

February 25, 2024
Second Sunday of the Great Fast, St. Gregory Palamas



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

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

Proprs for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 6: pg. 152 & Second Sunday of the Fast: pp. 222 - 223
Typica: pp. 16-17, Beattitudes: pp. 23-24, St. Basil melodies: pg. 96

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., FEB. 25
8:30 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST
DIVINE LITURGY, Panachida
+ John Pinchot, offered by Ed & Isabel Maruhnich

(At St. Mary: Wednesday, Feb. 28, 6:00 P.M., Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts)

FRI., MARCH 1
6:00 P.M.

THIRD FRIDAY of the GREAT FAST
LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

SAT., MARCH 2
9:00 A.M.

THIRD ALL- SOULS SATURDAY
DIVINE LITURGY, Panachida, Hramoty, Koliva

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 3
8:30 A.M.

THIRD SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, VENERATION of the CROSS
DIVINE LITURGY
+ Joseph Olack, 7th year after passing, offered by wife, Mary Elizabeth Olack

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

Happy Birthday Greetings:

February 26: Christine Cody

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

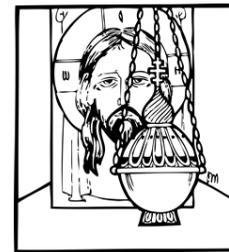
Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

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

Epistle Readers – February 25: JoAnn Hersh – March 3: Joanne Futato

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – February 25: F. Hersh – March 3: M. Bobanic



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
February 25 – March 2, 2024
Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Carol Huchko
(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Joanne Futato

First Prayer of the Faithful at Presanctified

O God, great and worthy to be praised, Who through the life-giving death of Your Christ has transferred us from corruption to incorruption: Deliver all our senses from deadly passions, setting over them our inner being as a sure guide. Let our eyes be blind to every evil sight; let our ears be deaf to idle chatter; and let our tongue be cleansed of unbecoming speech. Purify our lips which praise You, O Lord. Make our hands abstain from evil deeds and do only those things which are pleasing in Your sight. By Your grace strengthen our bodies and our minds. For to You belongs all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

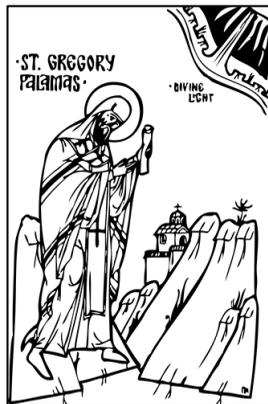
Stay for Fellowship Hour

We extend a warm welcome to our parishioners, visitors, and friends. We are thankful that you have come to worship with us today. We invite you to join us following the Sunday Divine Liturgy for Fellowship Coffee and doughnuts today and every Sunday! We invite EVERYONE to STAY and join us.



St. Gregory Palamas

On the Second Sunday of Lent we commemorate our Holy Father Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica, the Wonderworker. He is commemorated this Sunday as the condemnation of his enemies and the vindication of his teachings by the Church in the 14th century was acclaimed as a second triumph of Orthodoxy.



Why do we fast? Why do we make sacrifices? Why do we stand at long services? Why do we make prostrations? Why do we pray? To those of us who are beginning to doubt and waver after only two weeks of the Great Fast, the Church brings us an answer today. This answer is in the person of St Gregory Palamas.

Our holy father Gregory teaches us that since Christ the Creator had become man and part of creation, He had made human nature potentially holy - like His own human nature. By sending down the Holy Spirit, He had given us all access in our human nature to holiness. Just as the sun is known to us through its energies of heat and light, so God can be known to us through the uncreated energies of the Holy Spirit. In his writings he affirmed that man carries in himself two tendencies, one for good, and the other for evil. However, the tendency for good can only be developed in us through acquiring the grace of God, the divine energy sent to us from God, accessible in so far as our hearts and minds are pure enough to receive that grace.

This grace which enlightens and brightens us can only come to us if we repent, if we accept the process of fasting and prayer, tears, and self-sacrifice. Repent, fasting, prayer, tears and self-sacrifice...the recipe for holiness-divinization during this season of the Great Fast-Lent.

All-Souls Saturday

This venerable custom was transmitted to us by our ancestors as a part of our beautiful spiritual heritage. Every year, the families give the lists of their departed loved ones (Hramoty) to the pastor with the request that they be mentioned at the services held for the deceased on the All Souls Saturday. And St. John Chrysostom assures us that: ***“It is a great honor to be worthy of mention, while the celebration of the Holy Mysteries is going on.”***

(Homily on the Acts 21, 4)

Koliva, or Kutia, is traditionally prepared for the All-Souls Saturdays. Koliva is made of boiled wheat mixed with sugar and spices to be blessed during the All-Souls Liturgy and distributed to the congregation. The offering of Koliva is an ancient custom. It symbolizes the eternal cycle. People, like wheat, must be buried to grow and have new life. We make it for memorial services in remembrance of those who have fallen asleep.



We are taking donations throughout the year for our annual Flea Market. Any time you have items to donate, please leave them in the Center marked as for the Flea Market.

A Note from Fr. Christiaan

Dear Parishioners,

This will be a full week, where in addition to our two Pre-Sanctified Liturgies, we are planning one of our All-Souls Saturday Liturgy on Saturday. The idea of praying for the dead is mentioned as long ago as about 160 BC, in the biblical book of 2 Maccabees 12:38-46, where the Jews offered up prayers at the Temple in Jerusalem for the remission of defect in soldiers who had died in battle. These soldiers had committed some superstitions, though they were considered faithful men overall. Since their death kept them from being able to do penance for their superstitions, sacrifices were offered for them, thinking such would be beneficial to them since their souls live on and will be reunited to their body. The idea was that one can be in a state of friendship with God at death but owe God for actions of injustice that weren't atoned for by fasting, prayer, or some sort of penance to restore perfect equilibrium in the relationship. We call the lack of restoring equilibrium debt. Another way of talking about this is termed “temporal punishments.” We believe that God has also allowed our charity to be applied to others who have not had the opportunity or where-with-all to do perfect penance while yet dying in friendship with God.

In the New Testament Paul early on taught the Christians of Corinth (1 Corinthians 15:29) that actions that the living do can benefit the dead in the afterlife and that these actions can be repeated. So, our All-Souls Saturdays are our Byzantine tradition of benefitting those in our families and community who are living souls in the afterlife capable of improving their lot by our prayers now.

Finally, St. Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 3:15 that we too will have our actions judged by God and that some are figuratively hay and stubble and others are gold. The judgment we go through in the afterlife is compared to putting hay, stubble, and gold in a fire and seeing that our actions of gold come out unscathed and receive a reward by God. Hay and stubble, though consumed by fire, doesn't mean that we aren't God's friends so that we will be saved in virtue of our golden actions. We remember this week all those deceased who may benefit from our charitable works that are golden and that can enhance both our lives and those for whom we pray.

Fr. Christiaan

*Preterpivjy za nas strasti, Isuse Christe,
Syne Bozij, pomiluj nas.*

Second Sunday of the Great Fast

With God's help we passed two weeks of the Great Fast. Today's Sunday Gospel reading (Mark 2:1-12) was about the paralytic who at first could not walk by himself. But with strong faith in Jesus, together with Christ's love to all His people this miracle happened: the paralytic was raised by the almighty word of the Lord and healed from the disease instantly. This teaches us to have faith in Christ Jesus because through it we can receive help from the Merciful Lord. This reading also encourages us to persevere in our prayers for others, and especially for the sick.



But the reason of Christ's coming was neither in healing the sick nor in resurrecting the dead; these facts were only the results of His true mission – bringing salvation to all people on earth. What does “salvation” mean? Is it something we can touch, see or feel? This question has raised many discussions in the Christian world over the centuries and still remains very important for our consideration, as our future life depends on it. If we understand salvation correctly in this life and live accordingly, it gives us hope to inherit the Kingdom of God. First of all, we need to say that salvation is needed where there is some kind of bondage or slavery. In our human case unfortunately, we all are under heavy bondage of sin and in its slavery. Sin drags us away from God (remember Adam and Eve) and as a result of it we all are mortals. So, the mission of Jesus Christ was to reunite us with God and to give us another life by saving us from the bondage of sin.

Another very good explanation of our salvation is that we humans are sick with different passions through our connection to sin. A variety of wrongdoings exist, and although they differ in weight, they cause pain to our soul and we humans are simply unable to heal ourselves on our own. This is why we call Jesus Christ the Physician of souls. He came to heal our wounds caused by numerous sins and to give us a healthy life in an eternal perspective. But the point is we HAVE to seek healing; it will not come on its own without our visit to the Only Physician. Only the one who seeks a doctor will receive appropriate treatment – we all know this from our daily routine. The one who avoids his doctor will fall into yet deeper illness. During this Lenten journey let us seek the Divine Physician to receive that healing that leads to salvation. Amen

Rise and Walk! Your sins are forgiven!

Take up your bed. Carry the very mat that once carried you. Change places, so that what was the proof of your sickness may now give testimony to your soundness. Your bed of pain becomes the sign of healing, its very weight the measure of the strength that has been restored to you.

(St. Peter Chrysologus)

The Meaning of Offering Penance

Gospel of the Palsied Man — Forgiveness of sins leads to a new life (Mark 2: 1-12)

Sin is the act of turning away from God and His ways; trying to do things on our own. When we sin or turn away from God, we turn away from our source of strength and life. We become weak and paralysis takes over; not only physically and mentally, but worse yet, spiritually.

However, the sinful character of mankind is something which we all share and so it takes a group effort to bring ourselves and one another back to the Source of life. But we must remember that we each must do our own fair share of the effort. And our fair share means using the full power which God has given us.

The men who carried the mat of their friend in the Gospel share the burden of his palsied state. They not only brought him to the building where Christ was present, but they also shared his faith and made every effort to bring him directly into the presence of Christ. Great things can be accomplished through faith and if we want to come closer to God and follow His ways bad enough, we can find ways to do so.

Jesus saw that they had a sincere faith and desire to become well again and so the first thing he did was to get to the root of the problem and forgive his sins to heal that gap between the man and God. After his sins were forgiven and a new life was given to the palsied man, Christ told him to pick up his mat and go home; to return to his family and friends, show them what God had done for him, and live the new life which he had received.

The Penitential Prayer of Saint Ephrem

To be said daily during the Great Fast

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)



It's never too late to participate in the Great Fast!

Repentance, Fasting, Prayer, Almsgiving

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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, Dan Pinchot

Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff - Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before Liturgies, or by appointment

Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the priest

Holy Mystery of Anointing Contact the priest 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

"The Lord came to send fire upon the earth, and through participation in this fire He makes divine not just the human substance which He assumed for our sake, but every person who is found worthy of communion with Him."

- St. Gregory Palamas