

Christ is Born!
Христос Рождается!

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

Glorify Him!
Славите!

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

27 December 2015/7524: Sunday after Christmas

Memory of Holy and Just Joseph, Husband of Mary; of David, Prophet and King; and of the Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord. The Apostle, Protomartyr, and Archdeacon Stephen.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE:

Sat. Dec. 26	17:00 Vigil of the Sunday after Christmas. Suffrages for + John and Helen Krynicky – <i>Friends and neighbors</i> ; + George Pavick – <i>Marge Hulyk and family</i> .
Sun. Dec. 27	10:30 The Sunday after Christmas. Suffrages pro populo ; for + Peter and Rose Keselich – <i>Patricia Krisner</i> .
Sat. Jan. 02	17:00 Vigil of the Sunday before Theophany. Suffrages for + Maryann S. Krynicky – <i>anonymous</i> .
Sun. Jan. 03	10:30 The Sunday before Theophany. Suffrages for + George & Agnes Rusinko, and George Rusinko – <i>Aimee & Michael Kakos</i> ; Suffrages pro populo .

✠	✠	✠	✠	✠
	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	
Sat. Dec. 26	-----	J. Kontir	D. Milhalko, R. Garber	
Sun. Dec. 27	T. & M. Syphan	S. Vacha	R. Garber, G. Krynicky	
Sat. Jan. 02	-----	J. Krynicky	J. Kontir, J. Snitzer	
Sun. Jan. 03	E. R. A. Hess	O. Syphan	J. Knouse, G. Krynicky	

12/20/15: Adult: \$110 Student: \$24 Candles: \$60
Collection Flowers: \$40 Fuel Oil: \$50 **Total: \$1274**

Attendance: Saturday: 15 + 1 Sunday: 50 + 2 Moleben: 9
Christmas Eve: 54 + 7 Christmas Day: 38 + 2



The Holy Father's homily for the Nativity of the Lord: Tonight "a great light" shines forth (Is 9:1); the light of Jesus' birth shines all about us. How true and timely are the words of the prophet Isaiah which we have just heard: "You have brought abundant joy and great rejoicing" (9:2)! Our heart was already joyful in awaiting this moment; now that joy abounds and overflows, for the promise has been at last fulfilled. Joy and gladness are a sure sign that the message contained in the mystery of this night is truly from God.

There is no room for doubt; let us leave that to the skeptics who, by looking to reason alone, never find the truth. There is no room for the indifference which reigns in the hearts of those unable to love for fear of losing something. All sadness has been banished, for the Child Jesus brings true comfort to every heart.

Today, the Son of God is born, and everything changes. The Savior of the world comes to partake of our human nature; no longer are we alone and forsaken. The Virgin offers us her Son as the beginning of a new life. The true light has come to illumine our lives so often beset by the darkness of sin. Today we once more discover who we are! Tonight we have been shown the way to reach the journey's end. Now must we put away all fear and dread, for the light shows us the path to Bethlehem. We must not be laggards; we are not permitted to stand idle. We must set out to see our Savior lying in a manger. This is the reason for our joy and gladness: this Child has been "born to us"; he was "given to us", as Isaiah proclaims (cf. 9:5). The people who for two thousand years has traversed all the pathways of the world in order to allow every man and woman to share in this joy is now given the mission of making known "the Prince of peace" and becoming his effective servant in the midst of the nations.

So when we hear tell of the birth of Christ, let us be silent and let the Child speak. Let us take his words to heart in rapt contemplation of his face. If we take him in our arms and let ourselves be embraced by him, he will bring us unending peace of heart. This Child teaches us what is truly essential in our lives. He was born into the poverty of this world; there was no room in the inn for him and his family. He found shelter and support in a stable and was laid in a manger for animals. And yet, from this nothingness, the light of God's glory shines forth. From now on, the way of authentic liberation and perennial redemption is open to every man and woman who is simple of heart. This Child, whose face radiates the goodness, mercy and love of God the Father, trains us, his disciples, as Saint Paul says, "to reject godless ways" and the richness of the world, in order to live "temperately, justly and devoutly" (Tit 2:12).

In a society so often intoxicated by consumerism and hedonism, wealth and extravagance, appearances and narcissism, this Child calls us to act *soberly*, in other words, in a way that is simple, balanced, consistent, capable of seeing and doing what is essential. In a world which all too often is merciless to the sinner and lenient to the sin, we need to cultivate a strong sense of justice, to discern and to do God's will. Amid a culture of indifference which not infrequently turns ruthless, our style of life should instead be *devout*, filled with empathy, compassion and mercy, drawn daily from the wellspring of prayer.

Like the shepherds of Bethlehem, may we too, with eyes full of amazement and wonder, gaze upon the Child Jesus, the Son of God. And in his presence may our hearts burst forth in prayer: "Show us, Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation" (Ps 85:8).

Next Sunday's Readings: Sunday before Theophany

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4: 5-8 *Paul's Last Charge to Timothy*

Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8 *The Preaching of John the Baptist*



~ Announcements ~

- There is **NO KNEELING OR FASTING** from December 25 through January 4.
- MANY THANKS** to those who cleaned the Church for these holy days of Christmas and to the person or persons who anonymously donated all the poinsettias this year.

- **2016 LITURGICAL CALENDARS** are available in the Narthex. Please take **only one per family**. The theme of this year's calendar is the saints and martyrs, ancient and modern, of Carpatho-Rus'. Read about their lives on the back of the calendar.
- Kick off the New Year with a **FREE** New Year's Day Pork and Sauerkraut dinner held **January 1st** at **St. Paul Lutheran Church**, Dutch Hill Road, from **11:00 to 14:00**. Anyone who wishes to help, either the morning before or the day of the event can do so by calling the church, **724-423-2590**, with your available time. In the event of a snow or ice storm, the meal will be held on *Sunday, January 3rd*. See poster in the Narthex.
- **BCW to adopt monthly Publication** w/ two special editions for Pascha and the Nativity. The new subscription price for the BCW is \$14, and will take effect w/ the July 2016 issue. To those who wish to continue their current subscription and to any new subscribers, please make your check payable to **Byzantine Catholic World**.
- Please turn in your **2015 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** as soon as possible so that you may be given credit on your annual contribution form.
- I would like to thank the many parishioners for their kind remembrance and generosity to me at Christmas. Father



THE HOLY APOSTLE, PROTO-MARTYR,
AND ARCHDEACON STEPHEN

