

April 17, 2022
Pascha, the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese Voistinu Voskrese!

Proprs for Pascha: pp. 164 - 171

Divine Services for the Week:

SAT., APR. 16 7:00 P.M.	PASCHA, the RESURRECTION of our LORD, anticipated RESURRECTION MATINS, DIVINE LITURGY, Blessing of Artos, For the Parishioners
MON., APR. 18 9:00 A.M.	BRIGHT MONDAY DIVINE LITURGY, Procession and four resurrection Gospels
<i>(At St. Mary, Tuesday, April 19, 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy and procession for Bright Tuesday)</i>	
SAT., APR. 23 9:00 A.M.	ST. GEORGE the GREAT MARTYR HOLY DAY DIVINE LITURGY For the Parishioners
SUN., APR. 24 *10:00 A.M.	THOMAS SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY, distribution of Artos, luncheon following For the Parishioners

Privileged Week

During Bright Week (Sunday of Pascha to the Sunday of St. Thomas), there is no fasting at all. Bright Week is seen, liturgically speaking as one single day – a continuation of Pascha throughout the whole week.

Christ is Risen! ~ Indeed He is Risen!

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

None for the week

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick, Marian Yurosky

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

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

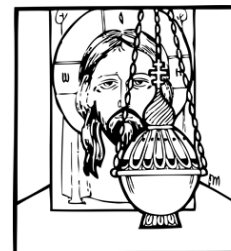
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers – April 16: Cantors – April 24: JoAnn Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – April 16: R. Mudron – April 24: R. Dzumba



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

April 17 - 23, 2022

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Art Todd

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Mary Salamon

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!
Христосъ воскресе! Воистину воскресе!
Χριστός ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!
al-Masīh qām! Haqqan qām!
¡Cristo ha resucitado! ¡En Verdad ha resucitado!
Foltamadt Krisztus! Valoban Foltamadt!
Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!

Next Saturday and Sunday:

St. George Patronal Feast Day Weekend Celebration

There will be a Divine Liturgy on our Patronal Feast Day, **Saturday, April 23 at 9:00 A.M.** The next day, **Sunday, April 24**, we will continue our celebration here at St. George Church with a **Liturgy at 10:00 A.M.** **This will be the only Liturgy that weekend for both parishes. A luncheon will follow.** The parish family of St. Mary in Ambridge is also invited to attend Liturgy along with staying for the breakfast/luncheon. We welcome all parishioners and guests to come and honor our Patron, St. George the Great Martyr and to celebrate together as a parish family. **A sign-up sheet for the luncheon is in the Narthex. Sign up today.**



It's St. George Flea Market Time!

We will again be having a Flea Market here at St. George Church this summer, date to be announced. Consider donating items you no longer need to our flea market. Items can be brought to the Center every Saturday from 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. You may also bring items on Sunday when you come to Church. Ask family and friends to consider donating items to our Flea Market. *Thank you!*

Rejoice and Be Glad!

The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir returns to St. John's Cathedral in Munhall on April 24 for prayer and a program of hymns of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord. The afternoon will begin at 3:00 PM with a Moleben for the Living, in celebration and gracious thanks for the much-anticipated return to social events after a 3-year hiatus due to pandemic concerns. The Choir's presentation "Rejoice and Be Glad" will immediately follow, featuring many beloved and seldom-heard renditions of the Paschal greet, "Christ is Risen! Christos Voskrese!" A cake and coffee reception will follow.

Fellowship Coffee and Doughnuts to Return

Coffee and Doughnut hour will return on Sunday, May 1, following Sunday Divine Liturgy. We invite everyone to join us every Sunday following Divine Liturgy in the Center for fellowship, coffee, and doughnuts!



Христосъ воскресе! Воистину воскресе!

A Note from Father Geoff

Christ is risen! Christos voskrese! Christos anesti!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we celebrate joyfully that Christ is, indeed, risen from the dead, conquering death by death and to those in the tombs granting life! Christ *is* risen from the dead. It is not simply that he *has* risen from the dead. It's not only something that happened 2,000 years ago in Roman-occupied Israel. Nor is it something that simply happens "in our hearts." Rather, the fact that Christ rose from the dead once in history, is a fact for all time. "He ever lives to make intercession for [us]!" (Hebrews 7.25)

Jesus *lives!* He who was crucified, died, and buried *lives*. He who "became sin, who knew no sin" (2 Corinthians 5.21) took sin itself to death with him on the Cross. In rising from the dead, he has destroyed the gates of hell, crushed the power of sin, trampled Satan under his feet, and opened the Kingdom of God to "whosoever will". (Revelation 22.17)

Because Jesus lives - now and not just in ancient Palestine - our own lives are changed. We who are in Christ are already, in a mystery, participating in the life of the Age to Come. We have "put on Christ" (Galatians 3.27) and are now "partakers of the divine nature." (2 Peter 1.4)

So "the life we live, we live to God!" (Romans 14.8) We live a life of God's peace, which passes understanding. As members of Christ, our Head, we participate in the resurrecting and reconciling work of God in Christ. So, as we sing in the Paschal Stichera at Matins: "This is the day of Resurrection! Let us be enlightened by this Feast. And let us embrace one another. Let us call 'brother and sister' even those who hate us, and in the Resurrection forgive everything!"

And may our risen Lord Jesus Christ be given all glory, honor and worship, not only with our lips, but in our lives!

Christ is risen!

Fr. Geoff

*Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!
Christós Anésti! Alithós Anésti!*



Resurrection of Our Lord - Pascha: Icon Reflection

“Christ is Risen,” is the Gospel proclamation. All four Gospels are silent on the manner of Christ’s Resurrection. Nowhere in Scripture is there a factual account of the event, but rather it expresses what occurred before or after the Resurrection.

Two Icons depict this mystery of the Resurrection, the Descent into Hades and the Myrrh-Bearing Women. The more familiar one is the Icon of the Descent into Hades. In it, Christ is seen trampling the gates of Hades, taking Adam and Eve by the hands and drawing them to life.

Our Lord’s entrance into Hades, (depths of the earth) transforms it. Through death He entered the realm of Hades which in the Icon is shown by the black abyss. Christ’s presence in Hades showed that He took upon Himself every humiliation and sin of mankind. He is shown as a conqueror with a radiant halo, the symbol of glory. His garments are brilliant, filling the darkness with the light of His divine presence. He stands upon the broken gate of the kingdom of death, thus indicating His victory over death by His own death and resurrection. Through His humiliation and death, He raised all creation to participate in Divine Life.

Bolts, broken chains, and keys are scattered about to signify the freeing of those held captive and the breaking of death’s hold over men. By Christ’s descent, Hades is destroyed and its gates trampled. Having broken the bonds of death’s power, Christ is seen raising Adam and Eve from the grave. In freeing our first parents, Christ also frees those who put their faith in His coming.

“The Resurrection is an earthquake for the Faithful, a cause of dread for the ignorant; for the Faithful because the sluggish body bestirs itself from the sleep of death, for the ignorant because, disturbed by the trembling of the body and the movement of the earth, they depart from faith and belief in the Resurrection.”

- By Saint Ambrose of Milan

“This is the day of Resurrection. Let us be enlightened by this feast, and let us embrace one another. Let us call brothers and sisters, even those who hate us, and in the Resurrection forgive everything.”

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Christos Voskrese! Voistinue Voskrese!

Come, Receive the Light Which Never Fades!

By His death and resurrection Christ has defeated Death once and for all. He destroys our enslavement to sin. Through faith He offers us new life. Let us celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and, in faith, allow Him to transform our lives.

What Is Bright Week?

Bright Week is the first week following the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which is celebrated each year at Pascha. It ends the following Sunday, the Sunday of St. Thomas. For all Eastern Christians Bright Week begins a period of celebration that continues for fifty days until Pentecost.

This celebration includes the practice of the faithful joyously greeting each other with the salutation of “Christ is Risen!” followed by the response “Indeed He is Risen!”, as the whole of creation is renewed by Our Lord and Savior. The services of Bright Week are done with the Royal Doors fully open. This unblocked view of the altar symbolizes the open door of Christ’s empty tomb as well as the rent veil of the Jewish Temple, which was torn apart at the moment Christ died. The entire week is considered to be one continuous day and the main reason why fasting is completely prohibited to all Eastern Christians during the week.



Blessed John Paul II: “Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and Alleluia is our song.”

A Pascha Tradition

The Holy Spirit reminds us ” not to reject the traditions of our elders, which they have learned from their fathers” (Sirach 8:9). Together with the Byzantine Rite, we have inherited many meaningful customs which make our liturgical worship inspiring, spiritually rich, and close to the heart of our people. Among these venerable customs we count the custom of blessing food at Easter. This venerable custom was brought to the United States by our fore-fathers. As we celebrate the Pasch, a feast of new life, we bless the food sustaining our physical life. Thus our custom has its meaning even today and, therefore, it should be piously observed.



At the appointed time of the blessing of the paschal foods, the basket is brought to the church. Having prepared themselves during Lent and by making their Easter confession and receiving Holy Communion, the faithful eat the blessed food on Easter Sunday and the days following Easter.

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

PASTOR: FATHER GEOFFREY MACKEY

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

Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238

OFFICE PHONE: 724-375-2742

FAX: 724-375-8776

ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652

PARISH EMAIL: stgbyz@gmail.com

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org

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

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Христос Воскресе! Воскресе!

2022 Paschal Message

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

On Easter morning, Jesus arose from the darkness of death from the tomb. The apostles and disciples were filled with fear. In a flash of light, Christ overcame sin and death. He opened the path to eternal life for us. The whole world is invited to listen to the Easter story, to follow His teachings which will bring them to new life with the Risen Lord now and to the life to come in heaven.

As we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection this year, we continue to emerge from the third year under the dark cloud of virus. The current sixth wave of infections due to the new variants is less deadly and more manageable than the past waves. Gradually, people are adjusting to the new normal of life. We pray for those who have suffered and passed during the past year.

Unfortunately, another deeper darkness has descended upon the world. The current invasion and war between Russia and Ukraine has shocked the world. The Ukrainian soldiers have fought bravely beyond all expectations. There is hope that the killing will stop. However, thousands have died with damage in the billions of dollars. Ten million people have been displaced from their homes. We pray for the end of the madness and their return to their homes in peace.

Our people and churches have responded with the largest collection in the history of our Byzantine Catholic Church. So far, the Archeparchy and other Eparchies have collected over \$500,000 to help feed and support the homeless.

Bishop Nil of Mukachevo sends thanks on behalf of those in their time of desperate need. The stories from the bishop's calls confirm the images in the news which are chilling. The people living day to day without food and in fear is heart breaking. We continue to send our support and daily prayers that the suffering will end. We give thanks to all who are helping. And, we pray that the Mother of God will protect everyone from harm.

We remember to continue to pray the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

“O Mary, Mother of God and our mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our mother, you love us and know us: No concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the prince of peace....

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love....

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your sorrowful heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: “Behold your son” (Jn 19:26). In this way, he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: “Behold, your Mother” (Jn 19:27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history.

At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty....

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the “fiat,” on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our “living fountain of hope,” water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.”

May next Easter be a celebration with the darkness of pandemic and war lifted by the light of the Resurrection of Christ.

Christ is Risen!



Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D., *Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh*

The Paschal Homily of Saint John Chrysostom

Is there anyone here who is a devout lover of God?
Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival.
Is there anyone who is a grateful servant?
Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!

Are there any now weary with fasting?
Let them now receive their wages!
If they have toiled from the first hour, let them receive their due reward;
If any have come after the third hour, let him with gratitude join in the Feast!

And he that arrived after the sixth hour, let him not doubt;
for he shall have sustained no loss.
And if any have delayed until the ninth hour,
let him not hesitate; but let him come too.
And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour,
let him not be afraid by reason of his delay.

For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first.
He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh hour,
as well as to him who toiled from the first.
To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows.
He accepts the work as he greets the endeavor.
The deed He honors and the intention He commends.

Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord!
First and last alike receive your reward;
rich and poor, rejoice together!
Sober and slothful, celebrate the day!

You that have kept the fast, and you that have not,
rejoice today for the Table is richly laden!
Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one.
Let no one go away hungry; partake, all, of the cup of faith.
Enjoy all the riches of His goodness!

Let no one grieve at his poverty,
for the universal kingdom has been revealed.
Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again;
for forgiveness has risen from the grave.
Let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free.
He has destroyed it by enduring it.⁶

He destroyed Hades when he descended into it.
He put it into an uproar even as it tasted of His flesh.
Isaiah foretold this when he said,
You, O Hell, have been troubled by encountering Him below.

Hell was in an uproar because it was done away with.
It was in an uproar, because it was mocked.
It was in an uproar, for it was destroyed.
It is in an uproar, for it is annihilated.

It is in an uproar because it is now made captive.
Hell took a body, and it discovered God.
It took earth, and encountered Heaven.
It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see.
O death, where is your sting?
O Hades, where is your victory?

Christ is risen, and you, O death, are annihilated!
Christ is risen, and the evil ones are cast down!
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!
Christ is risen, and life is liberated!
Christ is risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead;
for Christ, having risen from the dead,
is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen!