

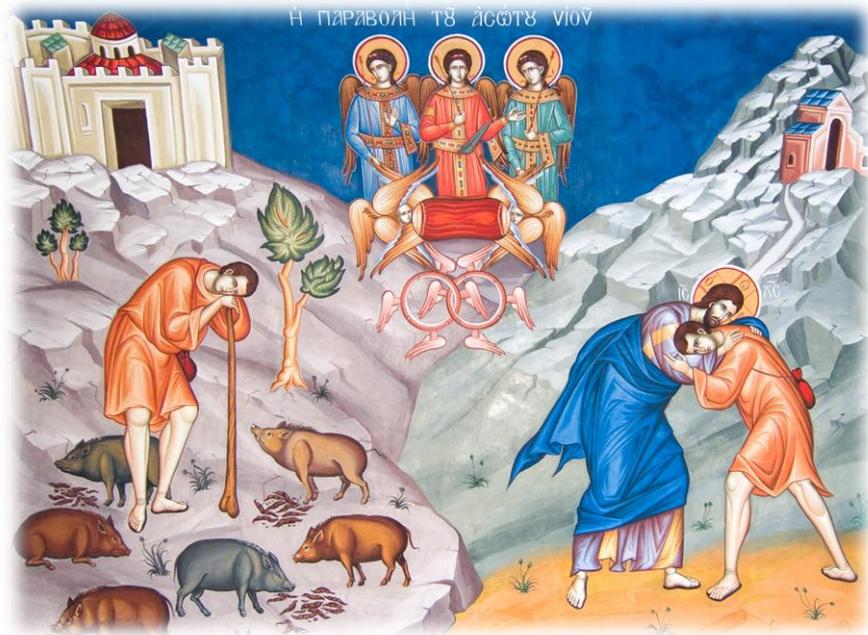
Glory to Jesus Christ!
Слава Иисусу Христу!

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
4480 Route 981 Latrobe, PA 15650

Glory Forever!
Слава на вѣки!

Pastor: Fr. Paul-Alexander Shutt, O.S.B. **Parish Office:** 724-423-3673 **Hall:** 724-423-8838
Confession Schedule: *Saturday* 16:00 – 16:30; *Sunday* 9:00 – 9:30; or by appointment
Parish Email: st.marytrauger@yahoo.com **Website:** www.stmarybyzantinecatholic.org

24 JANUARY 2016/7524: Sunday of the Prodigal Son *Our Venerable Mother Xenia of Rome*



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE:

Sat. Jan. 23 **17:00 Vigil of the Sunday of the Prodigal Son**
Suffrages for +**Robert Hulyk** – *Wife Margaret*

Sun. Jan. 24 **10:30 The Sunday of the Prodigal Son** Suffrages *pro populo parœciæ*; for + **Richard Spirko** – *Edward & Phyllis Surma*

Sat. Jan. 30 **17:00 Vigil of Meatfare Sunday**

Sun. Jan. 31 **10:30 Meatfare Sunday** Suffrages *pro populo parœciæ*

Tues. Feb. 02 **19:00 The Encounter of our Lord with Anna and Simeon**

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Acolytes

Sat. Jan. 23 -----
Sun. Jan. 24 Ruggieri & Syphans
Sat. Jan. 30 -----
Sun. Jan. 31 E. R. A. Hess

Lectors

J. Krynicky
P. Krynicky
J. Kontir
A. Prizzi
J. Snitzer, R. Garber
G. Krynicky, R. Garber
R. Garber, J. Kontir
D. Hess, G. Krynicky

Ushers

1/10/16

Collection

Attendance:

Adult: \$830
Fuel Oil: \$120
Saturday: 25 + 2
Student: \$12
Initial Offering: \$44
Sunday: 39 + 7
Candles: \$50
Total: \$1056

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

«Let us make haste to follow the Pharisee in his virtues and to emulate the Publican in his humility, and let us hate what is wrong in each of them: foolish pride and the defilement of transgressions.»
Ode 5, Orthros of the Publican and Pharisee

«I was entrusted with a sinless and living land, but I sowed the ground with sin and reaped with a sickle the ears of slothfulness; in thick sheaves I garnered my actions, but winnowed them not on the threshing floor of repentance. But I beg You, my God, the pre-eternal husbandman, with the wind of Your loving-kindness winnow the chaff of my works, and grant to my soul the wheat of forgiveness; shut me in Your heavenly storehouse and save me.»

Sticheron from Saturday Vespers of the Prodigal Son

Through Thy rising from the dead, O Christ, death rules no longer over those that die in faith. Therefore we pray fervently: Give rest in Thy courts and in the bosom of Abraham to those Thy servants from Adam to this present day who have worshipped Thee in purity, our fathers and brethren, friends and kin, all who in different ways have offered faithful service to Thee, O God; and count them worthy of the heavenly kingdom.

Sticheron from Friday Vespers, 1st All Souls Saturday

This coming week culminates with the **Sunday of the Last Judgment**. In the words of *The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete*: «The end draws near, my soul, the end draws near; yet you do not care or make ready. The time grows short, rise up: the Judge is at the door. The days of our life pass swiftly, as a dream, as a flower.» This Sunday places before us the eschatological dimension of the Great Fast, namely a preparation for the Second Advent or Coming of Christ, for the eternal Passover in the Age to Come.

Next Sunday's Readings: Meatfare Sunday

Epistle, 1st Corinthians 8:8 – 9:2 *Food offered to Idols*
Gospel, Matthew 25: 31 – 46 *The Judgment of the Nations*

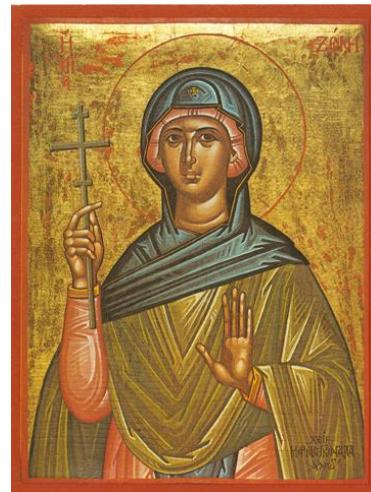
✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

~ Announcements ~

- **2015 YEARLY CONTRIBUTION FORMS** are available in the Narthex.
- **FIRST ALL SOULS' SATURDAY is 30 January.** The Divine Liturgy for all the Faithful Departed throughout time will be served at 9:30 followed by a Panachida with Kollyva for the Faithful departed from our parish.
- **MEAGER MEAL + FORGIVENESS VESPERS: Sunday, 7 February** immediately after the Divine Liturgy.
- **FUNERALS DURING GREAT LENT:** On week-days (Monday through Friday) of the Great Fast and on the first three days of Great and Holy Week, the Divine Liturgies of St. John Chrysostom and St. Basil the Great may **NOT** be celebrated. The *Parastas* and *Panachida* are served at the Funeral Home and the *Funeral of a Lay person without Divine Liturgy* is served in the Church. Suffrages for the recently deceased will be offered on the closest Sunday after the funeral.
- During the Great Fast a **special collection** is always taken up by our Archeparchy to aid our sister churches in need in **Eastern Europe**. Please be generous in your giving.
- **FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST, 14 February,** marks the change from the Anaphora of St John Chrysostom to that of St Basil the Great in our celebration of the Divine Liturgy. On this Sunday of Orthodoxy we commemorate the return of icons in our churches. Bring any icons that need to be blessed to Church that day. All are encouraged to bring an icon and to carry it in the procession after the Ambon Prayer.

St. Xenia was born in Rome and named Eusebia at birth. She was the only daughter of an eminent Roman senator and when she grew of age, her parents desired her to marry. Wishing to dedicate her life entirely to Christ, she secretly fled by ship with two of her faithful slaves to the city of Mylasa on the Island of Kos. There she founded a women's monastery and lived such a virtuous and blessed life that she was made a deaconess in the Church.

St. Xenia often stood all night in prayer, fasted, and humbled herself before God and others. She was a shining light to all and followed her Saviour in meekness and humility. She lived out her life uniting herself to Christ in body, word, and thought. When it was her time to leave this earthly life in a.d. 450, she gave her bright soul into the hands of Christ, Who brought this pure dove into His Never-Ending Kingdom.



At the time of her death, a brilliant cross brighter than the sun appeared over her monastery wreathed in a circle of stars, showing her life was pleasing to God. In this icon she holds her cross, for her life of self-restraint, and an open hand to indicate her openness to God.