

February 23, 2020
Cheese-Fare Sunday
Sunday of Forgiveness



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: Resurrectional Tone: 4, pp. 141 – 142 and Cheesefare Sunday: pp. 218 - 219

Divine Services Schedule:

SUN., FEB. 23 **CHEESEFARE SUNDAY, SUNDAY of FORGIVENESS**

8:00 A.M.

Holy Rosary

8:30 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY, *Rite of Forgiveness*

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

Mon., Feb. 24: Great Fast Begins, Clean Monday

(At St. Mary: Wednesday, February 26, 6:00 P.M., Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts)

FRI., FEB. 28 **FIRST FRIDAY OF LENT**

6:00 P.M.

LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

SUN., MAR. 1 **FIRST SUNDAY of LENT, SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY**

8:00 A.M.

Holy Rosary

8:30 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY

Health & God's Blessings for John Simunick, offered by Francis & JoAnn Hersh

Next Sunday: First Sunday of the Great Fast - The First Sunday of the Great Fast is also called the Sunday of Orthodoxy in commemoration of the victory of orthodoxy-true faith in controversy over Holy Icons in the year 843. As part of this commemoration, the blessing of Icons will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy. **Please bring your icons to be blessed and place them on the table that will be set up in the front of the Church.**

Happy Birthday Greetings this Week:

February 24: Elizabeth Bare, February 26: Christine Cody

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

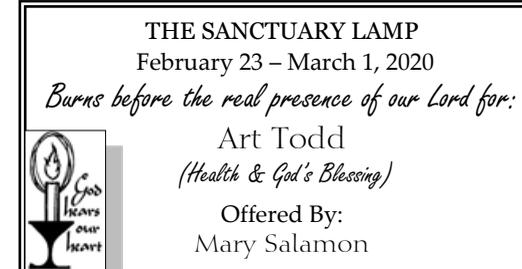
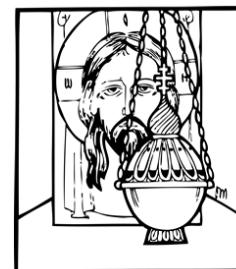
Beaver Meadows (5130 Tuscarawas Rd, Beaver, PA 15009) - Angie Yuhasz

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

Epistle Readers: February 23: Joanne Futato – March 1: Prudy Peya

Ushers: February 23: R. Dzumba/F. Hersh – March 1: E. Maruhnich/J. Yurosky

Troica Holders: February 23: J. Yurosky – March 1: M. Bobanic

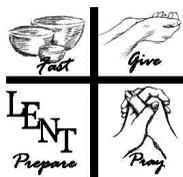


The icon is a detail of the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. The Holy Forty Days Fast (Great Lent) begins after Forgiveness Vespers on Sunday evening. May each of us seek out those we have offended and ask forgiveness, and forgive each and every man who has offended us (even if he does not seek our forgiveness). In that way we may approach the coming Fast worthily.

St. Anthony the Great reminds us: “Do not neglect the Fast; it constitutes an imitation of Christ’s way of life.”

Upcoming Calendar of Events

TODAY **Lenten Soup Sale**
February 24 **Great Fast Begins**
February 24 – April 5 **Lenten Almsgiving Collection**
February 28 **Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts, 6:00 P.M.**
March 1 **Sunday of Orthodoxy, Blessing of icons**
March 1 **Lenten Study Group and Soup Supper, 5:00 P.M. (info in bulletin)**



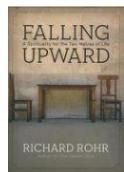
Parish Lenten Almsgiving Collection

Our Parish Lenten Almsgiving collection will be from February 24 through April 5. Non-perishable food items will be collected for the St. Vincent De Paul Society Food Bank in Aliquippa. A donation area will be set up in the Parish Center and in the narthex of the Church.

Visit the Church Store! - The Church store in the Center is open after Divine Liturgy every Sunday. There are many Lenten and Pascha items. *Look today!*

Church Library and Reading Room OPEN!

Our Church Library, now back in the original Library room, is open every **Sunday and on Saturday mornings from 9:00-12:00**. You can relax and enjoy a comfortable reading area. Be sure to utilize this important Ministry of our Church.



New Title: In *Falling Upward*, Fr. Richard Rohr seeks to help readers understand the tasks of the two halves of life and to show them that those who have fallen, failed, or "gone down" are the only ones who understand "up." Most of us tend to think of the second half of life as largely about getting old, dealing with health issues, and letting go of life, but the whole thesis of this book is exactly the opposite. What looks like falling down can largely be experienced as "falling upward." In fact, it is not a loss but somehow actually a gain, as we have all seen with elders who have come to their fullness. This book explains why the second half of life can and should be full of spiritual richness.

St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church in Greenfield is having a Lenten **FISH AND MORE** sale throughout the Great Fast. Fridays in Lent from 12:00 noon until 6:00 PM (*except Good Friday*). Eat in or Take Out - Healthy Options. Cash Only. Ample Free Parking. Pierogi, Halushki, Mac & Cheese, Cole Slaw, New England Clam Chowder, Cod Sandwich, Crab Cake Sandwich, Tuna Salad Sandwich, Pene Pasta, and more! 506 Saline Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207. Call in orders from 11:30 AM until 5 PM *only* on Fridays: 412-627-4006

*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.*

Lenten Soup Sale TODAY

Delicious homemade vegetable soup, just in time for your strict fast needs, is available for \$8.00 a quart in the Center or Narthex. Pre-orders are ready for payment and pick-up in the Center, there is extra to buy. Thank you for your support!

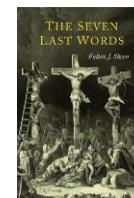


Lenten Resources: Lenten Library

We have free Lenten resources to take and Lenten Books for you to borrow from our **Church Library**. As we prepare to enter this Lenten season, let us ask the Lord to fill us with his love as we enhance our spiritual growth through commitment to prayer, reading Scripture, Reconciliation, receiving the Eucharist and trying to stay close to the Lord in our everyday lives.

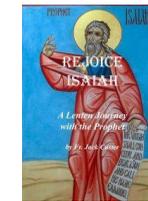
Available to borrow: The Last Seven Words by Fulton Sheen

There was never a preacher like the dying Christ; there was never a congregation like that which gathered about the pulpit of the Cross; there was never a sermon like the Seven Last Words. In the work Bishop Sheen expounds upon the Seven Last Words of Christ, elaborating on their meaning for Christians since the time of Christ to the present day.



Lenten Study Group and Soup Suppers!

Beginning March 1, during the Great Fast, there will be a Study Group along with a soup supper, Sundays at 5:00 P.M. 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. The Library and Church Store will be open at this time too. *Bring guests!*



Some helpful tips for reading Rejoice Isaiah

1. Read the introduction to the book before Lent begins.
2. Beginning February 24, read the daily selection (*bible Verse*) from Isaiah before turning to the reflection of the day.
3. Reflect on the questions given each day. Jot down those you want to remember and/or discuss at the Study Group.

Spiritual reflection, fasting supper, and fellowship

Lent is a gift of the Church to us for renewal. We can't reduce it to fasting and personal benefits. Lent is an opportunity to build the Church up, and a stronger parish will result in stronger parishioners and stronger families.

Lenten Services and Devotions:

During the Great Fast, Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts will be every Friday at 6:00 P.M. We will also have a Lenten Study Group and soup supper at 5:00 P.M. every Sunday (*info in bulletin*). The Holy Rosary that we pray each Sunday will be prayed with special Lenten devotions; this begins at 8:00 A.M. every Sunday before Divine Liturgy. (*Other Pre-Sanctified Liturgies will be at St. Mary in Ambridge every Wednesday at 6:00 P.M.*). Any services that are added as we go through our Lenten journey will be announced in the Sunday bulletin. **The Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts takes precedence over all other Lenten devotions.**

Parish Lenten Prayer Project

During this Lenten Season, as a Parish family, we will dedicate to praying for those who have fallen away from the Catholic Church and for their return to the fullness of the faith through the intercession of the *Mother of God, Searcher for the Lost*. **Who will we pray for?** Those who have left because they have been hurt by the church, those who at some point in their lives made bad choices that have kept them away, and those who simply walked away, drawn by other things. We love them and so does God.

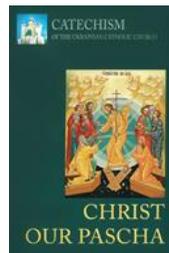


The *Searcher for the Lost* Icon and prayers are set up in the front of the Church. You can pray anytime you are in the Church, before and after Sunday and Lenten Services or anytime you are here. We will also pray before the Lenten Study Group. **Following Liturgy, the prayers will be handed out for all to take home to pray daily.** Pray here, pray at home.

There are so many lost people and so many who need the Church.

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha

The Three Orders of the Divine Liturgy. In order to sustain the faithful in the spiritual effort of fasting during Lent, the Church celebrates the Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts. At this Liturgy, the faithful partake of the Holy Gifts that were consecrated the previous Sunday. No Divine Liturgy is celebrated on the Wednesday and Friday of Cheesefare Week, Monday and Tuesday of the first week of Lent, or on Good Friday, which is why according to tradition these are *non-liturgical* days. It is customary to celebrate the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts on the Wednesdays and Fridays of Great Lent, which is why they call all the Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays of Lent non-liturgical. The Church maintains the practice of non-liturgical days in order to remind us that we are only approaching the fullness of the kingdom of God, and in order that the Eucharist not become for us just a habit, but that it may always be a dynamic event. (#394)



“Forgive me”... “It is God who forgives”

A Note from Fr. Geoff

My dear sisters and brothers,

The Orthodox author Jim Forest writes that “The insistence on forgiveness is a basic element of Christ’s teaching.” Forgiveness is at the center, the core, of the life that we are called to live as followers of Jesus.

As we begin the Great Fast each year, we begin with the theme of forgiveness. Christ tells us that the forgiveness we are to extend to others is connected to the forgiveness that we receive directly from God. “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6.14-15)

But the theme of forgiveness is not only at the beginning of Lent. It follows us all the way through it. As a penitential season, it is a time for us to admit all our faults and failings to the Lord and ask for *his* forgiveness, most especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession).

It will also come up again as a theme on the very last day of Lent – the Friday before Palm Sunday – when we read Genesis 50 in the Presanctified Liturgy. There we read about the Patriarch Joseph forgiving his brothers for selling him into slavery in Egypt.

But forgiveness isn’t only a theme for penitence and fasting. It will also be proclaimed at the end of our fasting at the great and holy Feast of Feasts, the Pascha of our Lord. On that bright night we will sing: “Let us call brothers and sisters even those who hate us, and forgive all by the Resurrection!”

This week, as we enter this solemn season of Lent, it would be good to take an “inventory” of our lives. Who have I wronged that I should ask the forgiveness of? Who has wronged me, that I have an opportunity to extend mercy and compassion to? Who do I consider an enemy that I can pray for? Who may have something against me that I can seek out in kindness and generosity?

If we begin this season with such questions in mind, our Lord in his mercy is sure to receive our efforts. For, whatever our fast may consist of, let us remember the words of St. Paul from Galatians: “For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Geoff

“The Lenten Spring Has Come”



The first day of the Great Fast “Pure Monday” begins tomorrow (February 24). It is extremely important to get off to a good start. Here are

a few things that will make it a truly Holy and Beautiful “Lenten Spring.”

- Plan on keeping an especially good fast for this first week. Show yourself that you can be a disciplined faster. We are a product of what we don’t eat as much as what we do!

- Attend the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts. **The Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts takes precedence over all other Lenten devotions.**

- Get some good books to read – AVAILABLE AT OUR LIBRARY! Be prepared to have some quiet time without the TV, radio or computer.

- Set aside some monies to give alms, charities. As difficult a time you may be having, there are those who are having it much worse and could use your help.

- Rediscover prayer! Make a daily practice of St. Ephrem’s Prayer. The prayer is not just for when you are in Church! Pray the Lord’s Prayer at least three times during the day. If you do this you will find that you will begin to pray more. **Participate in our Lenten Prayer Project with the Searcher for the Lost icon.**

PRAYER OF SAINT EPHREM

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter. (*Prostration*)

Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love. (*Prostration*)

Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. (*Prostration*)

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



“Fasting is like medicine. But like all medicines, though it be very profitable to the person who knows how to use it, it frequently becomes useless, and even harmful, in the hands of him who is unskillful in its use.”

- St. John Chrysostom