

**ST. MARY'S
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

VERY REV. RICHARD I. LAMBERT

356 S. BelleVista Ave.

Youngstown, Ohio 44509

Rectory 330-799-8163

Social Center 330-792-1578

March 17, 2024

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

SAT. 4:30 p.m. +Steven Ilko by The Tomaino Family
SUN. 10:30 a.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners

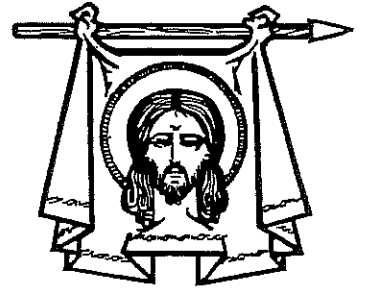
MON. 10:30 a.m. No Service

TUE. 10:30 a.m. No Service

**WED. 10:30 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy
+Elizabeth Marko by Stella Camuso**

THU. 10:30 a.m. No Service

**FRI. 10:30 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy
+Harold Turjanica by Daughter, MaryAnn**



PALM SUNDAY

SAT. 4:30 p.m. +Veronica Kovach by Gail Pastoria
SUN. 10:30 a.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners

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In you ,O Mother, the divine image was strictly preserved; taking up your cross, you followed Christ. You taught us by example how to spurn the flesh for it passes away, and how to care for the soul, which is immortal. Therefore, O Venerable Mary, your soul rejoices with the angels.

CHURCH DONATIONS March, 2024
Easter \$60.00 Monthly Dues \$223.00
Candles \$12.00 Theophany \$10.00
Holy Week \$55.00 Lent \$22.00
Offertory..... \$ 1,765.00

SOCIAL GAMES

Are played every Sunday in our Center...Doors open 4:30 p.m. and games begin at 6:30 p.m. HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE.

LENTEN FUND RAISER FOR OUR SISTERS

We will once again be asking for donations throughout Lent for our Sisters at St. Mt Macrina. There will be envelopes at both entrances.

HALUSKI SALE...DRIVE THRU

Will be held on March 22nd from NOON -3:00 p.m . Drive up in front of the hall and we will bring it out. Call 330 792 1578 to place your order by March 20th \$10.00 qt.

ORDINATION...JOHN WELCH

Deacon John will be ordained on April 7th at 3:00 p.m. at St. Michael Byz. Church in Hermitage, PA. Dinner to follow. He will also have his FIRST LITURGY on Apr. 14th at 3:00 p.m. at his home Parish, Sts. Peter & Paul in Warren . Dinner to follow. Please sign the sheet in the vestibule if you will be attending the Liturgies and dinners, as they will need a head-count.

PUSSY WILLOWS

If you know someone that has a pussy willow tree in their yard that would let us come and cut some, please let us know. Our maintenance men will go and cut them. Thank you!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT FAST

An anonymous author once said, "Others will judge your God by the way you present Him." And how right he is. Reflecting upon our own lives, we can testify to the fact that the good Samaritan's who crossed our path and radiated the spirit of joyfulness, understanding, kindness, generosity, and especially mercy and forgiveness, made an imprint upon our hearts and minds forever.

The Gospels present Jesus as that type of individual. As the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, Jesus presented God as He really is. For example, to the woman caught in the act of adultery, as He witnessed her repentive disposition, He was merciful and forgiving, exhorting her to go and sin no more.

No one is beyond the reach of God no matter how serious we may have offended Him throughout our life. He forgives all who approach Him especially through the Mystery of Reconciliation and anoints their soul with healing.

On this Fifth Sunday of The Great Fast, our Byzantine Catholic tradition brings to our attention the life of an Egyptian woman who after living a very immoral and degrading existence, found how compassionate and loving God is. Mary the Egyptian (522 A.D.), according to her biographer Saint Sophronios, stands as the exemplar of genuine penance. After experiencing a great change of heart, she turned away from her evil ways and approached the merciful Savior with extreme sorrow. She then experienced a heavy burden lifted from her heart by reconciling herself to God. With a grateful disposition, she continually gave herself to Christ in love and devotion for the rest of her life.

During this sacred season of the Holy Fast, we are challenged to show mercy to others. Saint John Chrysostom tells us, "Do you wish to receive mercy? Show Mercy!"

Just as Mary the Egyptian committed her life to Jesus, witnessing to God's mercy and forgiveness must we lead others during our generation to Him by our witness and devotion. Remember, "*Others will judge your God by the way you present Him.*"

LAZARUS SATURDAY

Lazarus Saturday holds a very special place in the liturgical year. It is outside the 40 penitential days of Great Lent and also outside Holy Week, and together with Palm Sunday, it constitutes a brief, joyful prelude before the days of anguish.

We have reached the end of the sixth week of Lent this Saturday. Those who have worked hard and toiled in fasting and praying count the elapsed days with joy: finally the forty days are over, Great Fast is finished. Let us leave our offerings at the foot of the cross, let us forget our hard work; for the time of weeping over our sins is past. Let us hasten to live Holy Week fully, the hour is coming when we shall follow Christ step by step: from Bethany to Jerusalem, from the Upper Room to Gethsemane, from Golgotha to the tomb, from which shines forth resurrection.

The raising of Lazarus in Bethany is Christ's manifestation that His own resurrection would lead to the awakening from death of all humanity. This is why Jesus chose Lazarus as a traveling companion on the way to the death-resurrection. By raising Lazarus, Jesus announces his own resurrection and invites all believers to follow him.

"Your voice, O Lord, destroyed the kingdom of Hades, and by the power of Your word, You raised Lazarus from the tomb after four days. He became the saving pre-figurement of the Resurrection."

The magnitude of this miracle and the publicity attending it were the immediate cause of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The people, in their enthusiasm for Christ, greeted Him not only as their prophet, but also as their Messiah, their King and Lord.