

Glory to Jesus Christ!
Слава Иисусу Христу!

Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
4480 Route 981 Latrobe, PA 15650

Glory Forever!
Слава на вики!

Pastor: Father Paul-Alexander Shutt, O.S.B.
St. Mary's Email: st.marytrauger@yahoo.com
Website: www.stmarybyzantinecatholic.org

Confessions:
Saturday 4 – 4:30 PM
Sunday 9:30 – 10:00 AM
or by appointment

Tel: Rectory: 724-423-3673
Fax: 724-423-1808
Hall: 724-423-8838

17 February 2013: First Sunday of the Great Fast: Sunday of Orthodoxy
~Memory of the Holy Prophets~
~The Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit~

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sat. Feb. 16	5:00 PM: Sunday Vigil <i>+ Anthony Giacobbi requested by David Barlock</i>
Sun. Feb. 17	10:30 AM: First Sunday of the Great Fast: pro populo
Wed. Feb. 20	7:00 PM: Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts <i>+John Krynicky requested by Michael A. Dubinshak, Jr.</i>
Sat. Feb. 23	9:30 AM: Second All Souls' Liturgy 5:00 PM: Sunday Vigil <i>+Mark Simko requested by Helen I. Troyan & Family</i>
Sun. Feb. 24	10:30 AM: Second Sunday of the Great Fast: pro populo
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	<u>Acolytes</u> <u>Readers</u> <u>Ushers</u>
Sat. Feb. 16	M. Mihalko J. Kontir J. Snitzer, D. Mihalko
Sun. Feb. 17	E. & R. Hess S. Vacha J. & B. Knouse
Wed. Feb. 20	Any Present Any Present -----
Sat. Feb. 23	M. Mihalko L. Knouse J. Kontir, R. Garber
Sun. Feb. 24	D. Cianciotti B. Chirdon C. & D. Cianciotti

Collection: 02/10/13: Adult \$1220; Candles \$63; Student \$10; Initial Offering \$7; Fuel \$ 45; Maintenance \$340; **Total: \$1685.00.**

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST, 17 February: originally, the prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for the Divine Liturgy reflect this older usage. «*Moses and Aaron were among His priests, Samuel was among those who called upon His Name. They called upon the Lord and He answered them.*»

NEXT SUNDAY we commemorate the **First and Second Finding of the Head of Saint John the Baptist.** After the Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Precursor and Baptist John, his body was buried by disciples in the Samaritan city of Sebaste, and his venerable head was hidden

by Herodias in an unclean place. St Joanna, the wife of King Herod's steward Chuza (Luke 8:3), secretly took the holy head and placed it into a vessel and buried it on the Mount of Olives in one of Herod's properties. After many years, this property passed into the possession of a government official who became a monk with the name of Innocent. He built a church and a cell there. When they started to dig the foundation, the vessel with the venerable head of John the Baptist was uncovered. Innocent recognized its great holiness from the signs of grace emanating from it. **Thus occurred the First Finding of the Head.** Innocent preserved it with great piety, but fearful that the holy relic might be abused by unbelievers, before his own death he again hid it in that same place, where it was found. Upon his death the church fell into ruin and was destroyed. During the days of St Constantine the Great, when Christianity began to flourish, the holy Forerunner appeared twice to two monks journeying to Jerusalem on pilgrimage to the holy places, and he revealed the location of his venerable head. The monks uncovered the holy relic and, placing it into a sack of camel-hair, they proceeded homewards. Along the way they encountered an unnamed potter and gave him the precious burden to carry. Not knowing what he was carrying, the potter continued on his way. But the holy Forerunner appeared to him and ordered him to flee from the careless and lazy monks, with what he held in his hands. The potter concealed himself from the monks and at home he preserved the venerable head with reverence. Before his death he placed it in a water jug and gave it to his sister. From that time the venerable head was successively preserved by devout Christians, until the priest Eustathius (infected with the Arian heresy) came into possession of it. He beguiled a multitude of the infirm who had been healed by the holy head, ascribing their cures to the fact that it was in the possession of an Arian. When his blasphemy was uncovered, he was compelled to flee. After he buried the holy relic in a cave, near Emesa, the heretic intended to return later and use it for disseminating falsehood. God, however, did not permit this. Pious monks settled in the cave, and then a monastery arose at this place. In the year 452, St John the Baptist appeared to Archimandrite Marcellus of this monastery, and indicated where his head was hidden. **This became celebrated as the Second Finding.** The holy relic was transferred to Emesa, and later to Constantinople.



~ Announcements ~

- **Thank you** to **Helen DeFlorio, Cheryl Rusinko, & Theresa Woodring** for donating baked goods to our Friday Bingo.
- **~~Thank You to St. Mary Youth Group~~** for once again paying for the bags of salt used to keep the parking lot and walkways clear of snow and ice.
- **Thank you** to Dan Mihalko who has generously given to the church a copy of Paul Roberts Magocsi's book entitled **Our People, Carpatho-Rusyns and Their Descendants in North America.** Anyone interested in borrowing this book should see Father.
- **Trauger VFD Fish Fry** is held on Fridays during the Great Fast. Call 724-423-9357 to order. (See Poster in Narthex.)

Collection for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe A special collection will be taken on **March 2 - 3** to aid the churches in Central & Eastern Europe. This collection supports pastoral, educational, & construction projects in the previously mentioned areas along with Central Asia formerly under Soviet control. “Restoring the Church, Building the Future” is this year’s theme. It will focus on strengthening Catholic education & intellectual life, seminary formation, & the development of new leaders. Place your contribution in one of your **Special Offering envelopes** or any envelope and mark it with your name and envelope number, then drop it in the collection basket.



- ***Notate bene:*** Given the unpredictability of winter weather, it is understandable that attendance may be down at any given Liturgy. Caution is urged when venturing out onto the snow-covered and icy roads. There is still, however, a great need for your offertory envelopes to be turned in as soon as possible as our utility bills still come on time. Mailing your envelopes to the rectory is always an option.

