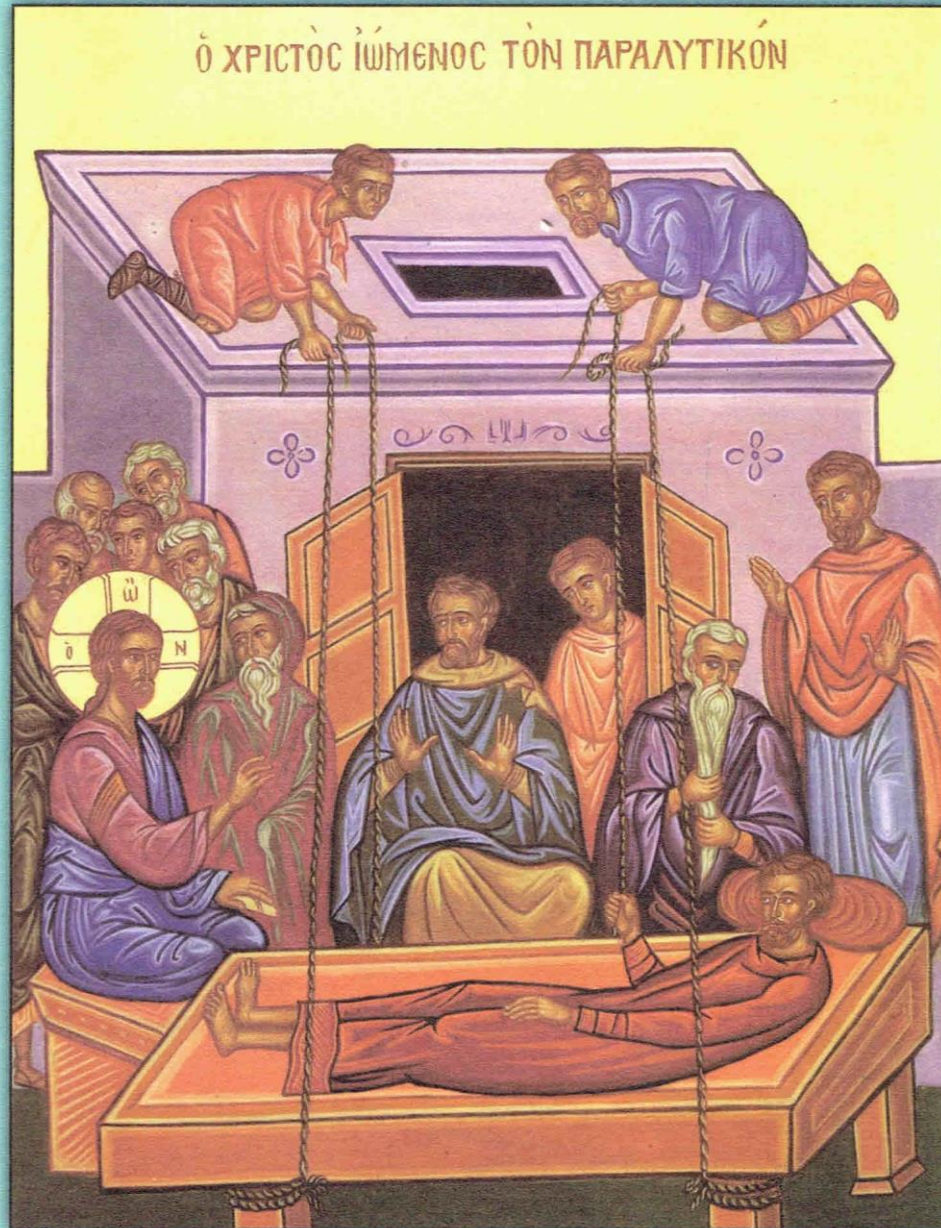


SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS



Icon of Healing the Paralytic

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

(Under the Holy Protection of the Mother of God)



2115 Listravia Ave., Morgantown, WV 26505

Office: (304) 296-2455

Website: HolyProtectionWV.com

Facebook: St. Marys Holy Protection Byzantine Catholic Church

E-mail: holyprotectionwv@gmail.com

Rev. Father James Fraser

Residence (cell): (304) 918-3297

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation: After Liturgy or by appointment

Holy Mystery of Anointing: prior to surgery or whenever requested

Holy Mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation: Arrange with Father Jim

New Parishioners: Welcome! Please see Father for registration



DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR FEB 25th to MAR 8th, 2024

| | |
|--|--|
| Sunday Feb. 25th 10:30 a.m. | Second Sunday of the Great Fast - pg 152 & 222 St. Gregory Palamas Readings: Heb 1:10-2:3; Mk 2:1-12 Intention: For the people of St Mary's Parish |
| Wednesday Feb. 28th 6:00 p.m. | Presanctified Liturgy - Followed by a Lenten Soup Supper Intention: Thomas Bane and all children of the parish. |
| Saturday Mar. 2nd 9:00 a.m. | Third All Souls Saturday |
| Sunday Mar. 3rd 10:30 a.m. | Third Sunday of the Great Fast - pg 156 & 223 Veneration of the Cross Readings: Heb 4:14-5:6; Mk 8:34-9:1 Intention: For the people of St Mary's Parish |
| Wednesday Mar. 6th 6:00 p.m. | Presanctified Liturgy - Followed by a Lenten Soup Supper Intention: Open |
| Friday Mar. 8th 7:00 p.m. | Akathist to the Theotokos, Searcher for the Lost |

Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience.

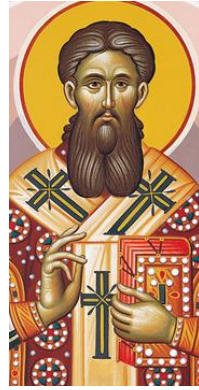
St. John of the Ladder

Second Sunday of the Great Fast:

St. Gregory Palamas

On the second Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the teachings of St. Gregory Palamas, who upheld the Orthodox doctrine that humans can know God not only through the intellect but through experience of His uncreated energies.

... every day we should stand in awe of Him, as He is with us, and do what is pleasing before Him. If we are unable now to perceive Him with our physical eyes, we can, if we are watchful, see Him continuously with the eyes of our understanding, and not just see Him, but reap great benefits from Him. This vision destroys all sin, demolishes all evil, and drives away everything bad. It gives birth to purity and dispassion, and bestows eternal life. + St. Gregory Palamas



Heb 1:10-2:3

He also says,
“In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.”
To which of the angels did God ever say, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?
Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?
We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.



Do not pray that things may be according to your desires, for your desires are not always in keeping with the will of God. It is better to pray as you were taught, saying: "Thy will be done" (Matthew 6:10). Pray in this way about all things, for He always desires what is good and profitable for your soul, whereas you do not always seek it.
Saint Nilus of Mount Sinai: "153 Texts on Prayer"



Pray for the Sick, Recovering, and Shut-Ins:

Theresa Glagola at Sundale
Joanna Beard for hip surgery and recovery

May we keep all our ailing and healing parishioners in our prayers every day.

Please let Father Jim know to include any family and parish members who are ill, hospitalized, or need a visit for blessing, anointing, confession, or request of prayers. Kindly call Father Jim at (304) 918-3297 Thank You.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES go to:

Anyone celebrating theirs this week

May God bless you with Peace, Health, and Happiness!

For many happy and blessed years!



Sanctuary Candles Intention is for **James Jr. & Ella Fraser**



In the Eastern Church, the various prayers for the departed have as their purpose: to pray for the repose of the departed; to comfort the living; and to remind those who remain behind of their own mortality, and the brevity of this earthly life. For this reason, memorial services have an air of penitence about them.



Offertory Collection for Feb. 18th, 2024

| Envelope Offerings | Loose Offerings | Candles | All Souls | Total |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------|-----------|-------|
| \$255 | \$1 | \$34 | \$25 | \$315 |

Church Attendance for Sunday was: 20

ST. MARY'S BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH ANNUAL EASTER BAKE SALE



St. Mary's will be having our Annual Easter Bake Sale on March 25th. **Deadline to place an order is March 17th.** Nut, Poppy Seed, or Apricot Rolls are \$12 each. Pascha Bread (with or without raisins) are \$5 each. Chocolate Easter Eggs (peanut butter, coconut, or black walnut filling) are \$6 each. There will be no phone calls made for pick-up this year. Pick-up day is March 27th from 8 a.m. to noon (St. Mary's is located at 2115 Listravia Ave. in the Sabraton area of Morgantown). To place an order, please call Ellen at 304-282-0431.



PYSANKY CLASSES at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic in Uniontown



– Will be held every Monday **starting February 26th** through March 18th in the social ministry room. Anyone who is interested in learning to make pysanky please call 724-438-1382. Experienced pysanky artists and first timers are welcome.



16th EGG



EggSTRAVAGANZA

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

12:00 NOON – 4:00pm



St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall
201 E. Main Street Uniontown, PA
For info call: 724-438-1382 (Leave message)
www.stjohnbaptist-byzcatch-uniontown.org
www.facebook.com/StJohnByzUniontown



"Experience the traditions"

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Of all the Lenten rules, one is unique to Orthodoxy, and so gives us a key to its liturgical spirit: it forbids the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on weekdays in Lent, as incompatible with fasting, the sole exception being the Feast of the Annunciation. But so as not to deprive the faithful of "the food of immortality", the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is prescribed, that is, a "Eucharistic synaxis" without the Consecration. The festal nature of the Eucharist is thus reserved for Saturdays and Sundays in Lent, while on the days of total fasting, Wednesdays and Fridays, the people receive the Holy Gifts that were sanctified on the previous Sunday.

You are Forgiven and Healed

In Capernaum Jesus is surrounded by great numbers of people. As He preaches to the crowd, four friends of a paralyzed man lower him on his mat through the roof so that he can be close enough for Jesus to see him and cure him. Jesus responds to this act of faith, not by healing the man immediately, but by touching off the first of a series of controversial dialogues with the Scribes and Pharisees. When Jesus says, "Child, your sins are forgiven," He is as much as saying, "It is God whom you approach." In the Old Testament, only God is capable of forgiving sins; and it was expected that He would do so only at the end of time. It becomes clear why the Scribes murmur "he is blaspheming" and why Jesus brings it all out in the open. His claim to be able to forgive sins better reveals His identity as Son of God than do the miracles He performs.

Aware of the silent censure His forgiving word has caused in the crowd, Jesus proceeds to prove that "the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" by commanding the man to rise and walk in the sight of everyone. In concluding this miracle, Mark asks his readers to praise God for His presence in their midst as the forgiver-healer, just as the crowd did, even in the face of those who did not believe.

It is significant that Mark has chosen to present this miracle and teaching about Jesus' power to forgive sins so early in his Gospel drama. It shows that the need for the experience of God's forgiveness was as important to first-century Christians as it is today. Mark's readers praise God for saying clearly, and even today, "My sons, my daughters, I absolve you from your sins."

For publications on Eastern spirituality, visit www.ecpubs.com