoyment of Christmas should drive us forward to see the Theophany. With Theophany, the mystery of God is fully revealed to us. The mystery long awaited in the Old Testament comes true in Jesus Christ.

Philip is a perfect choice for meditating on Christmas. He asks Jesus to help the apostles see God the Father, which gives Jesus the opportunity to explain His relationship with the Father during the Last Discourse in John's Gospel. He brings Greek pilgrims, who wish to see Jesus, to Andrew, and together they bring them to the Lord (John 12:21-23). At his calling, when Jesus says "Follow Me", Philip not only follows Him immediately, but also brings along Nathaniel/ Bartholomew. So, he fits in quite well for starting the meditation as to who Jesus is to us, do we wish to see Him, do we truly want to be His disciples, and are we willing to bring others to our Church and the Faith?

What we do know for certain is Saint Philip came from Bethsaida, and had been a disciple of St John the Baptist (John 1:44). He is always listed fifth in the apostles, after the sets of brothers Peter and Andrew, James and John. We know that he was married, and had children, due to the ancient testimony of Clement of Alexandria. It is presumed that he spoke Greek, since he brings Greeks to Jesus in John 12.

Various non-canonical gospels and legends present him as an evangelist in Greece and the Near East, usually with Nathaniel, and ending with martyrdom in Hierapolis. The ancient church still stands among the ruins of Hierapolis, complete with the first-century tomb of the apostle and the original martyr's shrine dedicated to him.

The Preparatory Season for the Nativity of our Lord



The six weeks prior to Christmas (the Nativity of our Lord in the Flesh) is a fasting period that many call Advent. Advent means "coming." It is that period of time when we find ourselves waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ. (All three terms mean the same thing.) For this reason, it has a different character than other fasting periods. Although there is an element of preparation involved, it is not the same as the Great Fast that precedes Holy Week and Pascha.

The liturgical preparation is limited to the two Sundays before the Nativity and the five days leading up to the feast. Those two Sundays we are reminded of the Holy Ancestors of God and the Holy Fathers, Patriarchs, and Prophets who played a role in the coming of the Messiah. In the hymns of the Sunday cycle of services, we hear of their great faith and are called to build our own.

For most of us, we are anxious to get to the feast — we want the days to rush by. Our preparation usually consists of shopping and decorating, not to speak of the endless parties that we are invited to attend. Here is where the notion of waiting comes into play. We must discipline ourselves through self-control and patience. We are to read the Scriptures, specifically the prophecies that speak of the coming of the Messiah. We are to turn our focus to a Godly way of life that calls for sacrificing and almsgiving (acts of mercy). Let us think of charity and the giving of our time, talents, and resources to others that may be in need. There is no better way to imitate Christ than to be loving and charitable towards others.

A word to the wise — **put Christ back into Christmas**. Find the meaning of the feast by understanding the importance of the Son of God taking on human flesh. Remember the real reason for the season is that Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah, came into the world and dwelt among men, taking on Himself the sins of the world so that we might have life in Him.

"God is with us! Give ear, O you nations, be humbled, for God is with us!"

(Isaiah 8:9)

Guest Confessors for Nativity Fast

Each parish will have a guest Confessor during the Nativity Fast to help us prepare spiritually for Christmas. Fr. Don Voss will be at St. Mary's beginning at 10:30am on Sunday, November 22nd and will hear Confessions all through Divine Liturgy. Newly-ordained Fr. Mark LeRoy will hear Confessions at St. George on Thursday, December 3rd from 6:00pm through the end of the Emmanuel Moleben before our last Theology on Tap.

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001



PRIEST: FATHER ANTHONY COSTANTINO

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Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238

Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, 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

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

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Слава Исусу Христу! Слава на вики!