

March 12, 2023
Third Sunday of the Great Fast, Veneration of the Cross



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 7: pg. 156 and Third Sunday of Lent: pp. 223 -225
Typica: pp. 16-17, Beattitudes: pp. 23-24, St. Basil melodies: pg. 96

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., MARCH 12 **THIRD SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, Veneration of the Cross**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY, Blessing of Crosses**

+ Marge Raychevich, offered by Sr. Mary Virginia

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

(At St. Mary: Wednesday, March 15, 6:00 PM, Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts)

FRI., MARCH 17 **FOURTH FRIDAY of the GREAT FAST**
6:00 P.M. **DIVINE LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS**

SAT., MARCH 18 **FOURTH ALL SOULS SATURDAY**
9:00 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY, Panachida, Hramoty**

SUN., MARCH 19 **FOURTH SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, St. John Climacus**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ J. Robert Chabala, offered by Prudy Peya

3:00 P.M. **TRI-STATE DEANERY LENTEN VESPERS & RITE of ANOINTING**

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

Happy Birthday Greetings:

March 15: Ann Barnett

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)

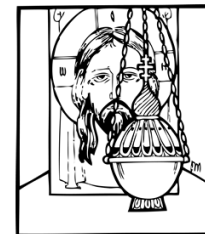
Epistle Readers – March 12: Joanne Futato – March 19: Louisa Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – March 12: R. Mudron – March 19: J. Yurosky

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

March 12 - 18, 2023

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ John & Eva Choras

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Daughter, Mary Salamon

The Cross Room

A young man was at the end of his rope. Seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer. "Lord, I can't go on," he said. "I have too heavy a cross to bear. The Lord replied, "My son, if you can't bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then open that other door and pick out any cross you wish." The young man was filled with relief. "Thank you Lord," he sighed, and he did what he was told. Upon entering the other door, he saw many other crosses, some so large the tops weren't even visible. Then he spotted a tiny cross leaning against the far wall. "I'd like that one Lord," he whispered. And the Lord replied, "My son that is the cross you just brought in."



Final Live Webinar of the Lenten Season THE INCARNATION AND THE CROSS

Understanding Christ's Redemptive Act

Monday, March 20th 8:00 – 9:00 PM

It is no coincidence that the Great Feast of the Annunciation falls in the midst of the Great Fast, usually just before Great & Holy Week. This can seem odd sometimes, given our tendency to compartmentalize the events of Christ's life, but it is essential that they be understood together. Join www.godwithusonline.org for a special one-night lecture to prepare for the Great Feast of the Annunciation and seek a deeper understanding of the important link between the Annunciation and Christ's sacrifice on the Cross as *one redemptive act*. Fr. David Anderson will show us how integrally the two events are tied together, for they make up *one* redemptive act.



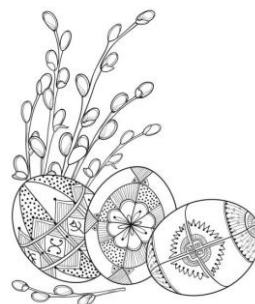
Byzantine Catholic School in Colorado is Expanding

Sophia Montessori Academy, a Byzantine Catholic School in Denver, Colorado, is hiring for the 2023-2024 school year! We are looking for faithful and dedicated teachers to join us in our mission to provide an exceptional education to children ages 3-9. Our job openings include an Office Manager, a Primary Montessori Guide, a Support and After Care Lead, and an Assistant Teacher. Perhaps you have a friend or relative in Colorado for whom this may be a good fit. Learn more about our openings on our website: sophiamontessori.com/employment or email a resume and letter of interest to Pauline Meert at info@sophiamontessori.com.



16th EGGstravaganza

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Uniontown will have their 16th EGGstravaganza on Sunday, March 26 from 12:00 noon – 4:00 PM. Come and “experience the traditions”. Egg artists will demonstrate and sell eggs. There will be a Market Place with Pysanky supplies, Easter items, Easter crafts, basket covers, and other ethnic items. Children's activities include storytelling, making Easter eggs, and other projects. There will also be a hands-on workshop for those interested in learning to make pysanky. A Lenten lunch menu will be available for purchase as well as an extensive bake sale table. Admission is free. St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall, 201 E. Main St., Uniontown, PA. 724-438-1382. www.stjohnbaptist-byzcath-uniontown.org & www.facebook.com/StJohnByzUniontown.



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

A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Just about eight years ago this week, I was privileged to make a visit to Namugongo, a town in Uganda where, in the 1880s, 22 Catholic and 23 Anglican Christians were martyred on the orders of King Mwanga II of Buganda. I had been in Uganda for a series of work-related meetings at a University there, and I had the chance to visit the Martyrs' Shrine just before having to leave for home. I will forever be grateful for that opportunity and I hope, someday, to return.



Uganda Martyrs Shrine

I was recently reminiscing about this trip at the same time that I was considering the Sunday of the Holy Cross. The Gospel appointed for this Sunday is a teaching of Jesus regarding what being his disciple must entail:

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For wherever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for my sake and the sake of the Gospel will save it. (Mark 8.34-35)

We who call ourselves Christians claim to be **disciples** of Jesus. To be a disciple literally means to be a student (*discipuli*, in Latin, means students). But "disciple" is also from the same root that we get the word **discipline**. We cannot be students or Disciples of Christ, if we do not have the discipline of taking up our crosses, day by day. And this means *laying down our lives for Christ and the sake of his Gospel*.

For most of us, this will not mean undergoing persecution the way the holy Martyrs of Uganda had to. They had to lay down their lives to the fullest. When required to renounce their faith by the king, they refused, were tortured, and died martyrs' deaths.

However, we can take up our own crosses by laying down our lives *while still living*. We must be ready to set aside our own prerogatives; to serve our brothers and sisters; to seek the face of Christ in those who are needy or suffering or ill or in danger; to stand up for the truth even when it risks our social status; to be willing to have our reputations sullied so that we can seek those most in need of Christ's love and forgiveness.

We must not be ashamed of Christ and of his words (Mark 8.38). But thanks be to God that if we *embrace* the words of Christ and place our faith and trust in him, we will find *eternal* life!

Glory to Christ, who by his Cross and precious Blood has redeemed the whole world!

Glory to him in every generation in the Church!

Yours in the Cross of our Lord,

Fr. Geoff



Uganda Martyrs Reliquary

The Sign of the Holy Cross

In the course of history no symbol has expressed the heart of Christians more than the Cross. The Cross is the concrete expression of the Christian mystery, victory through defeat, of glory through humiliation, of life through death. It is the symbol of a God who became man to die as a slave to save creatures. It is the symbol of a life that is not afraid to look to the height and breadth and depth of things because in every direction its arms remain outstretched.



It is interesting to note that long before Christ the symbol of the Cross was held in high esteem and venerated by many pagan cultures as a sacred sign of the stability and the integrity of the universe, pointing to the four directions of the compass and gathering to itself the entire cosmos.

This ancient symbol would in the “fullness of time” become the instrument of redemption and the means of the glorification of the Son of Man; as St. John Chrysostom says: “I call Him king because I see Him crucified: it belongs to the king to die for His subjects.” Crucifixion, death, salvation, kingship, glory — the Cross!

Because the pagan world could not and would not understand such a deep mystery, such “foolishness”, the early Christians hesitated to use the Cross openly as a sign of the new faith. When it did appear, it was usually disguised as an anchor or was intertwined amid vines. With the liberation of the Church from persecution under the Emperor Constantine, however, the Cross slowly emerged as the sign of the Christians. Despite their reticence to use the Cross as a public symbol before the fourth century, the Christians did make wide use of it as early as the second and third centuries to sign themselves on the forehead.

In the second century Tertullian reports: “In all our travels and movements, in all our coming in and going out... whatever employment occupies us, we mark our foreheads with the sign of the Cross.”

In the fourth century St. Cyril of Jerusalem writes, “Let us not be ashamed to confess the Crucified. Let the Cross be our seal, made with boldness by our fingers on our brow, and on everything; over the bread we eat, and the cups we drink; in our comings in, and goings out; before we sleep, and when we rise up; when we are on the road, and when we are still. Great is that preservative; it is without price... It is the Sign of the faithful, and the dread of devils: for He triumphed over them in it, having made a show of them openly for when they see the Cross they are reminded of the Crucified; they are afraid of Him, who bruised the head of the serpent. Despise not the Seal, because of the freeness of the gift; but for this the rather honor your Benefactor.”

By the sixth century, probably due to the raging Monophysite heresy which denied the two natures of Christ as both God and man, two fingers began to be used to trace the sign of the Cross, now no longer only on the forehead but more boldly with a larger sign made on the body.

Following centuries saw further a desire to profess more explicitly the belief in the triune God and the two natures of Christ. Consequently, the thumb and two fingers were extended to symbolize the Trinity while the ring finger and the little finger were folded back on the palm to profess the God/Man, Jesus Christ.

If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.

Having Come to the Midpoint of the Forty Day Great and Holy Fast... Let us Reflect...

Have I accepted the Great Fast- Lent as a “gift” from God, with thanksgiving? - Have I spent the last three weeks in a meaningfully different way? - Have I participated in the Lenten services that are held during the week, especially Wednesday and Friday evenings? - Have I used the Lenten prayer of Saint Ephraim in my morning and evening prayers, and at other times throughout the day? - In addition to the Holy Scriptures, what kind of spiritual reading have I done? Have I learned more about my Faith? Have I read spiritual works which can help me in my prayers, dealing with others, and spiritual faults and needs? - Am I preparing myself to make a good, honest, and humble Confession? Do I really believe that I am confessing my sins to Jesus Christ? Am I aware that the Lord sees my inner heart and will know if I only recite my sins, instead of being truly sorrowful and deeply committed to avoid repeating them? - In what ways will I struggle in the second part of the Great Fast that I have so far left unattended? - What price am I willing to pay in order to die and live in Christ? Am I willing to deny myself, take up my cross and follow Him to His heavenly Kingdom?



Let us not be ashamed to confess the Crucified. Let the Cross be our seal, made with boldness by our fingers on our brow, and on everything; over the bread we eat, and the cups we drink; in our comings in, and goings out; before we sleep, and when we rise up; when we are on the road, and when we are still. Great is that preservative; it is without price... it is the Sign of the faithful, and the dread of devils: for He triumphed over them in it, having made a show of them openly for when they see the Cross they are reminded of the Crucified; they are afraid of Him, who bruised the head of the serpent.

St Cyril of Jerusalem

Tri-State Deanery Lenten Vespers & Rite of Anointing

The Byzantine Catholic parishes of the Tri-State Deanery (Ambridge, Aliquippa, Avella, Canonsburg, and Weirton) will be holding a joint **Lenten Vespers** service on **Sunday, March 19 at 3:00 PM**, here at St. George Church. Following the Vespers, we will offer Anointing of the Sick to our faithful. Additional prayers for healing with the laying on of hands will be made available by the clergy. All are *warmly welcomed and encouraged to attend*. This is a good opportunity to invite friends from other parishes or faith communities to show them the beauty and depth of our Byzantine traditions.

ST. 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 EMAIL: stgbyz@gmail.com

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org

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.

Save your people, O Lord, and bless your inheritance. Grant victory to your Church over evil, and protect your people by your cross.