

February 26, 2023
First Sunday of the Great Fast, Sunday of Orthodoxy



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 5: pg. 146 and for Sun. of Orthodoxy: Pg. 220 - 222

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., FEB. 26 **FIRST SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, Sunday of Orthodoxy**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY, *Blessing of icons***
+ Michael Golovich, offered by Sr. Mary Virginia

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

(At St. Mary: *Wednesday, March 1, 6:00 PM, Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts*)

FRI., MARCH 3 **SECOND FRIDAY of the GREAT FAST**
6:00 P.M. **DIVINE LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS**

SAT., MARCH 4 **SECOND ALL SOULS SATURDAY**
9:00 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY, *Panachida, Hramoty***

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!

SUN., MARCH 5 **SECOND SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, St. Gregory Palamas**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Joseph Olack, offered by Mary Elizabeth Olack

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

Preterpivj za nas strasti, Isuse Christe, Syne Bozij, pomiluj nas.

Happy Birthday Greetings:
February 26: Christine Cody, March 1: Raymond Ozimok

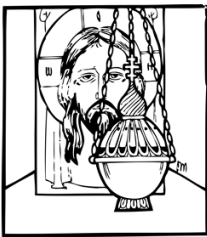
Wedding Anniversaries this Week:
None for the week

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

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)
Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

Epistle Readers – Feb 26: Dan Pinchot – March 5: Prudy Peya
Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – Feb. 26: F. Hersh – March 5: M. Bobanic
If you would like to be a Trioca Holder, please see one of them following Liturgy.
We could always use the help!



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
February 26 – March 4, 2023
Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:
+ Joseph Olack
(In Loving Memory)
Offered By:
Wife, Mary Elizabeth Olack

A return to the true spirit of fasting is urgently needed in today's world. It is urgently needed to help us recover that vision of the New Life which we, in our secularistic world, so often betray and so easily lose.

O Theotokos, the indescribable Word of the Father became describable when he took flesh from you. Our soiled image was restored to its original form, commingled with divine beauty. This is the very salvation we profess, depicting it in word and deed.

Adult Formation Opportunity

Live Webinar from www.godwithusonline.org detailed below:

THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

A Study of the Sacraments and Orthodoxy

Mondays, February 27th - March 13th, 8:00- 9:00 PM.

Presented by Rev. David Anderson

“Man is a hungry being. But he is hungry for God. Behind all the hunger of our life is God. All desire is finally a desire for Him. To be sure, man is not the only hungry being. All that exists lives by 'eating.' The whole creation depends on food. But the unique position of man in the universe is that he alone is to bless God for the food and the life he receives from him.”

Very Rev. Alexander Schmemmann

Ukrainian Easter Egg Sale in Carnegie

Our brothers and sisters at Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie are holding their 55th annual Ukrainian Easter Egg Sale. The event will have over 1,200 pysanky, over 300 specialty eggs (goose, ostrich, wooden, etc.), Ukrainian folk art, raffles and door prizes. Food offerings will include kielbasa, pirohi, holupky, haluski and baked goods. This will be held **Sunday, April 2, 2023, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM**. For more information call 412-527-5359 or visit orthodoxcarnegie.org

Two Psyanky Workshops

Two Psyanky (Easter Egg) workshops will be held in the area. The **Laughlin Memorial Library** (99 11th Street, Ambridge) will hold their workshop on Saturday, April 1, 10:00 AM to Noon. Space is limited. To register, call 724-266-3857. **Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church** (220 Mansfield Blvd, Carnegie) will host their workshop on Saturday, March 25 from 9:00 AM to Noon and 1:30 to 4:30 PM. The cost is \$30. Reservations and info: Michael at 412-527-5359, orthodoxcarnegie.org.

Is this the Face of Jesus?

See the Full size Shroud replica. Hear the history, the science. Experience the Passion of Jesus in a new way, presented by Shroud Talks. Sunday, March 5 at 2:00 P.M., Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, St. Margaret Mary Church location, 1 Parish Place, Moon Township, PA 15108



Easter Market -There is an “Easter Market” set up in the Center. Simply leave a donation for your purchase. Our Church store is also open. There are many Lenten and Pascha items available (Priced as marked).

A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

We now have reached the end of our first week of the Great Fast. The majority of it is still in front of us, but we have completed Clean Week. I am always excited when Lent gets underway. It is exciting to start, like the beginning of a race. We've prepared for it for a few weeks and now it is underway. We have begun our fasting practices - however great or simple. Hopefully we are focusing on spiritual matters in a more intentional way, perhaps taking up a greater prayer rule.

But all of these activities - both abstaining from some things and taking up others - are what theologians would call *instrumental* goods. They are, as it were, instruments or tools to a greater good: growth in love and unity with our Lord Jesus Christ.

The outer practices, as valuable as they are, should be indicative of *inner* practices, of the posture of our heart, of a repentant mind. Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ writes that *"Lent is a time of atonement. We are called to become introspective as we examine our conscience, to correct our past misdeeds. In doing so, we are called to be honest with ourselves, and that requires an examination of all that surrounds us. Are the people in God's house suffering? Is someone near you in need of shelter, clothing, or a small gesture of kindness? Behaving as God's children does not always mean that we are quiet, immobilized, seated in a pew with our hands folded in our lap."*

As we turn to God (which is what "repentance" means), we cannot do so without also turning toward our fellow man. The outer posture of our fasting and prayer should be matched by a renewal of our minds and a recommitment to the work that Christ has called us to: to participate in his work of reconciling the whole world to God.

St. Paul writes that *"God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making his appeal through us."*

Think about that! We are Christ's ambassadors! We represent our Lord in this world. As we draw near to him in faith during this season of grace, let us ask him to give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and the wisdom and will to discern where we can give a word of reconciliation or peace to another; where we can do a deed - large or small - of mercy and lovingkindness. Because God is making his appeal to the world through us.

And the closer we get to Jesus, the more like him we will become.

Yours in the Peace of Christ

Fr. Geoff

First Sunday of the Great Fast Sunday of Orthodoxy

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God.

We are keeping today, as every year at the end of the first week of the Great Fast-Lent, the Feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. The occasion of this feast was the recognition of the legitimacy of venerating icons. By doing this we proclaim that God - invisible, ineffable, the God whom we cannot comprehend, has truly become man, that God has taken flesh, that He has lived in our midst full of humility, of simplicity, but of glory also. And proclaiming this we venerate the icons not as idols, but as a declaration of the Truth of the Incarnation.



By doing this we must not forget that it is not the icons of wood and of paint, but God who reveals Himself in the world. Each of us was created in the image of God. We are all living icons, and this lays upon us a great responsibility because an icon may be defaced, an icon may be turned into a caricature and into a blasphemy. And we must think of ourselves and ask ourselves: are we worthy; are we capable of being called “icons”, images of God?

As long as we are not capable of being such a vision to those who surround us, we fail in our duty, we do not proclaim this “Triumph of Orthodoxy” through our life, and we give a lie to what we proclaim. And therefore, each of us, and all of us collectively, bear every responsibility for the fact that the world meeting Christians by the million is not converted by the vision of God’s presence in their midst, carried indeed in earthen vessels, but glorious, saintly, transfiguring the world.

Therefore, as we continue our Lenten journey let us learn to live according to the Gospel which is the Truth and the Life, not only individually but collectively, and build societies of Christians that are a revelation of it, so that the world looking at us may say: Let us re-shape our institutions, re-shape our relationships, renew all that has gone or remains old and become a new society in which the Law of God, the Life of God can prosper and triumph. Amen.

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. Amen. *(Prostration)*

Repentance, Fasting, Prayer,

Epistle Reflection

In the Epistle appointed for today, we hear the repetition of the word “faith.” What is faith, and why is this virtue focused upon in the Divine Liturgy today? In an attempt to define or explain what faith is, some might use the word “trust.” Faith, however, is something more than trust. Still others may explain what faith is by using the word “belief.” Again, however, the word belief, at least as it is commonly used today, falls short of a full explanation of what faith is.



First, it is important to realize that faith, as with trust and belief, is always directed toward something or someone outside of ourselves. “I trust this person” or “I believe this statement.” Faith is an action which goes beyond the one who has faith, and takes hold of someone or something beyond ourselves.

So what is faith? Faith is, as some have described it, the total giving over of ourselves to the one in whom we believe. Faith is not the acceptance of a list of doctrines or ideas; faith is not the trust we place in people who are knowledgeable in a particular area or expertise. Faith is the acceptance of the entirety of the person in whom we believe, regardless of the verifiability of what they say or claim to know. Faith unites us totally to Jesus in our mind, in our heart, in our will, and in our spirit. Only then do we begin to see as Jesus sees, understand as Jesus understands, and live as Jesus lives.

Why is this important to understand today? As we stand now at the beginning of our Lenten journey (having begun the fast this past week), we begin to realize how attached we are to the things of this world. Today Jesus calls us to place our trust, our belief, and yes, our faith, in him. Soon Jesus will die on the cross, and be buried in a cave. And soon, very soon, Jesus will rise from the dead on the third day. Only those who have become totally detached from the things of this world and have placed their faith in him, will rise with him from the dead.

How can we verify what is on the other side of the cross, if we choose to willingly die with Jesus? How can we verify what will happen to us if we give up our whole life and give ourselves totally to the Lord? The simple answer is that we cannot. Today we are called to have faith, to pray for increased faith. Then, if we have totally given ourselves over to the Lord, he promises us that we, with the Apostle Nathanael, “shall see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

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Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

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



Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff

Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies, or by appointment

Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the pastor

Holy Mystery of Anointing Contact the pastor prior to surgery or in the event of illness

Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

Pirohi Sales 2nd Friday of each month

St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club Everyone welcome to participate

Opportunities for StewardshipChurch and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month.

Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life...