

December 22, 2019
Sunday before Christmas
Sunday of the Ancestors



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Christ is born! Glorify Him! ~ Christos Raždajetsja! Slavite Jeho!
Propers for this Sunday: pp. 135 - 136, Tone 3 and pp. 285 - 287

St. George Divine Services Schedule:

SUN., DEC. 22 11:00 A.M.	SUNDAY before the NATIVITY, of the HOLY ANCESTORS DIVINE LITURGY + Marian Malackanich , offered by Ron & Valerie Dunlap
1:00 P.M.	Christmas Party
TUE., DEC. 24 7:00 P.M.	CHRISTMAS EVE COMPLINE AND DIVINE LITURGY for the NATIVITY of CHRIST For the Parishioners
THUR., DEC. 26 9:00 A.M.	SYNAXIS of the THEOTOKOS DIVINE LITURGY
SUN., DEC. 29 8:00 A.M. 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS <i>Holy Rosary</i> DIVINE LITURGY + Anna George , offered by the George family

Christmas Party for the parishes of St. George,
St. Mary, and St. Nicholas and visitors
today following Liturgy.
All are welcome!

Happy Birthday Greetings this Week:

Dec. 22: Joanne Futato, Suzanne Klacik, Dec. 23: Judy DePaolis, Daniel Foister,
Dec. 27: Phyllis Ozimok

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

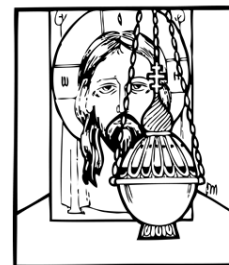
Beaver Meadows (5130 Tuscarawas Rd, Beaver, PA 15009) - Angie Yuhasz

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

Epistle Readers: Dec. 22: Prudy Peya – Dec. 29: Prudy Peya

Ushers: Dec. 22: F. Hersh/R. Mudron – Dec. 29: R. Dzumba/J/ Yurosky

Troica Holders: Dec. 22: M. Bobanic – Dec. 29: M. Mudron



THE SANCTUARY LAMP

December 22 - 28, 2019

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

Joseph Klacik

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Jo Ann & Francis Hersh

Church Mice

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Upcoming Calendar of Events

December 22 & 29NO ECF CLASSES
December 22 Annual Christmas Party
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

Holiday Humor Rusyn Style

*'Twas the night before Vianoce and all through the house,
The Rusyns were all gathered to eat sauerkraut.
The kolach was nestled all snug in its dish,
While bobalky were cooking and so was the fish.
Women in their babushkas and men in their caps,
Had all settled down with food in their laps.
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
We all left our meal to see what was the matter.
Away to the window Cetka flew like a flash,
Screaming, "Lock all the doors and hide all the cash!"
But what to our wandering eyes should appear,
But a Pagac-shaped sleigh and 8 reindeer.
With a little old Rusyn so lively and quick,
We knew in a moment it was Janosik.
More rapid than Novenas, his reindeer all came,
As he shouted, "On Stefan" and each reindeer's name.
"On Stefan, on Boris, on Janos and Olga,
On Josko on Cyril, on Sandro and Volga."
Then out to the smokehouse, the reindeer all flew,
With a sleigh full of kielbasi and Janosik too.
Down the smoke vent he came with a leap and a bound,
Dancing a Czardas and twirling around.
He did a quick Polka, then went on with his work,
And gave us Kielbasi and turned with a jerk.
We gave him Kapusta and Dzedo's old clothes.
Then we sang "Ticha Noc" and up the smoke vent he rose.
But we heard him exclaim as we took off our coats,
"Vesele Vianoce and to all Dobre Noc!"*

From the Christmas sermon of St. Gregory of Nazianzus...

Christ is born, glorify Him.
Christ from heaven, go out to meet Him. Christ on earth, be exalted. Sing to the Lord all the whole earth; and that I may join both in one word, let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad, for Him who is of heaven and then of earth. Christ in the flesh, rejoice with trembling and with joy; with trembling because of your sins, with joy because of your hope.

Church Family News...



Congratulations to parishioner Alex Hersh on his graduation from Duquesne University on Friday, December 20. Alex graduated with a major in English and a minor in Sociology.

St. Mary Divine Services Schedule:

WED., DEC. 25 9:00 A.M.	CHRISTMAS DAY, NATIVITY of CHRIST DIVINE LITURGY
FRI., DEC. 27 9:00 A.M.	PROTOMARTYR STEPHEN DIVINE LITURGY
SAT., DEC. 28 4:00 P.M.	SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS, <i>Anticipated</i> DIVINE LITURGY + For the Parishioners
SUN., DEC. 29 11:00 A.M.	SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGY + Robert Rosemeier, offered by Ted and Judy Kotula

Christmas Eve, December 24th, for Byzantine Catholics is a strict fast day from meat & dairy.

Fast and Privileged Week

According to our Church tradition the week following the Nativity of Christ (December 25 - January 4) in our Church calendar is dedicated to this Feast Day, therefore we enjoy the "privileged week" during which the laws of abstinence from meat on Friday do not oblige.

Welcome Visitors, Friends, and Family!

We warmly welcome all those who are visiting us to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord. It is good to have you all with us! We greet you and welcome you with the love, joy and hope that is so graciously granted to us with the Incarnation of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

During the celebration of Christmas, it is our custom to greet one another with the joyous exclamation, "Christ is born!" to which the one greeted responds, "Glorify Him!"

Thank you to all who decorated our Holy Church for the Christmas season!

Nutroll orders are ready for payment and pick-up today in the Center.

We offer condolences to parishioner Margaret Dzugan on the death of her sister Marion Sutter who died on Tuesday, Dec. 10. Eternal Memory!

Visit from a King...

Long ago, there ruled in Persia a wise and good king. He loved his people. He wanted to know how they lived. He wanted to know about their hardships. Often he dressed in the clothes of a working man or a beggar, and went to the homes of the poor. No one whom he visited thought that he was their ruler.



One time he visited a very poor man who lived in a cellar. He ate the coarse food the poor man ate. He spoke cheerful, kind words to him. Then he left. Later he visited the poor man again and disclosed his identity by saying, "I am your king!" The king thought the man would surely ask for some gift or favor, but he didn't. Instead he said, "You left your palace and your glory to visit me in this dark, dreary place. You ate the coarse food I ate. You brought gladness to my heart! To others you have given your rich gifts. To me you have given yourself!"

The King of glory, the Lord Jesus Christ, gave himself to you and me. Holy Scripture calls Him, "the unspeakable gift!"

When you give gifts for Christmas, do not give only to those who will give to you in return, but give to those who receive from no one and who cannot give you anything back.

- Pope Benedict XVI

It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.

- Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Christ is Judge, King, and High Priest

Fourteen generations were completed three times, under judges, kings and high priests. Now all generations came forth under one Christ who was Judge and King and High Priest. The judges, kings and high priests were always to be understood as anticipatory figures of Christ. Joshua was the first judge; David, the first king; and Jeshua, the son of Josedech, the first high priest.

(From the Incomplete Commentary on Matthew)



Christos Raždajetsja! ~ Slavite Jeho!

At this most holy time of the year, may the Joy, Peace, Hope and Love of our Lord God and Savior's holy birth according to the flesh be with each one of you, our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ.

Christ is born! Glorify Him! Christos Raždajetsja! Slavite Jeho!

Icon of the Nativity of Christ

One of the most famous icons is that of the Nativity of Christ. Its symbolism is that of the Creator of the Universe entering history as a newborn babe. The little helpless figure in swaddling clothes represents the complete submission of Christ in the physical conditions governing the human race. Yet He remains Lord of Creation. The angels sing praises. The Magi and the shepherds bring their gifts. The sky salutes Him with a star. The earth provides Him with a cave. The animals watch Him in silent wonder and we humans offer Him one of us, the Virgin Mother.

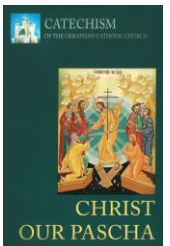


In many icons the lower scenes underline the "scandal" of the Incarnation. In some icons we see the washing of the infant by the mid-wife and her assistant. This tells us that Christ was born like any other child. In the left scene we see the Righteous Joseph, who, having observed the washing of the infant, is once again assailed by doubts as to the virginity of his spouse. He is tempted by the devil, who suggests that, if the infant were truly divine, He would not have been born in the human way. The Mother Mary is in the center, and from her reclining position looks at Joseph as if trying to overcome his doubts and temptations.

-from Nicholas Zernov, "Eastern Christendom"

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

The Consequences of the Fall. Sin distorts fraternity among humankind, as when a *brother* becomes a *stranger* and an *enemy* to his own brother (see Gn 4:1-16, the story about Cain and Abel). Sin introduces disorder into society, and gives rise to vain efforts to build a society without God (see Gn 11:1-9, the story of the Tower of Babel). However, the great expectations of human pride end only in great disillusionment, malaise, confusion and misunderstanding: "Skill-fully you have planned to build a tower, O my soul, and to establish a stronghold for your lusts; but the Creator confounded your designs and dashed your devices to the ground." (#156)



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



Christ is Born! ~ Glorify Him!