

**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

## 20 December 2015 / 7524: Sunday of the Patriarchs

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE:

Sat. Dec. 19	<b>17:00 Vigil of the Sunday of the Ancestors.</b> Suffrages for the victims of recent terrorist attacks, and their families.
Sun. Dec. 20	<b>10:30 The Sunday of the Ancestors.</b> Suffrages <i>pro populo</i> .
Wed. Dec. 23	<b>19:00 Emmanuel Moleben</b>
Thur. Dec. 24	<b>21:00 Vigil Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great</b>
Fri. Dec. 25	<b>10:00 Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ</b>
Sat. Dec. 26	<b>17:00 Vigil of the Sunday after Christmas.</b> <i>Memory of the Holy and Just Joseph, Husband of Mary; of David, Prophet and King; of the Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord. The Holy Apostle, Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen.</i>
Sun. Dec. 27	<b>10:30 The Sunday after Christmas.</b> <i>Memory of the Holy and Just Joseph, Husband of Mary; of David, Prophet and King; of the Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord. The Holy Apostle, Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen.</i>

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#### Acolytes

#### Lectors

#### Ushers

Sat. Dec. 19	-----	M. Harhai	J. Kontir, D. Milhalko
Sun. Dec. 20	E. R. A. Hess	J. Hess	D. Hess, G. Krynicky
Wed. Dec. 23	T. & M. Syphan	A. Syphan	-----
Thur. Dec. 24	All Acolytes	A. O. K. Syphan	Any present
Fri. Dec. 25	All Acolytes	P. Krynicky	Any present
Sat. Dec. 26	-----	J. Kontir	D. Milhalko, R. Garber
Sun. Dec. 27	T. & M. Syphan	S. Vacha	R. Garber, G. Krynicky

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<b>12/13/15:</b>	Adult: \$889	Student: \$9	Candles: \$63
<b>Collection</b>	Flowers: \$170	Fuel Oil: \$230	<b>Total: \$1361</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	Saturday: 28 + 2	Sunday: 37 + 8	Moleben: 12

...and he [Joseph] **did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son.**

**ORTHODOX STUDY BIBLE:** the use of « *till, until* (ἕως) » does not imply that Joseph had marital relations w/ Mary after the Savior's birth. The witness of the entire Church throughout history is that Mary remained a virgin for life in the Bible. This word (sometimes translated *to*) is used to express a situation that actually continues after the event mentioned. [In other words: **up to and including and beyond!**]; for example:

**Deut 34:5 – 6** «So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD, and they buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Bethpeor; but no man knows the place of his burial **until / to** this day.»

**2 Samuel 6:23** «And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child **till / to** the day of her death.»

**Matthew 28:20** «...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, **till** the end of the age.»

**FIRSTBORN** (Luke 2:7) does not imply Mary had additional children, but that no child was born **before** Jesus. The firstborn son is traditionally the primary heir and recipient of blessings. Christ is the firstborn over all creation, and thus the firstborn from the dead (Col 1:15, 18). In Byzantine icons of the nativity, Christ's swaddling bands are depicted as burial wrappings, affirming that one purpose of His coming was to endure death.

**MANGER, OX, DONKEY:** The manger [*manger, to eat, feed* in French] is a feed trough and would have been in a cave where animals were kept, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 1:3: «*The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib.*»

### Next Sunday's Readings: Sunday after Christmas

**Galatians 1: 11 – 19 AND Acts 6:8-7:5, 47 - 60**

*How Paul became an Apostle AND Stephen, Proto-Martyr*

**Matthew 2: 13 – 23 AND Matthew 21: 33 – 42.**

*The Flight into Egypt, The Slaughter of the Innocents, The Return from Egypt; The Parable of the Vineyard and the Tenants*

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### ~ Announcements ~

- **24 December** is a day of **STRICT FAST** in our holy Byzantine Church: we abstain from meat and meat products, eggs and dairy products, fish, olive oil and wine. Our first real food of the day is to be the Pure Body and Precious Blood of Christ.
- **MANY THANKS** to Santa for sending us two of his merry little elves to clean and polish the chandelier that hangs above the Tetrapod. Hopefully more elves will appear so that the entire church may sparkle and glisten for Christmas.

▪ **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.

▪ **PIROHI CHRISTMAS SPECIAL:** \$5 for parishioners; for the public \$6. See Jen, Marlene, or David.

▪ Kick off the New Year with a **FREE** New Year's Day **Pork and Sauerkraut dinner** held **January 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup>*. See poster in the Narthex.



*...and going into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold, and frankincense and myrrh.*



## CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

*I send each of you my most sincere prayer that the joy of Christ's birth will enkindle your heart during this most Holy Season and that His steadfast love will fill your home throughout the New Year. Father*

