

April 2, 2023

The Journey of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ into Jerusalem



## 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 Palm Sunday: pp. 235 - 241

### Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., APRIL 2      **PALM SUNDAY, Blessing of palms & pussy willows**  
8:30 A.M.      **DIVINE LITURGY**

+ Mike, Margaret, and Nick Tesla, offered by Prudy Peya

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

(See the purple handout for Holy Week and Pascha Schedule)

SAT., APRIL 8      **HOLY SATURDAY**  
9:00 A.M.      **JERUSALEM MATINS**

7:00 P.M.      **RESURRECTION MATINS with PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY**  
For the Parishioners

*There will be Blessing of Baskets and a Reception in the Center following the Saturday, April 8 Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy. Join us as we break the fast and indulge in our traditional Easter foods!*

**Hosanna! Save us Now!** - Is this the crowd who would applaud His crucifixion? How was their hatred earned from his grace? Even the words of their commendation pointed to the power of redemption. "Hosanna" in Hebrew signifies the redemption of the house of David. They are calling upon the Son of David. They are celebrating the inheritance of the eternal kingdom. They are proclaiming the blessing in the name of the Lord. Soon their shouting of "Crucify Him!" would be blasphemy. But at present, the deeds he was doing there were exhibiting the form of the future. It is granted that the crowd was doing these things with very confused emotions. The things that would follow would be different. Nevertheless they were, inadvertently and without willing it, pointing to heavenly things unfolding. In this way the whole city of Jerusalem was stirred.

### Happy Birthday Greetings:

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

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)

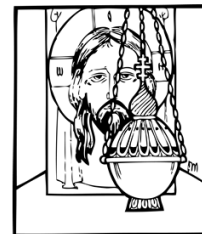
Epistle Readers – April 2: Dan Pinchot – April 8: Cantors

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – April 2: M. Bobanic – April 8: F. Hersh

If you would like to be a Troica Holder, please see one of them following Liturgy.

We could always use the help!



### THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

April 2 - 8, 2023

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

Our Parishioners  
Living and Deceased

**Excerpt from Christ our Pascha:** *The Pascha (Passover) of Christ: Entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem.* In the liturgical hymns of Palm Sunday, also known as Flowery Sunday, we sing of the children of Jerusalem, who greeted Christ as King even though the Pharisees and scribes refused to accept Him: "O, evil and adulterous generation, why have you treated your Lord so faithlessly? ... Why have you rejected the prophet's words which proclaim him? Your own children sang to your shame today: 'Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'" Just as the people greeted Christ with branches from trees, so Christians also greet Christ with "palms of virtue" as he enters upon his voluntary Passion. Those who have not acquired virtues and have rejected Christ are compared to the barren fig tree: "The rod of Aaron, though dried up and withered, was changed into a green branch that put forth leaves; but the lawless assembly was changed into an unfruitful fig tree." (#222)

### Pirohi Sale Returns Friday, April 14

Our next pirohi sale will be on Friday, April 14. We encourage all who are able to please come and help and to order from our sale. Work days will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday April 11, 12, & 13 at 9:00 AM. Friday we begin at 6:30 AM. We can't do this project without your help and support. Orders should be called in by Thursday at noon at (724) 375-6652.

*Thank you!*

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### St. George Patronal Feast Day Celebration

Our Patronal Feast Day is on Sunday, April 23. To celebrate, there will be our Sunday Divine Liturgy moved to 10:00 A.M. followed by a celebration luncheon. The parish family of St. Mary in Ambridge is also invited to attend Liturgy along with staying for the 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.

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### What is a Patronal Feast?

All Catholic and Orthodox Churches are dedicated to the worship of God, of course, and when Christians first became able to build Churches they built them on Holy sites associated with events in scripture, the life of Christ, or over the tombs of the martyrs. And if there was no Holy site at hand, nonetheless a Church would be dedicated in the name of a person or an event marked on the Church calendar. *We continue this tradition.*

In short, our Churches always have their own special feast day. This is sometimes called the Altar Feast or the Feast of Dedication or the Patronal Feast. The celebration of a parish feast ought to be something special, full of prayer and good fellowship. It is kind of like a birthday party. **It is something that every parishioner should participate in**, giving thanks to God for our place of worship, for His innumerable mercies to us, for the intercession and protection of the Mother of God on our walk through life, for our parish family and our fellowship.

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### St. George Family Bowling and Fellowship Night

In continuation of our Patronal Feast Day week, there will also be a bowling and fellowship night tentatively set for the evening of Thursday, April 27 at Sheffield Bowling Lanes in Aliquippa (*Time to be announced*). Even if you do not wish to bowl or are not able to bowl, you can still join us for fellowship and food. Sheffield Bowling Lanes has a lounge and Ricky Dee's Pizza which you can order from and bring to the lanes. So plan on joining us for this Church family fun event!

### A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Over the course of the Great Fast, during the Presanctified liturgies we have offered, I have been using the homilies to meditate on the **Beatitudes** that our Lord pronounces at the beginning of his Sermon on the Mount. (See Matthew 5.1-12) Now, as we stand at the brink of Holy Week, I think it is perfectly clear that the Beatitudes are perfectly fulfilled by Jesus as he meets his passion and life-creating death.

Jesus finds himself **poor in spirit**, as he is stripped of every comfort, every material good, every dignity, and even of the kindness of many of his closest friends. Jesus was the man of **mourning**, not just at Lazarus' tomb, but also as he came close to the city of Jerusalem and wept over it saying, *"Would that you, even you, had known this day the things that make for peace!"* (Luke 19.41-42) Jesus is **meek**; the Prophet Isaiah foretold: *"Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, he opened not his mouth."* (Isaiah 53.7). Jesus **hungered and thirsted for righteousness**, which we see as he casts the money-changers out of the Temple. Over and over again, we see Jesus as the **merciful** one, who forgives the paralytic, the woman caught in adultery, the penitent thief on the cross - and of course all the sin of the world, when he is Crucified. Jesus is the **pure in heart**, for he "set his face toward Jerusalem," determined to accomplish that which he came to earth for. He is the **peacemaker**, who has brought about peace between humanity and God; and offers his peace to a broken world by the Blood of his cross. And we see most clearly in Holy Week, how he was the one who was **persecuted for the sake of righteousness**. *"He was oppressed and afflicted,"* Isaiah tells us, *"By oppression and judgement he was taken away....he was cut off out of the land of the living...and they made his grave with the wicked."* (Isaiah 53.7-9)

As we enter into the mystery of the holy events we remember this week, we are following the Man of Sorrows, the Author of the beatitudes, who invites each of us into his divine life. Let us follow in the way of the Cross, in the way of beatitude, in the way of the blessed life.

Because doing so, we can rest in the grace of Christ's words: *"Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven."* (Mt. 5.12) Glory to his Passion!

In Christ,

*Fr. Geoff*



## On the Palm Branches

It irritated the high priests and Pharisees to hear from the crowds: “The King of Israel.” They were hearing what they did not wish to hear. They were used to addressing him as one possessed by demons, but these were proclaiming him “King”: “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel.” Who is the one who suggested this utterance to the crowds? Who is the one who put this praise into their minds? Who is the one who entrusted them with branches from the palm trees? Who is the one who suddenly at a fixed signal acted as military commander of them all? Who is the one who taught them this harmony of voice? The grace from above, the revelation of the Holy Spirit. And therefore they called out with boldness: “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel.” The crowds caused the Pharisees to turn away. They loathed the high priests. They lifted up their voices in song befitting God. They caused creation to rejoice. They sanctified the air. They shook the dead beforehand. They opened heaven. They planted paradise. They stirred up the dead to the same zeal.

For that reason some of the Greeks at that time were urged on toward their zeal for God, because of this utterance befitting to God; and having reached a turning about, they approached one of the apostles by the name of Philip, saying to him: “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Behold the preaching of the crowd, and how they moved the Greeks to conversion. The Greeks say, “We wish to see Jesus” — not so much in order to look him in his face, as to carry the cross. And therefore Jesus, having seen their intention, openly said to those present: “The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified.” Glorified — referring to the conversion of the Greeks; a glory that the Jews donned but that the nations put on. Therefore Jesus said concerning the Gentiles: “The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified.” Glorified — referring to the cross, for from it the cross is even now glorified. For the cross itself even now still glorifies kings, and gives radiance to the priesthood, and preserves virginity, and establishes asceticism, and strengthens union, and guards widowhood, and protects orphans, and increases the blessing of children, and multiplies the Church, and enlightens the people, and preserves a spiritual lifestyle, and opens paradise, and guides the robber, and roots out enmity, and extinguishes hatred, and puts demons to flight, and drives the devil away.

St. Proclus of Constantinople



Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!



The blessed branches should be carried home as a sacramental and visible symbol of Christ’s presence. They should be entwined on the crucifix or used to decorate an icon, and to serve as a “sign of salvation,” and a “pledge of protection and blessing” during the coming year as invoked by the second Prayer of Blessing\*.

\* The second Prayer of Blessing alludes to the olive branch brought to Noah by a dove at the end of the deluge as a token of divine protection and

blessing (peace). Therefore, in prayer, the priest asks divine protection and blessing on every home where the blessed branches will be reverently preserved.

*The Holy Spirit reminds us “not to reject the traditions of our elders, which they have learned from their fathers” (Sirach 8:9).*

There are Liturgical Services offered most days this week either here at St. George Church or at St. Mary Church (schedule on bulletin table). While it may be difficult, or even impossible, to attend all of these Services, we should do our best to be present at the very least on Holy Friday and Pascha. Let us “make” the time and keep watch this week during the Lord’s darkest hour so that we might celebrate with joy His bright and saving Resurrection!

*Hosanna in the Highest!*

*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*

## Church Mice



**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](mailto:stgbyz@gmail.com)

PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org](http://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** ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month

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

**Opportunities for Stewardship** ... ..Church and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,  
Pirohi making: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each month.

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***Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!***

## St. George, Aliquippa

Monday, April 3: *Great and Holy Monday*

*No Service*

Tuesday, April 4: *Great and Holy Tuesday*

*No Service*

Wednesday, April 5: *Great and Holy Wednesday*

**6:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Holy Mystery of Anointing**

\* During the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts we celebrate the Holy Mystery of Anointing during which the priest anoints us with Holy Oil that we may be healed physically and spiritually.

**After Liturgy: Confessions**

Thursday, April 6: *Great and Holy Thursday*

**7:00 P.M. Vespers and the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great**

\* “Accept me this day, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your Mystical Supper” is the predominate message of this Service, which commemorates the Mystical Supper and the institution of the Holy Eucharist.

Friday, April 7: *Great and Holy Friday-Good Friday* \*Strict Fast\*

**7:00 P.M. The Office of the Burial of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ**

\* During this Service we sing hymns that tell of Christ’s Saving Passion, of His Mother’s grief as she and her friends watch His agony, and the meaning of the Cross for all Creation.

Saturday, April 8: *Great and Holy Saturday*

**9:00 A.M. Jerusalem Matins**

**7:00 P.M. Resurrection Matins with Paschal Divine Liturgy  
& Blessing and partaking of Paschal-Easter Foods in the Center**

\* In the darkened Church, the faithful receive the Resurrection Light from the priest and form a procession out of the Church. The joyous hymn of Christ’s Resurrection is triumphantly chanted- “Christ is Risen!-Christos Voskrese!” We sing “Christ is Risen!-Christos Voskrese!” repeatedly during the Divine Liturgy. As we receive the Holy Eucharist, we share in the mystical communion with the Risen Christ, who has conquered death once and for all. Following the blessing of the Paschal foods we will “break the fast” together by partaking of our Paschal foods.

Sunday, April 9: *Great and Holy Pascha-Easter Sunday*

*No Service*

Monday, April 10: *Bright Monday*

**9:00 A.M. Paschal Divine Liturgy with Procession**

\*At the end of the liturgy there will be the procession with the Icon of the Resurrection and reading of the Gospel at the four corners of the church.

## St. Mary, Ambridge

Monday, April 3: *Great and Holy Monday*

**6:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Holy Mystery of Anointing**

\* During the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts we celebrate the Holy Mystery of Anointing during which the priest anoints us with Holy Oil that we may be healed physically and spiritually.

**After Liturgy: Confessions**

Tuesday, April 4: *Great and Holy Tuesday*

*No Service*

Wednesday, April 5: *Great and Holy Wednesday*

*No Service*

Thursday, April 6: *Great and Holy Thursday*

**4:30 P.M. Vespers and the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great**

\* “Accept me this day, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your Mystical Supper” is the predominate message of this Service, which commemorates the Mystical Supper and the institution of the Holy Eucharist.

Friday, April 7: *Great and Holy Friday-Good Friday* \*Strict Fast\*

**5:00 P.M. The Office of the Burial of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ**

\* During this Service we sing hymns that tell of Christ’s Saving Passion, of His Mother’s grief as she and her friends watch His agony, and the meaning of the Cross for all Creation.

Saturday, April 8: *Great and Holy Saturday*

**Saturday, April 8 Paschal Vigil begins....**

**5:00 P.M. Resurrection Matins & Blessing of Paschal-Easter Food**

\* In the darkened Church, the faithful receive the Resurrection Light from the priest and form a procession out of the Church. The joyous hymn of Christ’s Resurrection is triumphantly chanted- “Christ is Risen!-Christos Voskrese!”

Sunday, April 9: *Great and Holy Pascha-Easter Sunday*

**10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Paschal-Easter Food**

\* We sing “Christ is Risen!-Christos Voskrese!” repeatedly. As we receive the Holy Eucharist, we share in the mystical communion with the Risen Christ, who has conquered death once and for all.

Monday, April 10: *Bright Monday*

*No Service*

Tuesday, April 11: *Bright Tuesday*

**9:00 A.M. Paschal Divine Liturgy**

## What should I have in my Easter-Pascha Basket?

**Paska-** The Easter Bread. Symbolic of Christ Himself, who is our True Bread. Usually a round loaf of bread decorated on the top with a Cross.

**Ham/Sunka-** This meat is popular as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Pascha-Easter. Meat in the Pascha basket also symbolizes the calf sacrificed when the Prodigal Son returned home; the meat is a celebration of our return to Christ.

**Sausage/Kielbassa-** A spicy, garlicky sausage of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity.

**Cheese/Hrutka-** Sweet cheese; mix farmer cheese with confectionary sugar, raisins, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. Indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things.

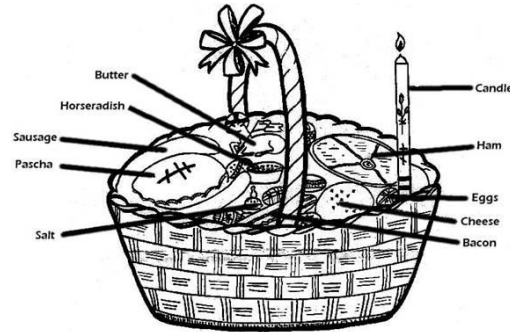
**Eggs/Pysanky-** Hard boiled eggs-decorated, indicative of new life and Resurrection.

**Horseradish/Hrin-** A piece of the root or prepared horseradish with red beets. Symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. It is also included in the basket to remind us of the bitter drink given to Christ at his crucifixion, vinegar and gall.

**Butter/Maslo-** Usually whipped (sometimes flavored with almond), is included in the basket to symbolize the Lamb of God, the Sacrifice made for the world. Some families use a lamb-shaped mold for their butter, which makes the symbolism even stronger.

**Salt/Sol-** A condiment necessary for flavor; reminding the Christian of his duty towards others.

*If your family has never taken a Pascha basket to be blessed, the above Easter-Pascha basket traditions may give you some ideas for starting your own. If you regularly prepare a basket for the celebration of the Resurrection, take some time to explain the deep meanings of the foods and their preparation to your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Everyone will enjoy being involved: baking, decorating, eating!*



## Holy Week and Pascha

