

December 1, 2019
Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na V'iki!
Propers for this Sunday: pp. 161 - 163, Tone 8

Divine Services Schedule:

SUN., DEC. 1

8:00 A.M.

8:30 A.M.

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

Holy Rosary

DIVINE LITURGY

+ **Marian Malackanich**, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba

FRI., DEC. 6

ST. NICHOLAS HOLY DAY (See announcement below)

SUN., DEC. 8

8:00 A.M.

8:30 A.M.

TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

MATERNITY of HOLY ANNA

Holy Rosary

DIVINE LITURGY

+ **Wilma Dobo**, offered by Grandsons John & Andrew Dobo



ST. NICHOLAS

St. Nicholas Liturgy - Fr. Will Rupp and the people of St. Nicholas Chapel (5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver) invite our congregation to participate with them in celebrating their Patronal Feast. We will celebrate together **Vespers and Divine Liturgy** on **Thursday, December 5th at 7:00 PM.** This is part of our three parishes' (Ambridge, Aliquippa, Beaver) supporting each other on our respective feast days. Fr. Geoffrey has been asked to be the homilist for the liturgy and we look forward to seeing many old and new friends there!

Decorating the Church and Hall - As part of our preparation for the Nativity of Christ, we will decorate the Church Hall on Saturday, December 14 and our holy Church on Sunday, December 15 following coffee hour. Please plan to help out with putting up the trees and decorations for this sacred time of the year.

Happy Birthday Greetings this Week:

December 1: Joseph Yurosky, December 2: Amy Hagan, December 5: Margaret Chabala

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the week

Please pray for our parishioners and friends who struggle with sickness, pain, hardship, or any special need:

HOME – Eileen Batcha, Natalie Jugan-Diaz, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Alice Haber, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Josephine Maruhnich, Mary Salamon, John Simunick, Bonnie Taylor

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

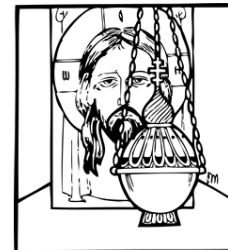
Beaver Meadows (5130 Tuscarawas Rd, Beaver, PA 15009) - Angie Yuhasz

Brighton Rehabilitation and Wellness Center (246 Friendship Cir, Beaver, PA 15009) - Carole Panella

Epistle Readers: Dec. 1: Reagan Cody – Dec. 8: Jo Ann Hersh

Ushers: Dec. 1: R. Mudron/F. Hersh – Dec. 8: J. Yurosky/R. Dzumba

Troica Holders: Dec. 1: R. Mudron – Dec. 8: F. Hersh



THE SANCTUARY LAMP

December 1 - 7, 2019

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:



The Parishioners

Prefestive Troparion of the Nativity

Bethlehem, make ready, Eden has been opened for all. Ephrathah, prepare yourself, for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Virgin in the cave. Her womb has become a spiritual paradise in which divinity has been planted. If we partake of it, we shall live and not die like Adam. Christ is born to raise up the likeness that had fallen.

Our Byzantine Catholic Faith is Life Itself

Upcoming Calendar of Events

- Now through December 15 Annual Christmas Almsgiving Collection
December 1, 8, 15 Youth ECF Classes, 10:15-11:30
December 1 Christmas Market Opens
December 5All invited to St. Nicholas Chapel for Vesperal Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
December 6 St. Nicholas Day
December 8 Maternity of Anna Holy Day
December 17 Advent Journey: A Pilgrimage through Prophecy, 6:00 P.M. (info in bulletin)
December 22 Annual Christmas Party (Info in bulletin)
December 25 Feast of the Nativity of Christ

Christmas Party

For the parishes of
St. George, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas

Sunday, December 22

St. George Church Center

\$12.00 per person
Children under 16 free

Liturgy: 11:00 A.M.
Christmas Party: 1:00 P.M.

Divine Liturgy, luncheon, caroling,
Chinese Auction, 50/50 raffle, music
St. Nicholas will arrive, bearing gifts for the children

There is a sign-up sheet in each parish
Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!

Christmas Market

There is a “Christmas Market” set up in the Center. Please visit the Market and if there is anything you like, simply leave a donation for your purchase. There are many nice items such as ornaments, ,lights, home décor, and other decorations.

Byzantine Bakery

We are having a Christmas nutroll sale. Nutrolls need to be ordered in advance and are \$15.00 each. Orders will be ready for pick-up on **Sunday, December 22**. Order sheets are in the center and narthex. *Order today! Let us do the baking for you!*

Next Pirohi Sale:
December 13. Plan your Christmas orders!

A Note from Fr. Geoff...

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This past week, I began reading Charles Dickens' original *A Christmas Carol* to my children. In the famous scene in which two men, representing a charity fund, visit Mr. Scrooge, they explain to him,

"At this festive season of the year, Mr. Scrooge," said the gentleman, taking up a pen, "it is more than usually desirable that we should make some slight provision for the Poor and Destitute, who suffer greatly at the present time. Many thousands are in want of common necessities; hundreds of thousands are in want of common comforts, sir."

Of course, Mr. Scrooge's reaction is well known: he gives them nothing at all for the needs of the poor and destitute.

We followers of Christ, however, know that the way of God is the way of charity. Christ himself the *Philanthropos*, the "lover of mankind," - from which we get the word philanthropy.

The final weeks of the year, as "Christmas spirit" is in the air, are a good time to consider the needs of those who are less fortunate: the poor, the homeless, the unemployed, the destitute, the aged, the unwanted, the prisoner, the abused, those in war-torn places, the addicted, those in unloving homes.

It is heartening to think of all of the organizations and agencies in our area that meet some of these needs. It is worth looking into them to see how we can help, whether by giving of our time, our talents, or our "treasures." Organizations like Uncommon Grounds (Aliquippa), the Center for Hope (Ambridge), Faith Restorations (Monaca), Choices Pregnancy Services (Coraopolis), and Catholic Charities (Beaver) and many others do amazing and important work inspired by and in keeping with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let us keep all of these organizations, and others like them, in our prayers. Let us also ask our Lord how he might be leading *us*, both individually and corporately, to reach out in love to those in need around us.

And let us remember, too, that our support of such charities is not something to simply be done in December in the "Christmas spirit" so that we can pat ourselves on the back. We must seek to make our commitment to caring for the least, the last, and the lost a part of our whole lives, the whole year long.

For our Lord himself said, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did it to me." (Matthew 25.40) And we can be merciful and compassionate because Christ first showed mercy and compassion to us.

Yours in the Mercy of Christ,
Geoff

Parish Almsgiving Collection Continues - The annual Parish Advent Almsgiving collection is going on now through December 15. We are collecting non-perishable food items for the local food bank. A donation box is in the narthex and in the Center. *Thank you!*

Divine Services for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24: 7:00 PM Great Compline and Divine Liturgy at **St. George**
- Christmas Day, Dec 25: 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy at **St. Mary**
- Synaxis of the Theotokos, Dec. 26: 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy at **St. George**
- Protomartyr Stephen, Dec. 27: 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy at **St. Mary**

CONFESSION for Christmas - The Nativity Fast (Advent) is a season of penitence and fasting. To better prepare for the coming of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas) the faithful are encouraged to make an examination of conscience and, if appropriate, to make a confession of their sins to a priest. Because Fr. Geoff serves two parishes, it is not always convenient to hear confessions before Liturgy (though he will *always* make time for confession when requested!).

This week (Nov. 30/Dec. 1) and next week (Dec 7/8), Fr. Geoff will remain after each Liturgy at both St. Mary's and St. George's, so that the faithful can avail themselves of this Sacramental Mystery. If these times are not convenient for you, you may speak with him and he will be happy to arrange another time.

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha - The Consequences of the Fall. With the question, "Adam, where are you?" (Gn 3:9), the Lord God stirs humankind to **repentance** through the voice of conscience. However, Adam does not repent, but gives excuses, trying to avoid personal responsibility: "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate" (Gn 3:12). In a similar way Eve also makes excuses: "The serpent tricked me, and I ate" (Gn 3:13). (#153)

The Theotokos of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas - The Theotokos of Guadalupe, who first appeared on Dec. 9, 1531 in Mexico to St. Juan Diego, bestowing on him an icon "not made with human hands," requesting that a church be built in her honor on that mountain. Her shrine there is one of the most celebrated places of pilgrimage in the Americas. Pope John Paul II named her the Patroness of the Americas.



The Feast of the Theotokos of Guadalupe is on December 12. In honor of this feast there will be a Vespers Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, **December 11 at 6:00 P.M. St. Mary in Ambridge.** A small group of students from Trinity Seminary will be there to help lead the congregational singing - they're excited to do it!

Lessons & Carols: Music of the Christmas Season from East and West

The choirs of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church (East Meadow, NY) and St. Vladimir's Seminary will be offering a service of Lessons and Carols on Saturday, December 7 at 7:00 PM. It will be broadcast live on Ancient Faith Radio online at: ancientfaith.com/radio/live

Church Mice

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

St. Philips Fast Nov.15 - Dec.24

Preparing to Receive the King of Glory

In this season of Advent, which is our preparation before the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, it is helpful for us to take the time to consider what we are truly preparing to celebrate in the first place. So what do we know about this Child and the reason for His coming into the world? This Child is the Son and Word of God – the very same Word of God Who was revealed in the Old Testament. This is the same Divine Logos Who appeared to Moses in the burning bush, and who wrestled with Jacob. This Second Person of the Holy Trinity was revealed in the Old Testament without flesh, without human nature; He appeared sometimes as an angel and other times as fire. He Who's voice was heard by the righteous prophets now comes to earth, clothed in flesh. This child is the very same God; the very same Divine Logos Who is begotten of the Father before all time. There never was a time when He did not exist, but He was always with the Father, eternally begotten of Him and sharing His one essence, together with the Holy Spirit. This Child that we are preparing to behold – so defenseless, and so dependent on others to care for Him – is the same Person Who was transfigured in Divine glory on Mt Tabor. When we speak of "the baby Jesus," This is Who we are referring to: The eternal and divine Logos of God, and it is His birth into this world that we will celebrate on Christmas.



If the Twelve Days of Christmas (originally the days between the birth of Christ and Epiphany) has been given to us in order to celebrate the birth of Christ, then the forty days of Advent that come before it are meant to prepare us to celebrate properly. Think of it this way, if it was announced that a king was coming to your house for dinner in a month's time, wouldn't you begin right away with all of the preparations to receive such a guest? And wouldn't you even complain that one month was not enough time to do all that would need to be done? Well, on Christmas, in a spiritual manner of speaking, we will be receiving a king – the King of Glory. How much more should we prepare the room of our heart to receive the Master of All? This is what Advent is: a time to prepare the "cave" or "manger" of our heart to receive the Savior. To do this we abstain from certain foods, while increasing our prayer life and almsgiving – not because God needs it – but because we do! These practices are pleasing to God, when they are done in His Name, and collectively they purify our hearts of self-centeredness, pride, and all the other things that separate us from Him. So I wish you all a good and profitable Advent! May the King of Glory, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity and Son of God, make each of us worthy to receive Him into our heart and celebrate His birth in a manner that is worthy of His Glory. Amen.

- Fr. Vasili Hillhouse

Advent Journey: A Pilgrimage through Prophecy

Join us here at St. George Church on **Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00 P.M.** for an adult ECF forum. We will "walk" through the Old Testament from the Creation and Fall of humanity, through the calling of Israel, the anointing of Kings, the Prophetic predictions of the Messiah, and end with the Annunciation to Mary and her Visitation to Elizabeth - showing how the coming of Christ is the fulfillment of all of the history of redemption.

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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PARISH WEBSITE: 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 AnointingAsk prior to surgery or serious illness
Holy Mystery of MarriageContact 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

O Christ the Savior, marvelous Fruit of the Holy Spirit, come to us and save us!