

March 17, 2019  
Second Sunday of Lent, Saint Gregory Palamas



**SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Glory to Jesus Christ ~ Glory Forever! Slava Isusu Christu! ~ Slava Na Viki!  
Propers for this Sunday: pg. , Tone 2 and pp.

Divine Services for the Week:

**SUN., MAR. 17** SECOND SUNDAY of the LENT, SAINT GREGORY PALAMAS

8:00 A.M. Holy Rosary

8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY, *Blessing of Icons*  
+ Pete Yanchik, offered by Yanchik family

**TUE., MAR 19** Funeral Divine Liturgy, Fr. Russel Duker officiating  
10:00 A.M. for Maryann Dobias

**FRI., MAR. 22** THIRD FRIDAY OF LENT  
7:00 P.M. LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

*St. Mary: Wed. March 20  
7:00 P.M.  
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy*

The Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts takes precedence over all other Lenten devotions.

**SAT., MAR., 23** THIRD ALL SOULS SATURDAY  
9:00. A.M. DIVINE LITURGY, *Hramoty*

**SUN., MAR. 24** THIRD SUNDAY of the LENT, VENERATION of the CROSS,  
PRE-FESTIVE DAY of the ANNUNCIATION

8:00 A.M. Holy Rosary

8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY  
+

**Blessing of Crosses Next Sunday** - Next Sunday, March 24th, we will celebrate the Third Sunday of the Great Fast on which we honor the Holy and Life-giving Cross of Our Savior. According to our Liturgical tradition, the Cross is carried from the altar on a tray of flowers and placed in the midst of the congregation so that we may pay homage to the symbol of our salvation. . As part of this commemoration, a blessing of Crosses will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Please bring any crosses you wish to have blessed next Sunday.

**Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:**

March 10: Richard Mudron, March 11: Kenneth Futato, March 12: Betsy Mraovich,

**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

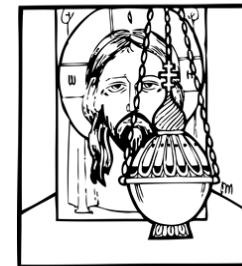
**West Hills Health & Rehab Center** (951 Brodhead Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108) – Margaret Klacik

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

**Epistle Readers** – March 17: Louisa Hersh – March 24:

Ushers – March 17: F. Hersh/M. Bobanic – March 24:

Troica Holders – March 17: R. Mudron – March 24:



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP  
March 17 - 23, 2019

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord:*



For the Parishioners

“Everyone must give according to whatever he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

(2 Cor 9:7)

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

## Action Plan Follow up Report

The Archeparchial Commission for Renewal and Revitalization is requesting an Action Plan follow-up report from all parishes. The report is due by March 26. Today following Liturgy during coffee hour, please give your input for the report. It should not be written by only one person. A quick meeting will be called during coffee hour for parish input in completing the questionnaire.

## Action Plan: Education / Social Ministry / Outreach

**What is still needed? Something we can ALL do. We all have family or friends who are members of this Church who don't come for one reason or another. No matter the reason, we both want and need them back. Invite them! The Great Fast is a time for renewal and is the perfect time to invite others to Church. We are in challenging times. Every single person makes a difference.**

## Altar Servers Needed!!!

We are in need of altar servers to help out as needed. Any men of the parish of ANY age who would like to contribute are asked to speak to Erik Fetkovich or put your name in the M.A.P. Box. You will be shown what to do. Let us consider this part of our Action Plan of Social Ministry. Are you looking for a way to volunteer or to extend your volunteering in our parish? Then we need you! Please consider stepping up to help in this vital ministry! **Every single person makes a difference.**

\***M**ake comments, **A**sk questions, **P**rovide suggestions. Our Map Box is located on the bulletin table in the back of the Church. Use this box for suggestions and questions to help our Church grow and to help us grow. Find your way to improve our Parish Family.

*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.*

## 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

+ Great Fast ... the Bright Sadness +

## Join our Bible Study!



Last Sunday we began our Lenten Bible Study and soup supper, entitled **Divine Liturgy: Traveling through Scripture**. There was a very good turnout and it was very informative and spiritually rewarding. Join us **TODAY** and every Sunday afternoon/evening during the Great Fast at **5:00 P.M.** for spiritual reflection, fasting supper, and fellowship.

*This Bible study is the ideal companion for our spiritual journey through the Great Fast.*

## Lenten Library

As the Great Lenten Fast continues, we remind all parishioners that resources are available to support your individual journey. If you have fulfilled your basic Lenten obligations for fasting this past week, but are feeling that you should or could do more to prepare for Easter/Pascha, please explore our Church library after attending Divine Services. We have various books and publications that you can readily review and check out/take home with you to encourage yourself to reflect and pray during this most solemn time of the liturgical year. **These resources are available at the Church Store display in the Center.**



*Church Library*

## Prayers Needed

Please pray for Gregory Popivchak, Financer Officer of the Archeparchy. Gregory works with financial matters for all of the parishes with-in our Archeparchy. Kindly remember him in your prayers.

## Confession

With the Lenten Season upon us, it is time to remember the need for confession. With this in mind, confession will be available before and after Church services on Sundays and Fridays.

**Members of the family are encouraged to attend the 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!**

A sign-up sheet is now in the Center to donate altar candles for Pascha (Easter)



## Second Sunday of the Great Fast

On this Lenten journey, we have before us a man who is paralyzed, and who has friends that care for him and bring him to the Lord to be healed. He has four friends that will take him on his bed, and want to bring him to Christ. But as we read in the Gospel reading from the holy evangelist Mark 2: 1-12 because of the press (the crowd of people), he couldn't get to Jesus.

What is this press? This "press" is often mentioned in other healings; this press is the obstacles that we encounter in our Christian life. We encounter great obstacles. Now in the case of this man who was paralyzed, he wouldn't have the

strength to press through a group of people on his own, and even with help it would be immensely difficult; how can you carry a stretcher through a huge crowd of people? It is not possible. So what did they do? They overcame the press by climbing onto the roof.

A roof is high above all things. The scripture uses this analogy just as it uses mountains sometimes, to say that this is how we should be in our Christian life. We should look up, we should be thinking of spiritual things, not of carnal things, not of just daily things, and we should elevate our mind - to contemplate pure things, and things that God wishes us to know. These people got up on the roof. So of course it was a practical act to get up on the roof, so that they could break the roof tiles and let him down, and it was rather ingenious actually. But it is also an indication of how we should be in our lives.

So how do we get past the press? How do we get past the difficulties we face in our lives? Get up on the roof. Not just get up on the roof, but there must be labor, both physical and spiritual, involved in the Christian life. One of the greatest heresies of all time that we face in our modern society is that the Christian life can be fought without labor, that salvation can be gathered and garnered without labor. This is the great heresy of our age — it has been around now for quite some time — that we can actually be saved without labor. The answer to that is very clear: Oh NO! It takes great labor on our part to be saved; it takes effort for us to push by the press; it takes effort for us to get on the roof, to elevate our minds to things above and not to things below. May this Lenten journey make us stronger in our efforts to face the "press", the daily difficulties in life that we encounter. Amen.



The second Sunday of the Great Fast is the commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas. It was Saint Gregory (d.1359) who bore living witness that we all can become divine through the grace of God in the Holy Spirit. When asked how it is possible to have knowledge of the unknowable God, he showed the difference between knowing God in His "essence" and knowing Him in his "energies". Understanding that we cannot find God in the logic of this world, Saint Gregory taught that it remains impossible for us to know God in His person. Yet we can, with sufficient prayer, fasting, by turning oneself over to God and through purification of our soul, come to know Him in His being. It is in this way that we become divinized and participants in the uncreated light of God's divine glory. This is the central doctrine of theosis in the Eastern Christian Church.

Together in the Holy Trinity ... One Faith, One Church, One Future!



### PRAYER OF SAINT EPHREM

*To be said daily during the Great Fast*

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.

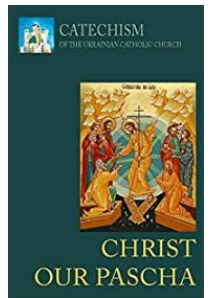
(Prostration)

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)

### *Excerpts from Christ Our Pascha:*

**The Prayer of the Church:** God created human beings in his image and likeness. He thus called them to enter into communion with him. The Lord revealed to his people his desire to communicate with them, and his desire to hear them respond to his word. He longs for his people to come to know him in love; he wants to fill them with his love. (#331) The prayer of the Church is commonly directed to the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit. "To the Father through the Son" because no one can come to the Father except through the Son; "in the Holy Spirit" because the Spirit prays within us "this sighs too deep for words" (see Rom 8:26). By the action of the Holy Spirit, the Church's prayer rises to the Father through the Son. Every time that we invoke the name of the Most Holy Trinity at the start of our prayers or our daily affairs, we confess our oneness with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and fill our whole life with the light of the Most Holy Trinity. (#335)



# SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652

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

**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, David Klacik,  
Louisa Hersh**

**E.C.F.coordinator: Jo Ann 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, Sept. through May  
St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club..... Everyone welcome to participate

***God has entrusted St. George Church to us; its future is in our hands.***