

March 13, 2022  
Second Sunday of the Great Fast



**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 1, pg. 125, Second Sunday of Lent: pp. 222 - 223  
Typica: pp. 16-17, Beattitudes: pp. 23-24, St. Basil melodies: pg. 96

Divine Services for the Week:

**SUN. MAR. 13**      **SECOND SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, St. Gregory Palamas**  
**8:30 A.M.**      **DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil**  
                         + **Philomena Rossi**, offered by Florence Leisky

**4:00 P.M.**      **SUNDAY EVENING VESPERS for the GREAT FAST**

*(At St. Mary: Wednesday, March 16, 6:00 P.M., Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts)*

**FRI., MAR. 18**      **THIRD FRIDAY of the GREAT FAST**  
**6:00 P.M.**      **LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS**

**SAT. MAR. 19**      **THIRD ALL SOULS SATURDAY**  
**9:00 A.M.**      **DIVINE LITURGY** *Panachida, Hramoty*

Members of the family are encouraged to attend the 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!

**SUN., MAR. 20**      **THIRD SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, Veneration of the Cross**  
**8:30 A.M.**      **DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil, Blessing of crosses**  
                         + **Lori (Dickey) Stevic**, offered by Richard Mudron

*(4:00 P.M.      At St. Mary, Sunday Evening Vespers for the Great Fast)*

*Preterpivjy za nas strasti, Isuse Christe, Syne Bozij, pomiluj nas.*

**Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:**

March 15: Ann Barnett

**Wedding Anniversaries this Week:**

None for the week

**Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins**

**HOME** – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

Ann Trombulak – **Rochester Manor:** (174 Virginia Ave., Rochester, PA 15074)

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

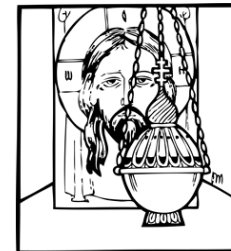
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

**Epistle Readers – Mar. 13: Prudy Peya – Mar. 20: JoAnn Hersh**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – Mar. 13: J. Yurosky – Mar. 20: F. Hersh**



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

March 13 - 19, 2022

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

The Parishioners

**Blessing of Crosses Next Sunday** - Next Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the Third Sunday of the Great Fast on which we honor the Holy and Life-giving Cross of Our Savior. According to our Liturgical tradition, the Cross is carried from the altar on a tray of flowers and placed in the midst of the congregation so that we may pay homage to the symbol of our salvation. . As part of this commemoration, a blessing of Crosses will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Please bring any crosses you wish to have blessed next Sunday.

## *Easter Nut Roll Sale*

We will be selling nut rolls for Easter this year. Nut rolls are **\$15.00 each**. Orders will be available for **pick-up on Sunday, April 10** following Divine Liturgy. There is an order sheet in the Narthex. Order deadline: April 3

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### Special Collection for Ukraine

The Archeparchy of Pittsburgh has organized a special collection from our parishes to take place on the Third Sunday of the Great Fast - the Sunday of the Cross, **March 20, 2022**. This will be in addition to our regular parish collection and will benefit the **Eparchy of Mukachevo, Ukraine**, due to the effects of the Russian invasion of their country. Checks for this collection should be made out to our parish, with "**Help to Ukraine**" in the memo line. We will then send the Archeparchy *one* check from the parish.

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### Pysanky Workshop in Carnegie

Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 220 Mansfield Blvd, Carnegie, will be hosting a Ukrainian Easter Egg Workshop on Saturday, April 2, 12:00-3:00 PM. Come make traditional pysanky using beeswax and dyes. Regular Workshop fee: \$20 (Open to ages 8 and above). Advanced workshop fee: \$30 (Open to ages 13 and above). For more information and to register, call Michael at 412-527-5359.

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### Pascha Altar Candles

A sign-up sheet is now in the Narthex to donate altar candles for Pascha.

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## **Prayer of Saint Ephraim**

*To be prayed each day of the Great Fast*



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. Amen.

*(Prostration)*

## **A Note from Father Geoff**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During the Great Fast, we hear much about turning from darkness toward the Light. The hymns at Vespers (aposticha) of Forgiveness Sunday evening say: "Let us turn away from the works of darkness and let us clothe ourselves with the armor of light." This is a quotation from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (Rom. 13:12).

This armor of light is not something that protects us from being hurt or vulnerable. After all, our Lord was perfectly clothed in Light (he is the Light) and yet was scorned and rejected, despised and considered of no account. Rather the armor of light is something that, paradoxically, *unites* us to those for whom our heart can break.

Pope Francis in a recent homily said that our faith is "not a suit of armor that encases us," but rather "a fascinating journey, a constant and restless movement, ever in search of God, always discerning our way forward." As I've talked about Lent being a "journey" the past few weeks, I thought this insight was an interesting insight.

The Great Fast - like all of the Christian life - is a journey in search of God. And, as we hear on the Sunday of the Last Judgment, we most readily find God in the face of those who are most in need. "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you cared for me. I was in prison and you visited me." (Mt. 25.35-36)

As we continue walking this pilgrim journey of Lent, let us be ready to put on the armor which makes us vulnerable to others in need; the armor which makes our hearts beat in solidarity with the needy and therefore reach out to them as brothers and sisters. For in doing so, we will encounter the Lord to whom our journey is directed.

In Him,

*Fr. Geoff*

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*"God ordained that we made friends with each other in this temporary life; let us try not to separate even in eternity! Just as we have been found pleasing to a mortal king, so let us strive to be worthy of the favor of the immortal King, Christ our God."*

St. Cyron

## Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

The Faith of the Many sufficed for the Healing of the One Today we hear the beautiful story of the healing of the paralytic who was brought by his friends through the roof of a building to Jesus, because they could get to him otherwise with the crowds. The Gospel tells us that the occasion for the healing of the paralytic, the reason why Jesus healed him, was that he saw “their faith.”

How powerful faith is! Faith not only has the power to unite us to Christ, but can also save those for whom we intercede.

All of us struggle in the faith; all of us stumble and become distracted by the enticements of the world. But if we are surrounded by faithful friends, we can be held up, and even saved from spiritual danger by them.

Choosing good friends, then, is very, very important. They will either lead us to Christ, as the friends of the paralytic did, or they will lead us away from the Lord and endanger our salvation.

### CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

1. What are the criteria by which we choose our friends?
2. What is the most important thing I can do as a friend?
3. What is an example of being a true friend, and what is an example of being a false friend?
4. Have I chosen my friends well?

### Rise and Walk! Your Sins are Forgiven!

Take up your bed. Carry the very mat that once carried you. Change places, so that what was the proof of your sickness may now give testimony to your soundness. Your bed of pain becomes the sign of healing, its very weight the measure of the strength that has been restored to you.

(St. Peter Chrysologus)

***Don't let this sacred time slip by!***



**Repentance, Fasting, Prayer, Alms-giving**

## St. Gregory Palamas

The icon is of St. Gregory Palamas, who is commemorated in the Byzantine Church especially on the Second Sunday of the Fast. Saint Gregory Palamas (1296-1359) was a monk, archbishop and eminent theologian. He was also a major figure in fourteenth-century Byzantium. His greatest work, *In Defense of Holy Hesychasts* [commonly known as the *Triads*], was written between 1338 and 1341 as a response to the charges of Barlaam. Barlaam denied the legitimacy of the spiritual methods of Byzantine monastic groups known as hesychasts and discredited their claims to experience the divine presence. Hesychasm, a movement dating back to the Fathers of the desert, believed that since the body itself receives the grace of sacraments and the pledge of final resurrection it would properly have a share in "pure prayer". They believed that God is accessible to personal experience because He shared His own life with humanity. It is from this tradition that we have the famous "Jesus Prayer": "Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!"



*Let us stir up all who see us to glorify God as they recognize that this house has Christ within it, who gives strength to those whose souls are paralyzed and commands them to lift up and offer up to Him, with a spiritual understanding pleasing to God, their physical senses and perceptions, instead of being mindlessly carried away and brought down by them. In this way they will go into the house that is really ours, by which I mean the country in and above the heavens, where Christ now is, the Heir and Bestower of our inheritance.*

St Gregory Palamas

### On Keeping a Spiritual Fast

There is both a physical and a spiritual fast. In the physical fast the body abstains from food and drink. In the spiritual fast, the faster abstains from evil intentions, words and deeds. One who truly fasts abstains from anger, rage, malice, and vengeance. One who truly fasts abstains from idle and foul talk, empty rhetoric, slander, condemnation, flattery, lying and all manner of spiteful talk. In a word, a real faster is one who withdraws from all evil.

- St. Basil the Great

*Having suffered the passion for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us*

# SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik      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  
 St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club ..... Everyone welcome to participate

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**Faith + prayer and fasting = power to overcome even the greatest of sin**