

March 10, 2024

Fourth 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!*

Proprs for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 8: pg. 161, & Fourth Sunday of the Fast: pp. 226 – 227,  
Typica: pp. 16-17, Beattitudes: pp. 23-24, St. Basil melodies: pg. 96

### Divine Services for the Week:

**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

*(At St. Mary: Wednesday, March 13, 6:00 P.M., Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts)*

**FRI., MARCH 15**    **FIFTH FRIDAY of the GREAT FAST**  
**6:00 P.M.**        **LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS**

**SUN., MARCH 17**    **FIFTH SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, ST. MARY of EGYPT**  
**8:30 A.M.**        **DIVINE LITURGY**  
                         + Carol Huchko, offered by Butch & Judy Dzumba



### Happy Birthday Greetings:

March 10: Richard Mudron, March 11: Kenneth Futato, March 15: Ann Barnett

### 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

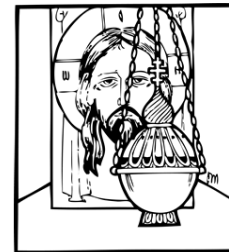
Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

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

**Epistle Readers – March 10: Louisa Hersh – March 17: Prudy Peya**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – March 10: R. Mudron – March 17: F. Hersh**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**

March 10 - 16, 2024

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

**+ John Pinchot**

*(In Loving Memory)*

Offered By:

**Eleanor & Larry**

Man has always believed that there was something else (i.e., spirits) beside himself and the visible in the world, and generally divided the spirits into good ones and bad ones. Over time man has ascribed greater power to the evil ones; deifying them, building temples to them, looking to them for help in all things, fearing their wrath, bringing them sacrifices and prayers. It is shown today in the many pagan cults thriving thorough out the world, and we see this at the time of Christ, when Christ's great power was attributed to Satan, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons." (Matthew 9:34 also in Luke and Mark). Jesus came to show us that the opposite is true.

### 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.*



## 17<sup>th</sup> EGGstravaganza

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Uniontown will have their 17<sup>th</sup> 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-byzcath-uniontown.org](http://www.stjohnbaptist-byzcath-uniontown.org) & [www.facebook.com/StJohnByzUniontown](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnByzUniontown).

## Deanery Lenten Vespers

On Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Fifth Sunday in Lent, **St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, Avela, PA**, will host the Deanery for the Sunday Lenten Vespers @ 3:00 P.M. At the conclusion of vespers, we will conduct the Anointing Service and provide opportunity for private Confessions. And finally, a Lenten meal will be offered in the Parish Social Hall. All are welcome to attend.

## Upcoming Ordinations

Archbishop William will ordain both Deacon Timothy Farris and Deacon John Welch to the Holy Priesthood on **Sunday, April 7, 2024** at St. Michael Church, Hermitage, PA at 3:00 p.m.

Archbishop William will ordain Deacon Kyprian Wojciechowski to the Holy Priesthood on **Sunday, April 28, 2024** at St. Mary Church, Bradenville, PA at 3:00 p.m.

Archbishop William will ordain Seminarian Joshua Johnson (Eparchy of Phoenix) to Minor Orders and the Sub-diaconate on **Sunday, April 14, 2024** at the Seminary Chapel at 3:00 p.m.

## Official Appointments

**Father James Frazer IV** relieved as administrator of St. John Church, Uniontown, Pa. while continuing to serve as administrator of St. Mary Parish, Morgantown, West Virginia.

**Father David A. Bosnich** relieved as administrator of St. Michael Church, Sheffield, and as Protopresbyter of the North Central Protopresbyterate and appointed temporary administrator of St. John Church, Uniontown, with residence at St. Stephen rectory in Leisenring, all in Pennsylvania.

**Father Edward Pyo** appointed priest for liturgical services and the spiritual care of the faithful at St. Michael Church, Sheffield, Pa.

## A Note from Fr. Christiaan

Dear Parishioners,

I thought I would take the opportunity to write you a little about your seminary, since I continue to work there educating our future priests and deacons and because many of my conversations naturally revolve around who might – if it be not me – be appointed as the permanent priest or pastor of Ss. George and Mary in the future.

First of all, your/our seminary was established by our archeparchy of Pittsburgh around 1950. Today, it is thriving, averaging about 10 fulltime priestly students or seminarians who by and large live in the building. Furthermore, we have temporary residents in the summer who study to be deacons and they number about twenty each year. What is more, we ebb and flow with about 20 additional students who study for a fully accredited Master of Arts degree, which we offer in Byzantine theology. Due to the low overhead and our good stewardship of resources, we are able to attract many students who want either a degree (as laypersons and as clergy) or a certificate (for deacons) and have expanded our numbers to what seems to be the status quo of about 50 or so students each year for the last few years.

We just had the announcement of two of our seminarians to be ordained: Deacons Timothy Farris and Kyprian Wojciechowski. I was fortunate to teach them for several years and supervise their education as academic dean at your seminary. We anticipate two more ordinations to the priesthood probably this calendar year! Your Lenten sacrifices are of course fasting, alms, and prayer. Please pray for deacons Nathaniel Tapsak and Wisniewski who are on track to graduate this Spring, along with men from other eparchies. The future staffing of our archeparchy is greatly aided by these men who have passed through four years of master’s studies, all the while meeting with their Spiritual Fathers and regularly getting feedback on how to improve their professionalism while serving diverse populations over four years.

Lent is a good formational time at the seminary where I regularly celebrate liturgies, too, for our men in formation (you can see our morning and evening services each month at bcs.edu). We have, in addition to presanctified, the monastic hours (for example Sext), regular Matins and Vespers, along with Akathists and Molebens, all of which are meant to enrich us spiritually and prepare the seminarians to celebrate said offices when they are able in parishes. For me, educating what I consider to be good quality men for the priesthood and diaconate, I’m pleased that our future in Pittsburgh looks strong from a staffing point of view.

I hope you welcome sincerely good news that may affect our two parishes in the near future or at least lighten the load for us priests who are often taking on a number of assignments to serve our people.

*Fr. Christiaan*



## Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast

“O Lord, I believe; Help my unbelief” (Mark 9: 24), prays the man in today’s Gospel who had asked Jesus to heal his son possessed by a demon. The Apostles, too, ask Jesus to help their unbelief “Lord, Increase our faith.” (Luke 17:5)

To both Jesus responds that if you have faith the size of a mustard you can accomplish miraculous results with only a word, even moving mountains or pulling a huge tree out by its roots and tossing it into the sea. It might seem normal for people today to doubt that this is/was possible,: however, the people at that time had witnessed even greater miracles themselves, the blind having their sight restored, the lame walking, and many others including today’s Gospel account of demons being expelled. So it might be expected that these marvels and Jesus’ promise of the power to perform them to those with faith, would inspire all to great faith, but in the next chapter of St Luke’s Gospel, Jesus wonders “when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8), and declares “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you?” when He is told that His disciples could not drive the demon out of the boy.

In today’s reading, the possessed boy’s father points out the disciple’s lack of power to Jesus. “I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.” He also exposes his own contribution (lack of faith) to the disciple’s failure when he says to Jesus “if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus doesn’t put the blame specifically on anyone (“O faithless generation”). Even those in the crowd are accused of the lack of faith (for Jesus acknowledged the faith of the four who lowered the paralytic to Him as the reason of his cure).

How would we have reacted if this was our child? What kind of faith would Christ find in each of us if He would appear today? What evidence of faith would He see in our everyday actions? Would He see us trying to deal with everything, both the blessings and that which require us to show patience and humility, with the faith that God has sent them to us for our own benefit - “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes” (Psalm 119:71)? Do we have the faith to act according to His will? Do we act as though this world is only a passing phase and that His obedience (and therefore ours too) to the Father, even to death on the cross is the source of eternal life? Do we ask Him in prayer to strengthen our faith and use it in all our decisions and judgments?

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us focus our efforts on increasing our faith to the size of a mustard seed keeping in mind the words of Jesus “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.” Let us accept Christ’s power as supreme in our lives and allow Him to take the spirit of despair from us.

“O Lord, I believe; Help my unbelief!”

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John Climacus, the author of The Ladder of Divine Ascent. In this book the Igoumen of Saint Katherine’s Monastery on Mount Sinai bears witness to the great effort which is required for entry into God’s Kingdom (Matthew 10:12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is difficult since it is “not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ...” (Ephesians 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, as the Lord has said, only “he who endures to the end will be saved” (Matthew 24:13).



Saint John was born around the year 525, the son of devout and wealthy parents. He received a very good education, but at the age of sixteen, he forsook the world and went to Mount Sinai, subjecting himself to the spiritual guidance of Elder Martyrios. His Elder reposed when he was nineteen years of age, (*This was his monastic age. He was, in fact, thirty-five years old*) Then Saint John entered the arena of hesychasm, visiting the monastic communities of Skētē and Tabénnisē in Egypt. For another forty years, he lived in a cell at Thora in the Sinai Desert.

Aflame with indescribable longing for God, he ate everything that was permitted by the monastic Rule, but only in very small quantities, and not unto satiety. By so doing, he overcame the vice of pride; and by eating just a little food, he humbled the stomach, which always wants more. He raised his body from death and paralysis by the remembrance of death, and he overcame the tyranny of anger with the sword of obedience.

Who can describe the fountain of his tears, which is now to be seen in very few individuals? He slept only as much as was necessary to prevent his mind from being distracted. Before going to sleep he prayed a great deal, and he also wrote books. This was how he subdued despondency. His entire life was spent in unceasing prayer, and incomparable love for God.

After writing The Ladder at the request of Igoumen John of Raithu Monastery, and leading a God-pleasing life, Saint John fell asleep in the Lord when he was about seventy-five years old (ca. 603). He is also commemorated on March 30.

*“Forgetting offenses is a sign of sincere repentance. If you keep the memory of them, you may believe you have repented but you are like someone running in his sleep.”*

- St. John Climacus

ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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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 ..... 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

*Lent is a Time to Attend Church More Often! It’s a Great Spiritual Investment!!*