

December 15, 2019
Second Sunday before the Nativity
Sunday of the Forefathers



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. 130 -132, Tone 2 and pp. 281 - 283

Divine Services Schedule:

SUN., DEC. 15 8:00 A.M. 8:30 A.M.	SECOND SUNDAY before THE NATIVITY, of the FOREFATHERS <i>Holy Rosary</i> DIVINE LITURGY + Joseph Klacik , offered by JoAnn & Francis Hersh family
TUES., DEC. 17 6:00 P.M.	ADVENT JOURNEY- A Pilgrimage Through Prophecy Adult ECF Forum
SUN., DEC. 22 <u>11:00 A.M</u> 1:00 P.M.	SUNDAY before the NATIVITY, of the HOLY ANCESTORS DIVINE LITURGY + Marian Malackanich , offered by Ron & Valerie Dunlap Christmas Party

Come, Lord Jesus, Come! - What is the nature of the invitation? “Come, for look, all things are ready.” God the Father has prepared in Christ gifts for the inhabitants of the earth. Through Christ, he bestowed the forgiveness of sins, cleansing away of all defilement, communion of the Holy Spirit, glorious adoption as children, and the kingdom of heaven. To these blessings, Christ invited Israel, before all others, by the commandments of the Gospel. He has even said by the voice of the psalmist: “*But I have been sent as a king by him,*” that is, by God the Father, “*on Zion his holy mountain to preach the commandment of the Lord.*” (Psalm 2:6) (St. Cyril of Alexandria)

As we prepare for the Christmas and Theophany holy days let us not lose sight of the fact that we have been invited to a Great Feast. Let’s not let the presents, trimming and other preparations blind us to the coming of the Savior. *Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

Happy Birthday Greetings this Week:

December 16: Serafina Zimmerman, Dec. 18: Ethan Roush,
Dec. 19: Richard Pollock, Dec. 20: Joseph DePaolis, Dec. 21: Ella 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

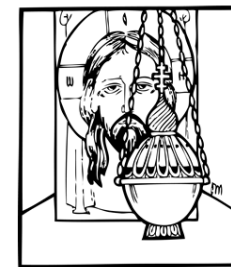
Beaver Meadows (5130 Tuscarawas Rd, Beaver, PA 15009) - Angie Yuhasz

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

Epistle Readers: Dec. 15: Joanne Futato – Dec. 22: Prudy Peya

Ushers: Dec. 15: M. Bobanic/E. Maruhnich – Dec. 22: F. Hersh/R. Mudron

Troica Holders: Dec.15: R. Dzumba – Dec. 22: M. Bobanic



THE SANCTUARY LAMP

December 15 - 21, 2019

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

Granddaughters Ella and Serafina
(Health and God’s Blessings)



Offered By:
Grandparents Dottie & Chuck



This icon is a detail of an icon of the Holy Forefathers and Patriarchs, who foretold the coming of the Messiah.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

December 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 & 29 NO ECF CLASSES
December 22 Annual Christmas Party (Info in bulletin)
December 24 Compline and Divine Liturgy for Christmas, 7:00 P.M.
December 25 Feast of the Nativity of Christ
December 26..... Synaxis of the Theotokos, 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Christmas Party

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

NEXT SUNDAY
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

Sign-up TODAY!

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

This Week

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.

O Christ the Savior, glorious vision of the prophets, come to us and save us!

LAST DAY FOR THE CHRISTMAS MARKET

More new items have been added to the Christmas Market. Look around one last time 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.

Parish Almsgiving Collection (Last Day)

Thank you to all who donated to our annual Parish Advent Almsgiving collection. Our donations will be made to the local food bank this week.

Christmas Decorating TODAY

Decorating inside the Church for Christmas will take place **TODAY** following coffee hour. All families and friends are invited to come and help decorate our Holy Church for Christmas. Please come and donate your time to benefit our parish.

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! If you haven't in a while, we invite everyone to **STAY** and join us.



This is the last day to order your nutrolls for Christmas. Nutrolls are \$15.00 each. Delivery is next Sunday, December 22.

Sunday of the Forefathers

Today is the second Sunday before Christmas, and the Church commemorates the ancestors of Christ. On this Sunday Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and many other men and women are remembered and honored. All were flawed, but all proved, in the end, to be faithful. One by one their lives of faith in the flesh led to the birth of Christ who took flesh from their daughter, Mary. Here in their numbers we find a family. This lineage begins with Abraham and Sarah, expands into multitudes, and then is compressed to one young virgin from whom the One prophesied about takes flesh. From him we have another expansion into the multitudes of all who have faith in Jesus Christ. In our numbers we, too, are incorporated by adoption into this family of faith.



The lives of these “persons of faith” whom we honor today reveal to us a lot about what it means to be committed, to honor God and shun idolatry, to be honest and truthful. These are the examples of what it means to be righteous. They are our ancestors of faith.

All too often, we are inclined to dismiss these men and women who are in the Church’s spotlight today as irrelevant pre-Christian Hebrews. The fact is that their lives comprise an important part of our Christian heritage because they lived in a manner that was totally dependent upon knowing God as an ever-present reality. Their lives were not compartmentalized or secularized. They all lived with the very same needs that we know, but their day to day choices were deeply rooted in a realization that one’s life is not his own, and that our entire life is in the hand of God who is the Source of every blessing, and that we live in a fleeting moment of this created world.

By faith, You, O Christ, justified the Forefathers. Through them you betrothed yourself to a Church from all nations. The saints rejoice in glory because a glorious offspring has blossomed from their seed: the Mother who bore you without seed. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, have mercy on us.

On Emptiness

When people are empty of Christ, a thousand and one other things come and fill them up: jealousies, hatreds, boredom, melancholy, resentment, a worldly outlook, and earthly pleasures. Try to fill your soul with Christ so that it’s not empty. Love Christ and put nothing before His love. Christ is everything. He is the source of life, the ultimate desire. He is everything.

Everything beautiful is in Christ. Holy humility is complete trust in God.

- St. Porphyrios

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

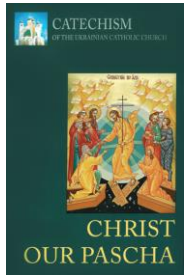
Upcoming Live Webinar
THE GIFT OF GOD
Preparing for the Feast of the Nativity
Presented by Rev. David Anderson
Wednesday, December 18
8:00 – 9:00 P.M. Eastern Time

As the Great Feast of the Nativity of the Lord draws closer, using the prayers of the Church in this holy season as our guide, we will ponder God’s gift of Himself to us, and consider how we can respond by making a gift of ourselves to Him.

Register at: <http://easterncatholic.org/events>. All webinars will open 30 minutes ahead of time for questions and pre-class discussion. Please join us! Flyers are available in the Center.

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

The Consequences of the Fall. Sin distorts human attitudes toward work. From being a blessing, work is reduced to a means of survival: “By the sweat of your face you shall eat your bread” (Gn 3:19). Sin disrupts the harmony between humankind and nature: “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I have commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth to you; and you shall eat of the plants of the field” (Gn 3: 17-18). (#155)



The Christmas Eve Supper- Velija (Holy Supper) brings the family together to partake in special foods and begin the holiday with many customs and traditions, which reach back to antiquity. The rituals of the Christmas Eve are dedicated to God, to the welfare of the family, and to the remembrance of the ancestors.

The Tradition of Holy Super: There are twelve courses in the Supper, because according to the Christian tradition each course is dedicated to one of Christ’s Apostles. According to the ancient pagan belief, each course stood for every full moon during the course of the year. The courses are meatless because there is a period of fasting required by the Church until Christmas Day.



A Traditional Rusyn Christmas Greeting: For Holy Supper: “I greet you on the Feast of Christ’s Nativity and I pray that the Infant Jesus shower upon all of you His choicest blessings. May we all live in health, peace, and happiness and may we all celebrate another Christmas together. A Merry and Blessed Christmas! Christ is born! Glorify Him!”

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652

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, source of our Salvation, come to us and save us!