

*Glory to Jesus Christ!*  
*Слава Иисусу Христу!*

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

*Glory Forever!*  
*Слава на вьки!*

**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

## 14 December 2014: Sunday of the Forefathers

*The Holy Martyrs Thyrus, Leucas, Philemon, Appolonius and Callinicus.*  
*The Blessed Priest and Ascetic Father Nimatulla al-Hardini (Joseph Kassab).*

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sat. Dec. 13 **5:00 PM: Sunday Vigil**  
+ *Suffrages for Anthony Giacobbi* by Dolores Zoretich  
Sun. Dec. 14 **10:30 AM: Sunday of the Forefathers: pro populo Dei**  
Wed. Dec. 17 **7:00 PM EMMANUEL MOLEBEN**  
Sat. Dec. 20 **5:00 PM: Sunday Vigil**  
+ *Suffrages for Ignatius Papier* by Connie Bankovich  
Sun. Dec. 21 **10:30 AM: Sunday Before Christmas: pro populo Dei**

|              |                  |                |                        |   |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|------------------------|---|
| ✠            | ✠                | ✠              | ✠                      | ✠ |
|              | <u>Acolytes</u>  | <u>Readers</u> | <u>Ushers</u>          |   |
| Sat. Dec. 13 | -----            | L. Knouse      | J. Kontir, R. Garber   |   |
| Sun. Dec. 14 | Ruggieri, Syphan | G. Krynicky    | G. Krynicky, R. Garber |   |
| Wed. Dec. 17 | M. & T. Syphan   | A. Syphan      | -----                  |   |
| Sat. Dec. 20 | -----            | J. Kontir      | D. Mihalko, R. Garber  |   |
| Sun. Dec. 21 | R. E. & A. Hess  | F. Chappell    | J. & R. Knouse         |   |

**12/07/14** Adult 1205.00; Student \$ 9.00; Holy Day \$170; Candles \$64.00;  
**Collection** Flowers \$120.00; Fuel Oil \$40.00 **Total: \$1,608.00**

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**Do not Seek Special Favors from the Lord.** **Augustine.** «I sought the LORD and He heard me.» [Ps 34:4] If someone has not been heard, it means he has not sought the Lord. Pay particular attention to this point. The psalm does not say: «I asked the Lord for riches and He heard me. I asked for a long life and He heard me. I begged for this or that and He heard me.» Seeking to obtain something from the Lord does not mean seeking the Lord Himself. «I sought the LORD and He heard me.» You yourself, when you pray, what do you say to Him?

Maybe you request Him to remove so-and-so whom you hate from the world! If so, you are not seeking the Lord but setting yourself up as judge of your enemy and demanding that God should execute your sentence. Are you sure the person whose death you are requesting is not better than you? In this, at least, he is probably better than you: he can plead that he is not praying for your death. When you turn to God, do not seek some favor from Him. Seek the Lord Himself and He will hear you. He will

interrupt your prayer saying: «Here I am. Yes, surely, here I am, here. What do you want. What is your request. Everything I can give you is nothing in comparison to the gift of Myself. Accept Me, find your joy in Me, talk with Me. Touch Me with the hands of your faith and you will be united to Me. I will make all your burdens light. So when your mortal body is clothed in immortality, you will be united with Me also in your body. Then you will continually see My face. You will be full of joy, and no one will take that joy away from you.

**GENTILES AND OUTCASTS CALLED FROM THE HIGHWAYS.** **AMBROSE:** He turned to the Gentiles from the careless scorn of the rich. He invites both good and evil to enter in order to strengthen the good and change the disposition of the wicked for the better. The saying that was read today is fulfilled, “Then wolves and lambs will feed together.” He summons the poor, the maimed and the blind. By this, he shows us either that handicaps do not exclude us from the kingdom of heaven and whoever lacks the enticements of sinning rarely offends, or that the Lord’s mercy forgives the weakness of sinners. Whoever glories in the Lord glories as one redeemed from reproach not by works but by faith.

He sends them into the highways, because wisdom sings aloud in passages. He sends them to the streets, because he sent them to sinners, so that they should come from the broad paths to the narrow way that leads to life. He sends them to the highways and hedges. They, who are not busied with any desires for present things, hurry to the future on the path of good will. Like a hedge that separates the wild from the cultivated and wards off the attacks of wild beasts, they can distinguish between good and evil and extend a rampart of faith against the temptations of spiritual wickedness. EXPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 7.202–3.

### Next Sunday's Readings:

**Hebrews 11: 9 – 10, 17 – 23, 32 – 40** *Faith*  
**Matthew 1: 1 – 25** *The Genealogy of Jesus Christ*



### ~ Parish Announcements ~

- **VOX POPULI DIXIT:** The Christmas Eve Liturgy will be served at 19:00.
- **THANK YOU** to all who provided baked goods for bingo this past week. Starting in January, a **new system of scheduling BAKED GOODS for Bingo** will be implemented. Volunteers’ names will be printed on the monthly calendar along with the other volunteers. If, for whatever reason, you are unable to provide something, please find a substitute or let the office know as soon as possible. If you wish your name to be removed from this list, inform the office before the middle of December.
- **BINGO MEETING: Saturday, 20 December** after the evening Divine Liturgy. All bingo workers are encouraged to attend.



- **Our Parish Christmas Dinner & ECF Play is 21 DECEMBER** immediately after the Sunday Divine Liturgy. “*Chef Dato’s Table*” will again cater the event. There will be a 50/50 drawing and a raffle to which any parishioner may contribute something. The play will be presented **BEFORE** the meal. Adults may help themselves to the *hors d’oeuvres* and purchase their tickets. The Raffle will take place after the dinner. To conclude, Saint Nicholas will distribute gifts to the children. **Parishioners 17+ are asked to contribute \$10.00 towards the meal.** Those 16 and under are **free**. An accurate number of those **definitely** attending is due at the caterer’s by **Tuesday, 16 December**.
- **There is still time to contribute for the Memory Poinsettias!** Using the special envelope marked Christmas Trees and Altar Flowers, please write your name on it and the name of your departed loved one or enclose a list inside. Include \$15 for each flower. Drop it into the collection basket or mail it to the office.
- Kick the New Year off with family and friends with a **FREE New Year’s Day Pork and Sauerkraut dinner held January 1<sup>st</sup> at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 108 Dutch Hill Road** from 11:00 – 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 4<sup>th</sup>. See poster in Narthex for more information.

