

Glory to Jesus Christ!

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

Glory Forever!

Слава Иисусу Христу!

4480 Route 981 Latrobe, PA 15650

Слава на вѣку!

Pastor: Father Paul-Alexander Shutt, O.S.B.

Confessions:

Tel: Rectory: 724-423-3673

St. Mary's Email: st.marytrauger@yahoo.com

Saturday 4 – 4:30 PM

Fax: 724-423-1808

Website: www.stmarybyzantinecatholic.org

Sunday 9:30 – 10:00 AM

Hall: 724-423-8838

or by appointment

## 02 February 2014: Sunday of Zacchaeus. The Encounter of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ with Simeon and Anna in the Temple.

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sat. Feb. 01 **5:00 PM: Sunday Vigil w/ Mirovanije**

+George Stephen Rusinko requested by Michael & Aimee Rusinko Kakos

Sun. Feb. 02 **10:30 AM: Sunday of Zacchaeus: The Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon and Anna: w/ Mirovanije: pro populo**

Sat. Feb. 08 **5:00 PM: Sunday Vigil**

+Richard Spirko requested by MaryAnn & Edmund Davis

Sun. Feb. 09 **10:30 AM: Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee: pro populo**

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#### Acolytes

#### Readers

#### Ushers

|              |               |                        |                            |
|--------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sat. Feb. 01 | M. Mihalko    | D. Cholock             | D. Mihalko, J. Kontir      |
| Sun. Feb. 02 | D. Cianciotti | J. Hess; L. Cianciotti | D. Hess, C. Cianciotti     |
| Sat. Feb. 08 | M. Mihalko    | M. Hulyk               | R. Garber, J. Snitzer      |
| Sun. Feb. 09 | D. Cianciotti | S. Vacha               | G. Krynicky, C. Cianciotti |

**01/26/14 Collection:** Adult \$801; Initial Offering \$07; Student \$15; Candles \$40; Fuel Oil \$120; Holy Day \$05; **Total: \$988.00**

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**The Righteous Simeon and Anna the Prophetess** ~ On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, our holy Byzantine Church remembers two people whose lives are extraordinary examples of **PATIENCE**: «the righteous God-receiver Simeon» and «Anna the Prophetess». The previous day is the Feast of the Encounter – The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple, an event in which Simeon and Anna had central roles. Jesus, only 40 days old, was brought by His parents into the Temple in Jerusalem as required by Torah. For the aged Simeon, seeing the Messiah, the Anointed One and Savior of Israel, was the fulfillment of God's long-awaited promise of the «consolation» of Israel. He knew very well the prophets' words concerning this, *e.g.*, «Comfort, O comfort My people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned...» (Is. 40:1) Simeon knew that Isaiah had described a voice crying, «In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God» (40:3). Now it had all been fulfilled in the preaching of John the Baptist and the coming of Jesus the Christ, and Simeon was ready to die in peace. Anna, a prophetess from a family of prophets, had

fasted and prayed for decades in the Temple. On this day of the Savior's coming, she recognized Him. She was prepared, though by this time she was well over eighty, to spread the good news to everyone.

One of the readings for the Synaxis of the Holy Prophets Anna and Simeon – is about the quality of faithful patience that they demonstrate so well. The Apostolic Letter of James counsels us, «Be patient, therefore, beloved until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient» (5:7-8).

These words remind us that **things happen in God's time, not ours**. The farmer is patient with the land until God sends the rain. For Anna and Simeon, the time of waiting was very long, so their patience had to be very great. Whatever situations face us – the ones that require patience – may also stretch on. We must strive to «strengthen our hearts» as did Simeon and Anna. That doesn't mean that we are to just sit idly by waiting for something to happen – Anna spent many years in the Temple «worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day» (Lk 2:37). We must be ready for God to act at any moment, and not «grumble against one another» when our patience gets tested for a longer time that we might have expected or wished. Even a lengthy period of time in human reckoning is only an instant in God's sight. So no matter how far away it may seem to us, the Apostle James tells us, «the coming of the Lord is near» (5:8).

**Ambon Prayer on the Feast of the Encounter:** O Master, Lord and God, You sent Your only-begotten Son, Your Word, into the world, born of a woman under the Law for the sake of our redemption. Through Your Spirit, You foretold His coming and bore witness to His presence to Simeon the Elder. Bless us also, Your unworthy servants, by His radiance and accept our prayers, as You accepted the acknowledgment of the prophetess Anna. Make us worthy to embrace Your incarnate Word in our souls, and to be called consecrated temples of Your all-holy Spirit. By Your strength, give joy to our civil authorities and to all your Church, that in us Your Name may be glorified, and that of Your only-begotten Son and that of Your adorable and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.



### Next Sunday's Readings:

#### Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

Epistle, 2 Timothy 3: 10 – 15: Paul's Final Charge to Timothy

Gospel, Luke 18: 10 – 14: Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector



### ~ Announcements ~

- **\*\*Sincere Thanks\*\*** to **Pat Krynicky, Jennifer Hess, & Karen Janos** for providing baked goods to the bingo this past week.

- **The First “All Souls’ Saturday” of 2014 is February 22.** Use the February 2<sup>nd</sup> envelope marked for “All Souls” listing on the front the departed to be remembered. The Divine Liturgy followed by a Panachida w/ Kollyva will be served at **9:30 am** that day. Make checks payable to Father Paul-Alexander Shutt, not St. Mary Church.



- **IT IS NEVER TOO SOON TO FORGIVE: in preparation for the GREAT FAST - Forgiveness Vespers w/ Meager Meal** will be served on **Sunday afternoon, 2 March, at 4:00 pm**, followed by our first Lenten meal of bread and soup in the Church basement. This service brings the period of pre-Lenten preparation to an end and at the same time, at the singing of the Great Prokeimenon, transitions us into the Great Fast. Vespers concludes with the Rite of Mutual Forgiveness and is the first service of Great Lent. **All parishioners, young and old, and especially all those who have a public ministry in the Church (Ushers, Lectors, Acolytes, ECF Teachers and Students, Youth Group) are expected to attend.** Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex so that we know how much food to prepare.

