

April 9, 2023
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!
Христосъ воскресъ! Воистину воскресъ!*

Propers for Pascha: pp. 164 - 171

Divine Services for the Week:

SAT., APRIL 8 PASCHA, the RESURRECTION of our LORD, *anticipated*
7:00 P.M. RESURRECTION MATINS, DIVINE LITURGY, *Blessing of Artos*
For the Parishioners

MON., APRIL 10 BRIGHT MONDAY
9:00 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY, *Procession and four resurrection Gospels*

(At St. Mary, Tuesday, April 11, 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for Bright Tuesday)

SUN., APRIL 16 THOMAS SUNDAY
8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY, *distribution of Artos*
+ Ann Laffiay, offered by Sr. Mary Virginia

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!
Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!*

Happy Birthday Greetings:

April 9: Erin Mackey, April 10: Mary Salamon, April 12: Nathaniel Hersh,
April 13: Erik Fetkovich, April 15: Butch Dzumba, John Simunick

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

April 15: Richard & Judy Dzumba, April 16: Francis & Connie Hersh

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)

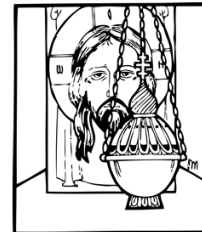
Epistle Readers – April 8: Cantors – April 16: Prudy Peya

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – April 8: F. Hersh– April: 16: R. Mudron

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 9 - 15, 2023

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Joseph Olack

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Wife, Mary Elizabeth

*“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.”*

Your resurrection, O Christ, our Savior, the Angels in heaven praise with hymns;
make us, on earth, also worthy with a pure heart to extol and give glory to You.

Pirohi Sale - 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.

St. George Patronal Feast Day Celebration

There will be a Divine Liturgy on our Patronal Feast Day, **Sunday, April 23 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.

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!

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!

A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pascha has arrived! We have completed the Fast. Some, perhaps, kept the fast meticulously. Others, perhaps, were more lax. For some of us, Lent may have been a moving and consoling experience. For others, it was, perhaps, a desert and a wilderness. Some drew close to God in their observance. For others, God drew close to *them* without their knowledge. But regardless of how it felt or seemed to each of us, the time of fasting has ended and the time of celebration has begun! It's impossible to say enough about this celebration which is at the heart of our Christian life - without which we would, as St. Paul says, have a futile faith (1 Cor. 15.14).

The Resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the revelation of Jesus as the Word, Wisdom, and Power of God. Christ became incarnate for our sakes, so that he could take our human nature upon himself. Our humanity had become corrupted and distorted, twisted by sin, perverted by guilt and shame, and bound for death. But when the Word became flesh, it was so that God himself would taste the full result of humanity's plight: death. And then, bursting forth from the tomb in glorious majesty, he undid the curse of Adam and Eve, conquered death, smashed the gates of hell, enacted our reconciliation, and inaugurated a New Creation.

And we, who have been baptized into Christ, are made part of this New Creation in the Resurrection; as St. Paul says, ***"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has passed away, the new is here."*** (2 Cor. 5.17)

Because Christ is raised from the dead, he has been shown to be the true Son of God, bearing the very image of the Father, and showing us perfectly the character of our God of love. For this reason, we rejoice: because our sin does not have the last word! Death does not have the last word! The fallen principalities and powers of this world will not prevail! Rather, as Saint Maximus of Turin explains,

"Each of us ought surely to rejoice on this holy day. Let no one, conscious of his sinfulness, withdraw from our common celebration, nor let anyone be kept away from our public prayer by the burden of guilt. Sinner may one indeed be, but he must not despair of pardon on this day which is so highly privileged; for if a thief could receive the grace of paradise, how could a Christian be refused forgiveness?" (Sermon 53)

Brothers and sisters, on this glorious feast of feasts, let us rejoice and be glad! For Christ has taken our sin with him into the abyss and has risen gloriously, raising our restored humanity with him. ***This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!***

Christ is risen!

Yours in the Resurrection,

Fr. Geoff

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



Pascha 2023

Christ is Risen!

Indeed He is Risen!

Today, we hear the Easter Gospel proclaimed in all our churches. The profound words from the beginning of the Gospel of Saint John give the entire history of salvation. We read and listen to these words because they give meaning to our faith.

Before our time and history existed, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit existed. They created the light from darkness and the universe from nothing. They sent into our world, the prophets and John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah. Then, Jesus the Son of God became flesh and proclaimed the truth and good news of the Gospel.

The apostles and disciples heard the good news of the kingdom and changed their lives and became followers and then leaders of the early church. Some heard the message, but did not believe as is the case today. We pray for the return of those who have heard the Gospel, but have fallen away from the faith.

However, billions have heard the message of the Easter Gospel and have received grace in place of grace for thousands of years. Despite wars, pandemics, and suffering, Christians have and continue to remain faithful because of our encounter with Jesus Christ. We experience and celebrate that encounter each Easter and every Divine Liturgy which strengthens the presence of the life-giving spirit of our Lord and God Savior Jesus Christ in our lives.

This Easter Paschal celebration renews our belief in the eternal God who rose from the dead to show us the path to the eternal banquet in heaven. Our faith leads us to help others in need and to be able to spread the Good News. You are the agents of the Holy Spirit who is active in this world through your words and actions. You are the presence of the Holy Spirit in your family and work place where we tell all who will listen that “Christ is Risen.”

We thank you for your prayer and service in the past year. We request your continued support and prayer in the coming year. May the Lord bless you and your families during this Paschal Season.

William C Skurla

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

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

Byzantine Easter Traditions, the Blessing of Easter Foods

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.



The foods traditionally blessed for Easter can be reduced to three categories: 1) Easter bread, referred to by our people as “Pascha”; 2) Meat products, like ham, stuffed veal, suckling pig or lamb, sausage, bacon, etc.; 3) Dairy products, like butter, cheese (“hrudka” or “sirets” - cheese cake), eggs (“pysanky”); etc.

What is the meaning of such variety?

Firstly, the Easter bread (Pascha) is a large round loaf of bread, made of white flour and enriched by adding eggs, raisins, and milk.

On top it is decorated with a crown and a cross of various designs, made out of the same dough. It symbolizes our Lord Jesus Christ, the “living Bread,” (In. 6:51) Who “came down from heaven to give life (eternal) to the world” (cf. Prayer for the Blessing of the Bread). Thus, the Easter bread (Pascha) reminds us of the presence of our “true Pasch,” Jesus Christ, Who “promised, without fail, to remain with us until the end of time” (Troparion of the Ninth Ode).

Secondly, the meat products symbolize the sacrificial animals of the Old Testament, foreshadowing the true sacrifice of our Savior, who became for us “a Lamb of God, taking away the sins of the world” (Jn. 1:29). As we learn from the prayer of blessing, the meat products also symbolize the fattened calf prepared for the Prodigal Son (representing fallen mankind) on his return to his father (Heavenly Father). Thus, at Easter we celebrate our return to God and our joyous participation in the blessings of our Savior, Who promised to be our “true food” (Jn. 6:55).

Finally, the dairy products remind us of the “prosperity and peace” of the Messianic times which had been foretold by the Prophets (e.g. Is. 7:22; Joel 3:18, etc.). Metaphorically, the milk and honey in the Bible signify wealth, especially the spiritual wealth of God’s kingdom. Therefore, as he blesses the dairy products the priest prays: “as we partake of them, may we be filled with Your generous gifts and unspeakable goodness.”

Eggs were always considered as a symbol of the Resurrection, the emergence of a new life. At Easter our Savior came forth from the tomb as the chick after breaking the shell at birth. Because of this special meaning, it is fitting that Easter eggs be colored or decorated. They are the favored object of our national art and are known to us as “pysanky.”

ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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.

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