

February 17, 2019  
Sunday of the Prodigal Son



## SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Glory to Jesus Christ ~ Glory Forever! Slava Isusu Christu! ~ Slava Na Viki!  
Proprs for this Sunday: pp: 152 - 153, Tone 6 and pg. 216

### Divine Services for the Week:

**SUN., FEB. 17**  
8:00 A.M. **SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON**  
8:30 A.M. *Holy Rosary*  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ **Anna George**, offered by Dolores DiGiovine

The Lord's Day is the original feast day... a day of joy and freedom from work

**FRI., FEB. 22**  
7:00 P.M. **ALL-SOULS SATURDAY**  
**DIVINE LITURGY and Hramoty\***

**SUN., FEB. 24**  
8:00 A.M. **MEATFARE SUNDAY, SUNDAY OF LAST JUDGMENT**  
8:30 A.M. *Holy Rosary*  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ **Pete Yanchik**, offered by Yanchik family

### 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.

Bulletins are available online for your convenience at  
[stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org/bulletin/](http://stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org/bulletin/)

### Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

February 22: Reagan Cody

### Wedding Anniversaries This Week:

None for the Week

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

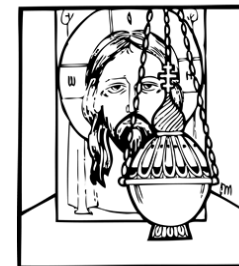
**HOME** – Margaret Barilla, Eileen Batcha, Natalie Jugan-Diaz, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Alice Haber, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Neil Jugan, Marion Malackanich, Josephine Maruhnich, Carole Panella, Mary Salamon

**Hunter's Care Home** (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

**West Hills Health & Rehab Center** (951 Brodhead Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108) – Margaret Klacik

**Beaver Meadows** (5130 Tuscarawas Rd, Beaver, PA 15009) - Paul Valiga, Angie Yuhasz

**Epistle Readers** – Feb. 17: Jo Ann Hersh – Feb. 24: Joanne Futato  
Ushers – Feb. 17: M. Mudron/T. Liller – Feb. 24: R. Dzumba/F. Hersh  
Troica Holders – Feb. 17: F. Hersh – Feb. 24: T. Liller



### THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP **February 17 - 23, 2019**

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

+ Mary Popovich  
*(In loving Memory)*

Offered By:  
Family



Correction: Last week's Sanctuary Lamp burned for **Health and God's Blessings**  
for Juliana Raychevich, by mother, Marge.

"Everyone must give according to whatever he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver."  
(2 Cor 9:7)

**Action Plan: Education / Social Ministry / Outreach**

Evangelism is EVERYONE’S job. WE need to move forward with implementing our action plan. EVERYONE can contribute something whether ideas or action. Our ECF program has begun planning for Education. Our Social Ministry/Outreach is our next step. This is where YOU come in. Ideas and suggestions can be discussed every week as needed during coffee hour. We will also schedule meetings. Your involvement can be simple or multifaceted. Please see Jo Ann Hersh, who was our parish representative at the Assembly, to plan your involvement. **God has entrusted this parish to us; its future is in our hands.** *Thank you!*

**Small steps: Lenten Bible Study planned.**  
**MORE new information on our website (Below):**

**WHO ARE WE?**

The Catholic Church is a communion of churches. It is made up of churches from the Eastern Tradition and the Western Tradition. Eastern Catholics are in union with Rome. We share the same basic faith and the same mysteries (sacraments), however, our way of expressing them follows the same tradition as the Orthodox churches. In reality, there are many Eastern churches, each with its own heritage and theology, liturgy and discipline.

Jesus sent his disciples to the four corners of the world to spread the Gospel. Eventually, four great centers of Christianity emerged with distinctive Christian customs, but the same faith. These centers were Jerusalem, Antioch, Rome and Alexandria. A few centuries later when the capital of the Roman Empire was moved to the Eastern city of Byzantium, later renamed Constantinople, an adaptation of the Antioch celebration of the liturgy was made.

From this powerful cultural center the Byzantine church emerged.

*(Radvansky, Joseph.  
A Brief Explanation of the Eastern Catholic Churches, Introduction)*

Thus the Byzantine Catholic Church is an Eastern Church in union with Rome; Carpatho-Rusyn in background and flavor, but indeed an American Eastern Church celebrating the Gospel in words, symbols, and action. We are unique in our mystical theology, blending the colors of our many ikons with the congregational acapella chants; raising up our hands and our fragrant incense in prayer and inviting you to come and see who we are and what we are all about as part of the Eastern half of the Universal Church.

*We are taking donations throughout the year for our annual Flea Market. Any time you have an item to donate, please leave it in the Center. **FYI: Donations will not be stored in the Center, merely dropped off to be moved to the Flea Market storage area immediately. That was always the plan. Flea Market donations will not “pile up” in the Center as some have thought.***

**\*HRAMOTY:** This venerable custom was transmitted to us by our ancestors as a part of our beautiful spiritual heritage. Every year, just before Meat-Fare Saturday, the families give the lists of their departed loved ones (Hramoty) to the pastor with the request that they be mentioned at the services held for the deceased on the All Souls Saturday. And St. John Chrysostom assures us that: “It is a great honor to be worthy of mention, while the celebration of the Holy Mysteries is going on.” (Homily on the Acts 21, 4) **Members of the family are encouraged to attend these services on the All Souls Saturdays for by their presence and by their personal prayers and receiving Holy Communion they strengthen the bond of love with their departed loved ones and indeed keep their memory everlasting!**

*Amongst your offertory envelopes you have an envelope for the commemoration of departed souls marked “All Soul’s Saturdays Remembrance”. Please write the names of your deceased loved ones on this envelope and drop the envelope in the collection basket.*

**Lenten Soup Sale**

There will be a soup sale just in time for your strict fast needs. We will sell delicious homemade vegetable soup on **Forgiveness Sunday, March 3** following Divine Liturgy. Our strict fast begins the next day, March 4. The soup will be \$8.00 per quart. **There is an order form in the Center.**



**Five-Week Bible Study for the Great Fast and Soup Supper**

Beginning March 10, during the Great Fast, there will be a Bible Study video presentation along with a soup supper every Sunday afternoon/evening at **5:00 P.M.** entitled **Divine Liturgy: Traveling through Scripture**. Each participant will receive a small **Book of the Hours for the Great Fast**. There will be time for discussion with guest participant Cory Bates, Master of Theology Student at Franciscan University (studying under noted Theologian, author, and lecturer Dr. Scott Hahn). Join us in the café/bar area of the Center every Sunday during the Great Fast for spiritual reflection, fasting supper, and fellowship.

***You don’t know what you don’t know so come and find out!***

**WELCOME**

We extend a warm welcome to our parishioners, visitors, and friends. We are glad that you have come to worship with us today and pray that your participation in our parish will be enriching to you. Following every Sunday Divine Liturgy, Fellowship Coffee and doughnuts are served! We invite everyone to join us in our café.



**Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.**

Psalm 133:1

## Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The parable of the Prodigal Son speaks of many things including the terrible corrupting effects of sin, the unconditional love of God and the hard work and joy of REPENTANCE. Can repentance be joyful?

Repentance is much more than making a list and admitting our sins. It implies the willingness to make a radical transformation. Metanoia-μετάνοια, the Greek word for repentance, literally means to turn around, to change one's mind or direction.

Repentance cannot be merely a recognizing sin in our lives. We must also change the way we think about ourselves, about God, about life itself. The Prodigal Son came to believe he was invincible. Notice, he did not change his mind on his own. Running out of money and into debt changed it for him, but a real transformation began in him when he realized the way to end his suffering: to return home. Facing the consequences at home, he reasoned, would be far better than continuing life in a pigpen. He changed his mind. He accepted that he was not invincible. I'll bet at some point he attempted to blame his father for his ill fortune while he ate those pods. Do we not usually look for someone else to blame when things don't go right? Eventually he came to know the truth. He came to understand that no one else was to blame. His understanding of himself changed at that moment. He came face to face with reality, with his stupid decision and irresponsible behavior. He stood and walked away not only from a pigpen, but from a lie.

If we want to make progress during this upcoming Great Fast-Lent we too must turn away from the lies around which we have built our lives. That is why the Church asks us to begin the Lenten journey by first seeking one another's forgiveness and giving it in the great ritual of Forgiveness Vespers. We must take responsibility for our actions and forgive any who have wronged us. Then we are instructed through one of the Church's holy prayers "to still all earthly and material thoughts." On this Sunday, together with the Prodigal Son let us also embrace the idea of repentance as embracing a new way of seeing and living life. Amen

**God is the Merciful Father who, in Jesus, loves us beyond all measure...**

**- Pope Francis**



## Meatfare Sunday

Next Sunday, February 24, *The Sunday of the Last Judgment*, marks the mid-point of our preparation of the Great Fast. It was traditionally called Meatfare Sunday because it was the last day meat was eaten until Pascha. Though this strict monastic observance has been relaxed in recent years, many keep this practice today. Whether we keep the original observance or abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays, we still have this day to ease into the Great Fast, where we will fast, spend more time in prayer, make a sincere effort to attend Lenten services during the week, and grow closer to God in anticipation of Pascha.

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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."*

Saint John Climacus, The Ladder of Divine Ascent, Step 28.5

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### **St. Kosmos: Hatred is the Devil's Poison**

Even if we perform upon thousands of good works, my brethren: fasts, prayers, almsgiving; even if we shed our blood for our Christ and we don't have these two loves [love of God and love of brethren], but on the contrary have hatred and malice toward our brethren, all the good we have done is of the devil and we go to hell. But, you say, we go to hell despite all the good we do because of that little hatred?

Yes, my brethren, because that hatred is the devil's poison, and just as when we put a little yeast in a hundred pounds of flour it has such power that it causes all the dough to rise, so it is with hatred. It transforms all the good we have done into the devil's poison.

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### **On Helping to Quench Anger**

*A man who is wrathful with us is a sick man; we must apply a plaster to his heart - love; we must treat him kindly, speak to him gently, lovingly. And if there is not deeply-rooted malice against us within him, but only a temporary fit of anger, you will see how his heart, or his malice, will melt away through your kindness and love - how good will conquer evil. A Christian must always be kind, gracious, and wise in order to conquer evil by good.*

- St. John of Kronstadt

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

OFFICE PHONE: 724-375-2742

FAX: 724-375-8776



ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652

PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org](http://www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org)

Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, David Klacik, E.C.F.coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh  
Louisa Hersh Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff

- Holy Mystery of Reconciliation.....Before and after Liturgies
- Holy Mysteries of Initiation.....Contact the church office
- Holy Mystery of Anointing .....Ask prior to surgery or serious illness
- Holy Mystery of Marriage .....Contact the church office eight months prior to wedding
- Religious Education Classes.....September through May, following Sunday Divine liturgy
- Pirohi Sales ..... 2nd Friday of each month
- St. George Ladies’ Guild & Men’s Club..... Everyone welcome to participate

*Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
Together in the Holy Trinity ... One Faith, One Church, One Future! Giving thanks to  
God the Father through him.* (Colossians 3:17)