

February 9, 2020
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Leave-taking of the Meeting of Our Lord



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!

Proprs for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone: 2, pp. 130 - 132, Meeting of our Lord, pp. 321 – 324, Prodigal Son pg. 216

Divine Services Schedule:

SUN., FEB. 9 SUNDAY of the PRODIGAL SON, Leave-taking of the Meeting

8:00 A.M.

Holy Rosary

8:30 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY

+ Pete Yanchik, in loving memory from his wife and family

The Lord's Day is the original feast day... a day of joy and freedom from work

SAT., FEB. 15 FIRST ALL-SOULS SATURDAY

9:00 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY, *Panachida, Hramoty, Koliva*

SUN., FEB. 16 MEATFARE SUNDAY, SUNDAY OF LAST JUDGMENT

8:00 A.M.

Holy Rosary

8:30 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY

For the Parishioners

First All-Souls Saturday (February 15)

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!

Happy Birthday Greetings this Week:

February 10: David Klacik

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

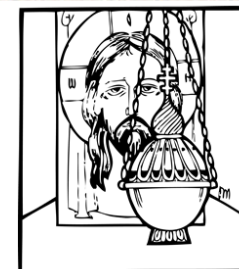
Beaver Meadows (5130 Tuscarawas Rd, Beaver, PA 15009) - Angie Yuhasz

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

Epistle Readers: February 9: Jo Ann Hersh – February 16: Reaghan Cody

Ushers: February 9: R. Mudron/F. Hersh – February 16: M. Bobanic/R. Mudron

Troica Holders: February 9: M. Bobanic – February 16: F. Hersh



THE SANCTUARY LAMP

February 9 - 15, 2020

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

George
(*Health & God's Blessing*)

Offered By:

Sister, Mary Elizabeth

Meatfare Sunday

Next Sunday, February 16, *The Sunday of the Last Judgment*, marks the mid-point of our preparation of the Great Fast. It was traditionally called Meatfare Sunday because it was the last day meat was eaten until Pascha. Though this strict monastic observance has been relaxed in recent years, many of us keep this practice today. Whether we keep the original observance or abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays, we still have this day to ease into the Great Fast, where we will fast, spend more time in prayer, make a sincere effort to attend Lenten services during the week, and grow closer to God in anticipation of Pascha.

*We have such a law: If you forgive, it means that God has forgiven you;
but if you do not forgive your brother, it means that your sin remains with you.*

St. Silouan the Athonite

Upcoming Calendar of Events

February 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
Coming in March Lenten Study Group and Soup Supper, (info in bulletin)

Visit the Church Store! - The Church Store in the Center has received new items! **There are new icons, tote bags, egg wraps, and more.** There will be more new items added in the coming weeks. Remember to shop at our store when you need a gift for someone. Whether starting an icon corner or adding to your existing one in your home, we have what you need!

Why have an icon corner? The Altar is to a Church what an Icon Corner is to a home. The home is our domestic Church. The Icon Corner is a reminder of who we are and serves to provide us with a place to pray. We are children of God. Just as we have photo albums full of family members we should also have icons of Jesus and the saints to remind us who we are and who we are to become. The icon corner also provides a place where the family can come together to pray.

Church Library News! - At the Byzantine Spirituality Conference in November, a presentation was given on the **Ten Books That Can Deepen the Faith of Byzantine Catholics.** Our ECF program, *which is for both children and adults*, has begun ordering books from that list for our Library. We already had three of the books from that list and have received three other titles as well. More titles will follow (The list is available in the library). Please consider making a donation towards the purchase of these books so all can share in the wealth and depth of our Byzantine Catholic Church. If you have any book suggestions to add to our library collection, please see an ECF instructor or Fr. Geoff.



**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.

Hramoty

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)

“The Holy Fathers were convinced that the commemoration of the departed by alms and sacrifices (Divine Liturgies) brings great comfort and benefit to them.”

Eternal Memory! Vičnaja Pamjat’!

Koliva, or Kutia, is traditionally prepared for the All Souls Saturdays. Koliva is made of boiled wheat mixed with sugar and spices to be blessed during the All Souls Liturgy and distributed to the congregation. The offering of Koliva is an ancient custom. It symbolizes the eternal cycle. People, like wheat, must be buried to grow and have new life. We make it for memorial services in remembrance of those who have fallen asleep.



Pirohi Sale on Friday

Our next pirohi sale will be this **Friday, February 14**. ORDER YOUR PIROHI TODAY OR CALL ON THURSDAY, 724-375-6652. Keep up the tradition! *Thank you!*



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 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.

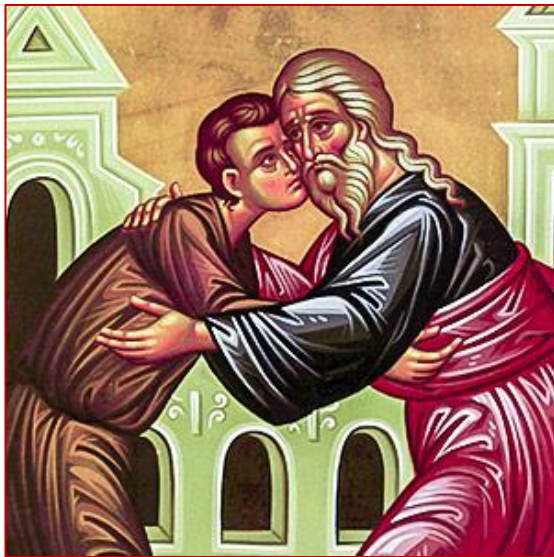
Psalm 133:1

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.

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The parable of the Prodigal Son speaks to us not only of sin and repentance but also of the forgiveness that God gives us. When the prodigal son had come to his senses he set out to his father's house. The Gospel tells us that love, tenderness, and pity filled his heart, "His son was dear to him" and without waiting for his son's arrival, the old man who had been deeply hurt by the young man's sins and heartlessness, ran to meet him, fell on his neck, embraced, and kissed him. Is that how we meet each other when we see from a distance someone coming from that "far country" to which all of us at some moment, frequently perhaps, get drawn by sin, a former friend, relation or acquaintance returning to us? Is that how we meet him? To begin with, is it often that our love is so unshakeable that we constantly go to the door of the house and look into the distance hoping for his return? And when we do see a person who once was close but has become estranged moving our way, are we often pierced to the heart by the old love and tenderness and pity? Do we not in fact more often behave like the son who had nothing to reproach himself with before his father? When that one returned from work in the fields and heard sounds of rejoicing in the house he asked a servant what it was about, and hearing that his younger brother who was starving had returned, he was unwilling to go in.

The father did not allow his son to ask to become a servant; he could not take him as a servant but only as a son returned. He ordered to bring his original robe, not the best garment in the house, but the one he used to wear before he became a stranger. When the son put on his former robe instead of his rags, he felt it fit him snugly, and his father ordered then to bring him the ring, not just a ring, but the ring with which in older times a man sealed his letters. The father put complete trust in him. Why? Why did he not first demand proofs of his repentance? Because he knew that if his son had overcome shame and fear in order to come home. But when a person, formerly a friend but who has hurt either us or someone dear to us, approaches us, are we ready to entrust ourselves to him, give him the old affection? No, and therefore the reconciliation is not permanent. That is why a person is so afraid of seeking reconciliation; he knows he will not meet the father, but only false, humiliating virtue which says "You are not my brother even if my father does acknowledge you as his son." Let us consider this question of forgiveness because soon it will be Forgiveness Sunday and it might catch us unprepared. Amen.



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

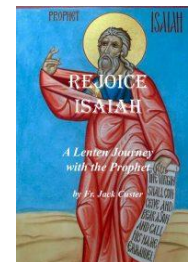
I was Lost but Now I Am Found

As we draw closer to the Great Fast, today we hear the parable of the Prodigal Son. Hearing Christ's parable about God's loving forgiveness, we are called to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves in a "far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the movement of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that the Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go", confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong.

Coming During the Great Fast!

During the Great Fast, there will be a Study Group along with a soup supper, day and time to be announced. We will reflect on the book **Rejoice Isaiah, Spiritual Reflections on the Readings from Isaiah during the Great Fast.** This book was gifted to all parishioners this Christmas. There are extra copies for those who did not yet get one. So get your book ready or pick one up today and get ready for the best Lent ever.

Spiritual reflection, fasting supper, and fellowship



Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

Repentance. Christ, the Good Shepherd, who came to find the "lost sheep," calls all to repentance: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt 4:17). Without repentance, there can be neither salvation nor new life. In the Parable of the Prodigal Son, Christ reveals the essence of repentance as a return to the Father and the acceptance of his gift of forgiveness. He accepts repentant sinners and rejoices at their conversion, "for he is good and loves mankind." (#780)



Repentance allows a Christian not only to experience God as a merciful Father, but to discover oneself in God's embrace - to see oneself as the son who returned from the foreign land of sin to the Father's home of righteousness. On the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, the Church sings: "As the Prodigal Son I come to you, merciful God... Receive me in repentance, O God, and have mercy on me." (#781)

A Letter of Thanks for our Christmas Donations

Dear Parishioners,

We cannot thank you enough for your generous donations of food to the St. Vincent De Paul Food Bank of St. Titus Church. We have an unbelievable amount of hungry people in Aliquippa this time of year. God bless each and every one of you.

Kathy Matika (Food Bank Director)

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

PASTOR: FATHER GEOFFREY MACKEY

Fr. Geoffrey's Direct Line: (412) 356-3698

OFFICE PHONE: 724-375-2742

FAX: 724-375-8776

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 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.”