

December 24, 2023
Sunday of the Ancestors



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!
Слава Иисусу Христу! Слава на вики!

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 5, 146 & For the Ancestors: pp. 285 -287

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., DEC. 24 **SUNDAY before the NATIVITY, of the ANCESTORS**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
 + **Raymond Ozimok**, offered by sons Richard & Eric Ozimok

7:00 P.M. **The NATIVITY of our LORD**
 GREAT COMPLINE & DIVINE LITURGY for Christmas
 For the Parishioners

(At St. Mary: Monday, Dec. 25, 9:00 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Nativity)

TUES., DEC. 26 **SYNAXIS of the THEOTOKOS**
9:00 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**

(At St. Mary: Wednesday, Dec. 27, 9:00 AM, Divine Liturgy for St. Stephen Holy Day)

SUN., DEC. 31 **SUNDAY after the NATIVITY**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
 + , offered by

No Doughnuts today following Liturgy

Happy Birthday Greetings:

December 18: Ethan Roush, December 21: Ella Zimmerman,
December 22: Joanne Futato, Suzanne Klacik, Jaqueline Pinchot

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

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

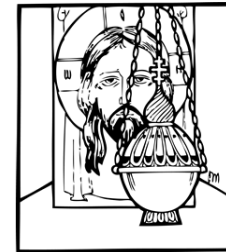
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

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

Epistle Readers –December 24: Dan Pinchot, JoAnn Hersh – December 31:

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – December 24: R. Mudron, F. Hersh – December 31:



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
December 24 - 30, 2023

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Julie Trombulak

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Judy & Butch Dzumba

Today, Christ, the King of peace, has come forth with His peace and routed all discord, banished dissension, and dissipated conflict. As the brilliance of the sun lights up the sky, so He illumines the Church with the splendor of peace. For, the text says, there has been born to you today a Savior of the world. O how desirable is the very name of peace! How firm a foundation peace is for the Christian religion, and what a heavenly ornament for the altar of the Lord! What can we utter worthy of peace? Peace is a name of Christ Himself, as even the Apostle says: For Christ is our peace. He it is who has made both one. The two were at variance, not over conflicting opinions or faith, but because of the Devil's envy. But, just as the streets are cleansed when the king comes forth, and the whole city decked with myriad flowers and banners to keep out of sight anything less worthy of the king's countenance, so also now, when Christ the King of peace comes forth, let everything depressing be removed from our midst. While truth is shining, let falsehood be banished, and discord flee, and concord be resplendent.

St. Peter Chrysologus

The Nativity of the Lord

The Birth of Christ is a celebration of joy. The fact that God became man and entered into our human life is seen in the Icon of the Nativity. Wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger is the Christ Child. All the details of the Icon relate to His presence. This presence shines radically with the black opening of the cave in which He was born. This contrast is often seen in the Fathers' writings in terms of the spiritual light of Christ's birth radiating through the shadow of death encompassing man. The black mouth of the cave, then symbolically, is precisely this fallen world in which the "Sun of Righteousness" has dawned, this wilderness which the "Light of Wisdom" has illumined.

The Virgin Mother is shown half-sitting, supported by a hammock-type bed used by the early Jews in their travels. Striking is the absence of the usual sufferings of childbirth which is iconographically seen to be an indication of the virgin-birth of Christ.

As in the Gospel, all mankind is called to this event. The Wise Men represent the learned and astute, and the shepherds represent the humble of this world. A multitude of Angels give glory to God and announce this good news to mankind.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

During the celebration of Christmas, it is our custom to greet one another with the joyous exclamation, "Christ is born!" to which the one greeted responds, "Glorify Him!"

Fast and Privileged Week

According to our Church tradition the week following the Nativity of Christ (December 25 - January 4) in our Church calendar is dedicated to this Feast Day, therefore we enjoy the "privileged week" during which the laws of abstinence from meat on Friday do not oblige.

Your Birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the Light of Knowledge. For through it, those who worshipped the stars, have learned through a Star to worship You, the Sun of Justice, and to know You the dawn from on high. glory be to You, O Lord!



Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In just over a week, we will be celebrating the birth of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. Though he is eternally-begotten of the Father and therefore without beginning or end, he was born in time, born in the flesh in a cave in Bethlehem of Judea. Jesus Christ's incarnation in the world was God's definitive answer to humanity's alienation. In Jesus God has become God-with-us (*Emmanuel*). This week I'd like to share another Advent sonnet by Malcolm Guite which, I think, beautifully expresses this wondrous mystery!

***O come, O come, and be our God-with-is,
O long-sought with-ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name,
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness,
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands,
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.***

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Geoff

Many "Thank You's"

Thank you to all who worked to cook and set-up for our Christmas dinner celebration the party and to all who attended. Thank you to our Men's Club for the Wine for the party! Thank you to all who decorated our Holy Church for the Christmas season! Thank you to the Ladies Guild for sponsoring our Church calendars and pirohi project. Thank you to all our parishioners and friends for your support throughout the year!

Sunday of the Ancestors

The Holy Fathers are adorned by the glory of the divine sharing of our nature. Adam rejoices today since he is the foundation and the strength of the wise Forefathers, Abel leaps for joy as well. Enoch is glad, Seth and Noah dance together. The praiseworthy Abraham sings with the Patriarchs. Melchizedek now sees from on high the birth without a father. The faithful and God-wise youths are radiant with joy in the furnace. They herald the nativity of Christ on earth. As the precious dew which the Lord sent down, He now preserves the Virgin without stain and enriches her with sublime gifts. Therefore, Daniel, inspired by God, is also happy and full of joy because he had a clear vision of the unhewn stone from the mountain. He now zealously prays for our souls.



Great are the deeds formed with faith: three youths rejoiced in the flaming furnace as if they stood in refreshing waters, and Daniel the Prophet faced lions as though they were sheep. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls. O Zion, City of God, raise up your voice and herald the honored memory of the Fathers. Salute them, as well as the ever-glorious Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Behold, we extol the great Moses, as well as Judah, Levi, and the marvelous Aaron. We honor Joshua, as well as David and Samuel. With inspiring hymns we praise the glorious fore-feast of the birth of Christ. We entreat them to obtain grace from Him that He grant great mercy to the world.

The Virgin Theotokos, who was spoken of for ages by the Prophets, has appeared on earth. The wise Patriarchs and assemblies of the righteous acclaim her. The beautiful women: Sarah, Rebecca, and Rachel, Anna, and Miriam the glorious sister of Moses, leap for joy together with them. All creation pays homage because the God and Creator of all is coming to be born in the flesh and to grant great mercy to us.

O Cave, prepare yourself to receive the Mother who bears Christ within her womb. O Manger, receiver the Word Who destroyed the sins of all. O Shepherds, keep watch and then bear witness to the awesome wonder. O Magi, come from Persia, and bring your gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the King. For the Lord has appeared from a Virgin Mother; yet she bowed to Him as a servant and spoke to Him within her bosom, saying: How were You conceived in me? How did You grow in me, my God and Savior?

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

Christ is born! Glorify Him! Христос Рождается! Славите!

Christmas Eve

Behold, the time of salvation is drawing near. O Cave, prepare yourself, for the Virgin is coming to give birth. O Bethlehem, O land of Judah, adorn yourself and be happy since the Lord will shine forth from you. O mountains and hills and lands around Judah, hearken, for Christ is coming that He may save His creation because He is the Lover of Mankind.

Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding to the Word Who is in all eternity. Rejoice, therefore, universe, when you hear it heralded. With the angels and the shepherds glorify Him Who chose to be seen as a newborn babe while remaining God in all eternity. The sayings of the prophets are now fulfilled; for our God shall be born tomorrow of the Virgin Mary in a manner beyond our understanding, yet He shall remain as He was before His birth. The Magi come together bearing gifts, the shepherds abide in the fields, and we also sing: O Lord born of a Virgin, glory be to You!



Let us, the faithful, offer a hymn to the Virgin, for behold, she now draws near to give birth to Christ the Savior in the city of Bethlehem. Therefore, O Magi, hasten with your gifts and follow the star that we may worship Him together. O Shepherds, make haste and cry aloud with the angels: Glory to You, for You are born in a cave and lie in a manger. When our Lord and Savior came to earth and made Himself bodily present, the angels appeared in chorus and gave the good news to the shepherds: I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all the people. We, too, borrow this hymn from these holy angels and announce great joy to you.

The Traditional Three Days of Christmas

The first three days of Christmas are Festive Holy Days that the Church attaches great spiritual importance to the Most Holy Eucharist. Jesus is the Bread that has come down from Heaven and is truly the essential Bread of Life. During these three days the Church emphasizes that in the Holy Eucharist that GOD IS WITH US in the most intimate way possible here on earth. Therefore, the Church exhorts all the faithful to receive Holy Communion on these three solemn days. Make it a point to avail yourself to these innumerable graces and to offer a worthy reception of Holy Communion for those special intentions you desire to be answered!

“Jesus Christ said of Himself: I am the Living Bread descended from Heaven. Therefore, Bethlehem, the place where our Lord was born, has been called the House of Bread; for He who fed our hearts to satiety appeared there in the substance of flesh.”

— Pope St. Gregory I

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, Dan Pinchot

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 born! Glorify Him! Christos Raždajetsja! Slavite Jeho!