

March 3, 2024

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!
Слава Иисусу Христу! Слава на вѣку!

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 7: pg. 156, & Third Sunday of the Fast: pp. 223-225,
Typica: pp. 16-17, Beattitudes: pp. 23-24, St. Basil melodies: pg. 96

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., MARCH 3 **THIRD SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, VENERATION of the CROSS**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ Joseph Olack, 7th year after passing, offered by wife, Mary Elizabeth Olack

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

FRI., MARCH 8 **FOURTH FRIDAY of the GREAT FAST**
6:00 P.M. **LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS**

SUN., MARCH 10 **FOURTH SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, ST. JOHN CLIMACUS**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY**
+ John Pinchot, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba

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



*Please, remember to turn your clock 1 hour ahead this Saturday,
March 9th, before you go to bed. Daylight Saving Time begins.*

Happy Birthday Greetings:

March 4: Pressley Roush, March 5: Lena Maruhnich

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

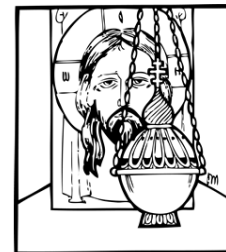
Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

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

Epistle Readers – March 3: Joanne Futato – March 10: Louisa Hersh

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – March 3: M. Bobanic – March 10: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

March 3 - 9, 2024

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Joseph Olack

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Wife, Mary

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)

***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.***

Pirohi Sale This Week



Our next Pirohi sale will be this **Friday, March 8. If you can spare some time to help make pirohi, our workday is Thursday at 9:00 A.M. Friday, the day of the sale, come any time in the morning to help** (*We start around 6:00 AM*). Any amount of time you can spare will be greatly appreciated.

And order your dinner for Friday! Orders should be called in by **Thursdays at noon at (724) 375-6652**. God Bless our pirohi workers and customers!

Thank you!

17th EGGstravaganza

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Uniontown will have their 17th EGGstravaganza on Sunday, March 17 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-byz-cath-uniontown.org & www.facebook.com/StJohnByzUniontown.

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NICODEMUS
HEAVEN
MOSES
SERPENT
DESERT
ETERNAL
LIFE
WORLD
SON
EVERYONE
LOST
CONDEMN

A Note from Fr. Christiaan

Dear Parishioners,

As we prepare to reverence especially the image of the Holy Cross during this period of the Lenten fast, it may be good to remember that the historical cross was an instrument of punishing in the most humiliating way possible a criminal in the Greco-Roman world. In the Roman Empire, to show a criminal that he was powerless, it was designed to humiliate the person. The theology of victory of Jesus occurred during this humiliation by using the instrument of being killed as the means by which he would destroy death itself.

Instead of showing Roman courage in battle and ambition to rule the empire, Jesus’s kingship was courage against vice and evil thoughts of his enemies opposed by good ethics and the miraculous. Jesus opposed the ambition to rule and dominate by serving the weakest and poor. When the powerful, rich, and corrupt thought that he had been destroyed, he turned the sign of the cross on its head by showing that it was the ultimate failure against his virtue and against his eternal life. By restoring his own body with the commemorative wounds of the cross, he stood out from the grave as someone who gloried in his humiliation and his torture, in the sense that he did not hide what had happened to it but eternally displays it as the principal challenge in his human life that he overcame by means of his patience, humility, and resurrection.

We honor the image of the cross, just like God in the Old Testament ordered Moses to erect a saving-angel known as a seraphim on a pole of wood and to display it so that all who looked upon the image on the wood would be saved from their punishment for sins in the camp of Moses. Jesus argues in John’s Gospel especially that he is like the olden image of Moses.

We bow to your cross and we worship your holy Resurrection!

Fr. Christiaan

Self-Denial and Sure-Footedness - One who claims to abide in Christ ought to walk as He walked. Would you follow Christ? Then be humble as he was humble. Do not scorn his lowliness if you want to reach his exaltation. Human sin made the road rough. Christ’s resurrection leveled it. By passing over it Himself, He transformed the narrowest of tracks into a royal highway. Two feet are needed to run along this highway; they are humility and charity. Everyone wants to get to the top – well, the first step to take is humility. Why take strides that are too big for you – do you want to fall instead of going up? Begin with the first step, humility, and you will already by climbing.



(Saint Caesarius of Arles)

Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross

On the third Sunday of Great Lent, the Church commemorates the precious and life-giving Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. This Sunday prepares us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, and also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ. As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Gal 5:24) and have mortified ourselves during these days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion—being humiliated in a shameful manner.

The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory. Just as people who walk on a long and hard journey, bowed down by fatigue, find relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a tree; so do we find comfort and rejuvenation under the life-giving Cross, which the Church has “planted” on this Sunday. And just as, before the arrival of a king, his royal trophies and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade; so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His life-giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose undrinkable waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. But when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth it became sweet. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous. Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam’s sin, as well as the fact that through this Tree condemnation has been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal.



Repentance, Fasting, Prayer, Almsgiving

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."



Mid-Lent is upon us this Wednesday... 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? – Have I prayed for those who have fallen away from the Church? - 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?

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

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. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

PRIEST: FATHER CHRISTIAAN KAPPES

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 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

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

“Keep Holy” Sunday and the Holydays of Obligation