

February 2, 2020  
The Meeting of Our Lord  
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee



**SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!*  
Propers for this Sunday: Meeting of our Lord, pp. 321 – 324, Resurrectional Tone: 1, pp. 125 - 127

**Divine Services Schedule:**

<b>SUN., FEB. 2</b>	<b>SUNDAY of the PUBLICAN and the PHARISEE</b>
	<b>MEETING of our LORD HOLYDAY</b>
8:00 A.M.	<i>Holy Rosary</i>
8:30 A.M.	<b>DIVINE LITURGY</b> , <i>Blessing of candles</i> <b>For the Parishioners</b>
The Lord's Day is the original feast day... a day of joy and freedom from work	
<b>SUN., FEB. 9</b>	<b>SUNDAY of the PRODIGAL SON, Leave-taking of the Meeting</b>
8:00 A.M.	<i>Holy Rosary</i>
8:30 A.M.	<b>DIVINE LITURGY</b> <b>+ Pete Yanchik</b> , in loving memory from his wife and family

*The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord was first observed in the Eastern Church as "The Encounter." In the sixth century, it began to be observed in the West: in Rome with a more penitential character and in Gaul (France) with solemn blessings and processions of candles, popularly known as "Candlemas." This feast day concludes the celebration of the Nativity and with the offerings of the Virgin Mother and the prophecy of Simeon, the events now point toward Easter.*

**Happy Birthday Greetings this Week:**

February 4: Tim Sirko, February 5: Darlene Simunick,  
February 7: John Poiarkoff, February 8: Taylor Sirko

**Wedding Anniversaries this Week:**

None for the week

**Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all those who are in need of our prayers:**

**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

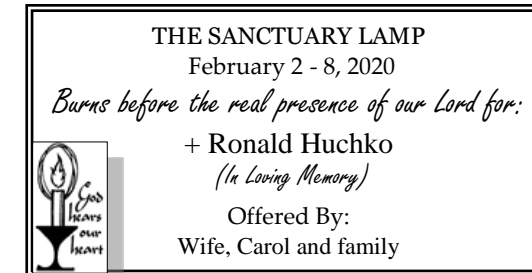
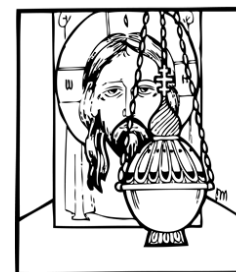
**Hunter's Care Home** (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

**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:** February 2: Louisa Hersh – February 9: Reagan Cody  
**Ushers:** February 2: E. Maruhnich/R. Dzumba – February 9: R. Mudron/F. Hersh  
**Troica Holders:** February 2: R. Mudron – February 9: M. Bobanic



***Candles in our Holy Church***

For the Feast of the Encounter-Meeting of Our Lord it is a pious and venerable tradition in our Holy Church to bless candles. It is impossible to imagine an Eastern Church without burning candles. Candles made of beeswax are used in our Holy Church as a form of sacrifice and devotion to God or Saints. They are used in various Divine Services and ceremonies and are symbolic of Christ, who is "the Light of the World." When we see so many candles everywhere, we know that Christ is everywhere in the whole church, our homes, and He is in us, too. According to a different symbolism, the two elements of a candle represent the two natures of Christ: the Divine (the burning wick) and the Human (the wax body).

*Why have blessed candles in the home? - It is good and laudable to light candles at home when we pray, when the priest visits for a house blessing with Holy Water or Holy Unction, and even light a candle when we visit the grave of a loved one.*

## UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2, 9, 16, 23 ..... ECF classes is session  
February 14 ..... Pirohi Sale  
February 15 ..... First All-Souls Saturday, 9:00 AM Liturgy, *Hramoty*  
February 22 ..... Archeparchy of Pittsburgh Church Music Day  
February 23 ..... Lenten Soup Sale (Info in bulletin)  
February 24 ..... Great Fast Begins  
February 24 – April 5 ..... Lenten Almsgiving Collection

### Sing With Understanding: Archeparchy of Pittsburgh Church Music Day Saturday, February 22, 2020 - Saint John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, PA

The Archeparchy of Pittsburgh will devote a day to a coordinated effort to foster and invigorate our church singing as we enter the Great Fast. **Both events are free!**

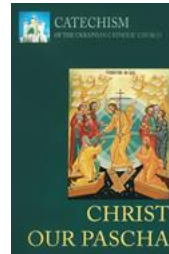
**Saturday morning from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.: Meeting of all cantors**

**Saturday afternoon from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.: Church singing for congregations**

**All members of our church are invited to participate.**

### Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

***Pride and its Opposite, Humility.*** Pride is the most dangerous passion and the mother of all sins. It was because of pride that Satan fell from God, and it is precisely pride that has ruined the prolonged endeavors of many an ascetic. Pride is a person's idolatrous self-deification: a person exalts oneself over other people and puts oneself in the place of God. The proud person is closed to God's grace: "The Lord opposes the proud; but he gives his grace to the humble" (Prv 3:34, lxx; see 1 Pt 5:5 and Jas 4:6). St. Augustine teaches that pride is the source of all evil, and in order to overcome all other sins, one must rid oneself of the root cause - pride: "Whence does iniquity abound? From pride. Cure pride and there will be no more inequity. Consequently, that the cause of all diseases might be cured, namely, pride, the son of God came down and was made low." (#777) The most effective means of combating pride is to train oneself in humility. This opens a person toward God and neighbor, and makes a person capable of receiving God's transfiguring and liberating power. The apostle Paul declares: "We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Cor 10:4-5). Through the virtue of humility, a person stands in truth before the face of God. Therefore, Christian humility does not demean a person, but allows one to recognize the one's true dignity as a child of God. (#779)



*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.*

### Non-Fasting Week

Please remember that this week (from the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee to the Sunday of the Prodigal Son) according to our Liturgical calendar, is a fast free week. The prayer of the Pharisee was to boast that he fasts twice a week. In order to eliminate all pride before the beginning of the Great Fast, the holy fathers directed that we do not fast at all this week.

### All-Souls Saturday Divine Liturgy and Hramoty: (February 15)

This venerable custom was transmitted to us by our ancestors as a part of our beautiful spiritual heritage. Every year, just before Meat-Fare Saturday, the families give the lists of their departed loved ones (Hramoty) to the pastor with the request that they be mentioned at the services held for the deceased on the All Souls Saturday. And St. John Chrysostom assures us that: "It is a great honor to be worthy of mention, while the celebration of the Holy Mysteries is going on." (Homily on the Acts 21, 4) **Members of the family are encouraged to attend these 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!**

*Amongst your offertory envelopes you have an envelope for the commemoration of departed souls marked "All Soul's Saturdays Remembrance". Please write the names of your deceased loved ones on this envelope and drop the envelope in the collection basket.*

### Lenten Soup Sale



There will be a sale of delicious homemade vegetable soup on **Forgiveness Sunday, February 23**, to benefit the ECF program, just in time for your strict fast needs. Our strict fast begins the next day, February 24. The soup is \$8.00 per quart. There is sign-up sheet in the Narthex and Center to order your soup.

### WELCOME

Welcome 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. **Please stay and join us!**



*Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.*

*Psalm 133:1*

*God gives us His Grace, when we are humble. (Elder Porphyrios)*



## Sunday of Publican and Pharisee

*“I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

There is a great difference between the Publican and the Pharisee in today’s Gospel reading. The Pharisee didn’t know who he really was. He kept telling God how different he was from other men. But he never said who he actually was. That is why he could do nothing but talk. The Publican, on the other hand, knew exactly who he was... “I am a sinner,” he said. Because he knew himself, he was able to do something about it. He asked for forgiveness.

**In the Eastern Church, today is the beginning of the Lenten Triodion which is three weeks of preparation for the Lenten season of repentance and renewal. The Kontakion for the Divine Liturgy helps us in this preparation by telling us to avoid pride and to practice humility like the Publican.**

Why place emphasis on humility...Because humility is for us the beginning of true repentance. Eastern Christian spirituality, following the example of Christ, has as its basic principle, the admonition that humility is an infallible sign that we are on the road to God. Reading Holy Scripture we see the example Our Lord gives us: He said, “Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.” On Holy Thursday Our Lord washed the feet of His Apostles. In the end, He suffered the humiliation of death on the Cross. Yet even from the Cross, He forgave His tormentors and those responsible for His death.

Keeping these examples in mind, we should spend as much time as we can trying to know ourselves as we really are... knowing who we really are, we can then do something about it. On this Sunday let us remind ourselves to BE HUMBLE....STOOP TO CONQUER.

**Don't Hide from Yourself** - To sustain my mask before others takes much energy. One clever way to maintain my mask and to avoid seeing myself as I am is to continuously compare my actions with the actions of those persons whom I consider less than myself. And into what a clever trap I have fallen, for I will always find someone whose outward actions appear to fall short of mine. I will constantly be looking outward toward others and never inward at the movements of my own heart. I will have taken upon myself the heart of the Pharisee, puffed up with emptiness, judgmental and condemning, while thanking God that I am not like another. I will have taken upon myself the heart of the Pharisee, but because of my mask, I will only know myself as the Publican. *(Sister Seraphim Olsafsky)*



*Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner!*

## Today We Bless Candles...Why?



A candle is a small piece of light. Long ago candles and oil lamps were the only ways people could have light at night. They would bring these “bits of light” to the first Christian gatherings in the catacombs and other secret places. Soon the candles became a way of praying, of giving something back to God. The interpreter of the Liturgy, our venerable father Simeon of Thessalonica (XV century), said that pure wax symbolizes the purity and innocence of people offering it. The wax is offered as a sign of our repentance for our obstinacy and willfulness. The softness and malleability of the wax speak of our readiness to obey God. The flame of the candle shows the warmth of love to God.

Candles are used in all Eastern Churches. It is our practice that when we enter the Church, we are to stop to buy a candle. It’s our sacrifice. When we light a candle before an Icon and say a prayer for someone, we tell God that we are praying for that person and as long as our candle burns our prayer will be there before God. We say to our friends who are sick or troubled that we will light a candle for them. We light candles for someone who has died. Sometimes we light a candle to say “thank you” to God. We should not put up a candle just for the sake of the ritual, with our hearts remaining cold. The outward action must be supported by a prayer, be it even a simple one expressed in your own words.

Even today when we have electric lights we do not want to give up praying with those small “bits of living light”. They remind us that our souls should burn with love for God and our neighbor for we are called to be living candles. As we will bless the candles for the Feast of the Encounter of Our Lord remember that, “You are like a light of the world. You are like a candle in a dark room. Don’t hide your light. Let your light shine for everyone to see!” When we see so many candles everywhere, we know that Jesus is everywhere in the whole Church, our homes, and He is in us, too.

**Come, Receive Christ - the True Light** – The mystery of Christ had been prepared even before the very foundation of the world but was manifested in the last ages of time. It became a light for those who in darkness and error had fallen under the devil’s hand. These were they “who serve the creature instead of the Creator” (Rom 1:25) worshiping moreover the dragon, the author of evil, and the impure throng of devils, to whom they attach the honor due to God. Yet God the Father called them to the acknowledgement of the Son who is the true Light....

Christ therefore became the Gentiles’ light for revelation, but also for the glory of Israel. For even granting that some of them proved insolent and disobedient, and with minds that did not understand, yet there is a remnant there, saved and admitted to glory through Christ. The first fruits of these were the divine disciples, the brightness of whose renown lightens the whole world.

In another sense, Christ is the glory of Israel, for he came out of Israel according to the flesh, though he is God over all, and blessed forevermore. Amen. *(St. Cyril of Alexandria)*

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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**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

*“Let your prayer be completely simple. For both the publican and the prodigal son were reconciled to God by a single phrase.”*