

December 1, 2019
Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Maternity of Holy Anna



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. 125 - 127, Tone 1 and pp. 277 - 280

Divine Services Schedule:

SUN., DEC. 8	TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST MATERNITY of HOLY ANNA <i>Holy Rosary</i> 8:00 A.M. 8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY + Wilma Dobo , offered by Grandsons John & Andrew Dobo
SUN., DEC. 15	SECOND SUNDAY before THE NATIVITY <i>Holy Rosary</i> 8:00 A.M. 8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY + Joseph Klacik , offered by JoAnn & Francis Hersh family



Please come forward for the kissing of the cross following today's
Divine Liturgy in honor of St. Nicholas. **O kto kto Nikolaja l'ubit!**

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. **LET'S OVERFLOW THE BOX! Thank you!**



Happy Birthday Greetings this Week:

December 11: Nickolas Poiarkoff, December 16: Sarafina Zimmerman

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

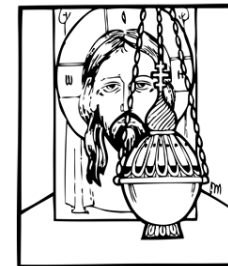
Hunter's Care Home (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

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. 8: Jo Ann Hersh – Dec. 15: Joanne Futato
Ushers: Dec. 8: J. Yurosky/R. Dzumba – Dec. 15: M. Bobanic/E. Maruhnich
Troica Holders: Dec. 8: F. Hersh – Dec. 15: R. Dzumba



THE SANCTUARY LAMP

December 8 -14, 2019

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ "Sis" Wilma Dobo

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:
A friend



THOUGHTS ON CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Let the theme of this Christmas be giving and receiving. Receiving first, the amazing grace of God in Christ Jesus. Then to give. A gift for someone in need. A thank-offering of money for the Lord's work at your church. The gift of ourselves: our souls and bodies, our time and talents.

What do we have that we did not receive? Love is faith in action. Two of the most important questions we ask ourselves are: "Whom do I love?" and "Who loves me?" As Christians we put faith into action by extending our concern for people beyond ourselves. We show our concern for others in our actions and relationships. Is our concern for others Christ-like? Do we reach out to help people in need?

Upcoming Calendar of Events

TODAY Maternity of Anna Holy Day
TODAY Christmas Market Open
Now through December 15 Annual Christmas Almsgiving Collection
December 8, 15 Youth ECF Classes, 10:15-11:30
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

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!*

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 beginning at 10:00 AM, 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. *Come, O Jesus, our Savior, redeem and save us!*

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. – This weekend (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 this time is not convenient for you, you may speak with him and he will be happy to arrange another time.

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 Vespersal 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!

Pirohi Sale This Week - Our next pirohi sale will be this Friday, December 13.

Don't forget to order your pirohi for Christmas and New Year's. Tell your family, friends, and neighbors about our pirohi sale too. If you can spare some time to help make pirohi, work begins Monday at 9:00 A.M., other work days determined as we go. Friday, the day of the sale, come any time in the morning to help. Any amount of time you can spare will be greatly appreciated. Thank you! **To order call: 724-375-6652 or in person today.**



NEW ITEMS THIS WEEK! Christmas Market:

There is a “Christmas Market” set up in the Center – new items have been added. 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.

Don't forget to order your nutrolls for Christmas!

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving Him thanks.



In healing the ten lepers, Jesus revealed his power and glory. Yet only one of the lepers returned to acknowledge Jesus' glory and to give Him thanks. And that one was a Samaritan, a foreigner. What happened to the other nine? What went wrong with them that went right with the Samaritan? The nine were right with the Samaritan? The nine were blinded to the truth of what Jesus did and who He was. They were so wrapped up in themselves, in their illness and their healing, that they failed to give glory to the One who cleansed them.

Are we so different? We live in an age when the experiences and accomplishments of this world are the only things that are held to be of any value. As we read in St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians 4:4: "The god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God". There is a spiritual battle going on in the world and in us. Satan is out to take away the vision of Jesus as our healer.

The Fathers of the Church see a lesson in today's Gospel reading for us. The ten lepers signify mankind. We are all leprous, but only one in ten give thanks to God for the salvation He has brought to us. In the same way, only some of the seed sown by God (in the Parable of the Sower) brings forth good fruit. We can all be cleansed by Him, but if we do not return to Him in gratitude and to glorify Him, we cannot be saved.

It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that we can win the battle that is going on inside us. The role of the Holy Spirit is to reveal to us who Jesus is and to convict us of our state. As we see that we are infected with the leprosy of sin, and as we experience the healing that Jesus has performed within us through the shedding of His blood on the cross, we can turn back to Him, fall on our knees at his feet, and thank Him, acknowledging His power and glory.

ADULT ECF FORUM - 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.

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

Share the Christmas Story with Your Family and Loved Ones

As we are in the midst of Philip's Fast, maybe you're in a season of "survival mode," and there's too much to do to even think about adding extra holiday traditions. Or maybe you're questioning if you've adequately prepared your family for Christmas. How can you know what's most important to do this season?

Luckily the answer is easier than you might think. Once, when a mother was questioning whether she was "doing enough" to celebrate the liturgical year with her children, a wise priest told her, "Just make sure they know the story."

Read the Christmas story. Talk about the story, the beauty of it, the truth of the birth of Jesus that will never cease to be astonishing beyond the power of humans to comprehend. This time of year, happiness and childlike wonder are all around us, and luckily the magic of the season is free and accessible to all.

Don't fall into the trap of thinking that you need to spend lots of money or go to great lengths to create Christmas magic. It can be found right here, in your home: drinking hot cocoa after school, cuddling up to read a book next to twinkly lights, slowly looking at the Nativity-scene figures one by one, singing together the Christmas hymns. He will come, as He does eternally, born anew in each of our lives and hearts—no matter how we have prepared, no matter whether we feel ready.

That's the incredible part: We don't really have to do anything to prepare at all. As long as we open our hearts, Jesus will come—and all that's left for us to do is to give thanks for the gift of His love, so far beyond our deserving, that is here in abundance for our taking, every day of our lives.

- The Office of Family and Sanctity of Life, Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat Parma

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

The Consequences of the Fall. Sin injures relationships among people, introducing alienation and opposition between man and woman: "Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves" (Gn 3:7). After the Fall, the relationship between man and woman became subject to impulsive physical urges. As we read: "Your desire shall be for your husband." The desire to subordinate others to oneself also comes into play: "[your husband] shall rule over you" (Gn 3:16). Sin brings sickness and suffering into human life (see Gn 3:16-19). (#154)

Gospel Reflection ...

St. Athanasius: The Lord expressed love for the one who was thankful, but He was angry with the ungrateful ones because they did not acknowledge their Deliverer. They thought more highly of their cure from leprosy than of He who had healed them. ... The one who returned to give thanks was given much more than the rest. Besides being healed of his leprosy, he was told by the Lord, "Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you."

You see, those who give thanks and those who glorify have the same kind of feelings. They bless their helper for the benefits they have received. This is why Paul urged everyone to "glorify God with your body." (1 Cor 6:20).

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, most holy Fruit of the most pure Virgin, come to us and save us!