

Glory to Jesus Christ! St. Mary ~ Holy Protection Byzantine Catholic Church *Glory Forever!*
Слава Исусу Христу! 4480 Route 981 Latrobe, PA 15650 *Слава на вѣки!*

Pastor: Father Paul-Alexander Shutt, O.S.B. **Confession Schedule:** **Rectory:** 724-423-3673
Parish Email: st.marytrauger@yahoo.com **Saturday** 16:00 – 16:30 **Hall:** 724-423-8838
Website: www.stmarybyzantinecatholic.org **Sunday** 9:00 – 9:30 or by appt.

20 September 2015 / 7524:

Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy and Life-giving Cross

*The Holy Martyr Eustace and His Companions
 The Holy Martyrs and Confessors, the Great Prince Michael
 and His Counselor Theodore, Wonder-workers of Chernigov.*

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE:

Sat. Sept. 19 **17:00 Vigil of the Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross.** Suffrages for + **Mary Ann Davis** – *Joseph & Mary Lou Palla.*
 Sun. Sept. 20 **10:30 Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross.** Suffrages for **the parish;** for **Mary Ann Davis** – *David and Carol Gillott.*
 Sat. Sept. 26 **17:00 Vigil of the 18th Sunday after Pentecost.** Suffrages for + **Walter Furwa** – *Susan Findish.*
 Sun. Sept. 27 **10:30 18th Sunday after Pentecost.** Suffrages for **the parish;** for **Virginia Barbus** – *Mary Ann Kontir.*
 Thurs. Oct. 01 **17:30: Patronal Feast of the Protecting Veil.** Suffrages for + **P. Arthur Shutt** – *Michael and Aimee Kakos.*

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	<u>Acolytes</u>		<u>Lectors</u>	
Sat. Sept. 19	-----		J. Krynicky	R. Garber, J. Snitzer
Sun. Sept. 20	E. R. A. Hess		J. Hess	D. Hess, R. Garber
Sat. Sept. 26	-----		L. Knouse	R. Garber, D. Mihalko
Sun. Sept. 27	E. R. A. Hess		A. Syphan	J. Overdorff, J. Knouse
Thurs. Oct. 01	Ruggieri, Syphans		S. Vacha	<i>Any two present</i>

9/13/15 Collection: Adult: \$885.00 Student: \$11.00 Candles: \$62.00
 Fuel Oil: \$10 Holy Day: \$40.00 **Total: \$1008.00**

Attendance: Saturday 27 + 1 Sunday: 47 + 8 Exaltation: 27

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 **what a strange mystery!** The Cross that carried the Most High as a cluster of life-giving grapes is exalted today high above the earth. We are all drawn to God through it, and death has been forever swallowed up. O spotless Wood, we enjoy the immortal fruit of Eden through you as we give glory to Christ.

NO LONGER I WHO LIVE. AMBROSE OF MILAN: This means, «Not I, who once ate from the earth [like Adam]. Not I who was once grass, as all flesh is grass, but Christ Who lives in me. That is, there lives that living Bread which comes from heaven, there lives wisdom, there lives righteousness, there lives the resurrection.» ON PARADISE 76.

DEAD TO THE WORLD. AMBROSIASER: One who is fixed to the cross of Christ is one who, in imitation of His footsteps, is not ensnared by any worldly desire. Living to God, he appears dead to the world. EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS 2.19.

Take Up His Cross – BODY AS CROSS. TERTULLIAN: «Your cross» means your own anxieties and your sufferings in your own body, which itself is shaped in a way already like a CROSS. ON IDOLATRY 12.

WALKING REQUIRES TWO FEET. CÆSARIUS OF ARLES: When the Lord tells us in the Gospel that anyone who wants to be His follower must renounce himself, the injunction seems harsh; we think He is imposing a burden on us. But an order is no burden when it is given by one who helps in carrying it out. To what place are we to follow Christ if not where He has already gone? We know that He has risen and ascended into heaven; there, then, we must follow Him. There is no cause for despair—by ourselves we can do nothing, but we have Christ’s promise.... One who claims to abide in Christ ought to walk as He walked. Would you follow Christ? Then be humble as He was humble. Do not scorn His lowliness if you want to reach His exaltation. Human sin made the road rough. Christ’s resurrection leveled it. By passing over it Himself, He transformed the narrowest of tracks into a royal highway. Two feet are needed to run along this highway; they are humility and charity. Everyone wants to get to the top—well, the first step to take is humility. Why take strides that are too big for you—do you want to fall instead of going up? Begin with the first step, humility, and you will already be climbing. SERMONS 159, 1.4–6.

Next Sunday’s Readings: 18th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Corinthians 9: 6 – 11 *God Loves a Cheerful Giver*
St. Luke 5: 1 – 11 *The Call of the First Disciples*

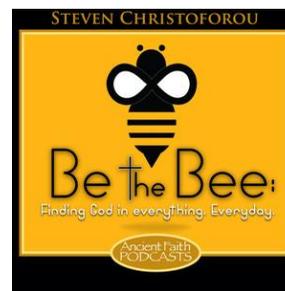
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~ **Announcements** ~

- Today **Cassidy, Caitlyn, Eric, Ryan, Adam, Joshua,** and their teacher **Joanne** witness the value and power of communal prayer. The Church prays for their growth in wisdom, understanding, and knowledge of truth, beauty, and divine love. We congratulate them not with applause but with fervent supplication, beseeching Almighty God to grant them peace, health, and happiness for many spiritually fruitful and blessed years! AD MULTOS ANNOS! ΕΙΣ ΠΟΛΛΑ ΕΤΗ!
- **2015 FESTIVAL NEWS:** Gross Income: \$16,992.54!!! Net Income: 13,391.14!!!
- **FACTOID:** According to «The Official Catholic Directory – 2015» there are 57,407 Ruthenian Byzantine Catholics in the United States.

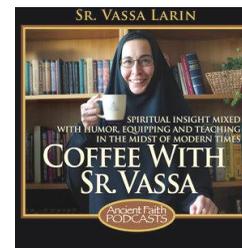
- **CEMETERY PLOTS** are \$500 for parishioners and \$700 for non-parishioners.
- **CREATION, EVOLUTION, AND THE CRISIS OF FAITH:** a presentation to be given at the church this coming **Thursday, 24 September at 19:00**. Mr. Andrew Prizzi of the parish will be the guest speaker. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex for additional information. All are welcome to attend!
- **FALL BINGO**, in the social hall of **St. Nicholas Church, Greensburg: 27 September** from 13:00 to 16:00. Admission: \$5 per person. Doors open at 12:30. For additional information, call 724 – 832 – 8122.
- **THEOSIS** subscription renewal deadline has been **EXTENDED**: checks, for **\$48**, are due next Sunday, **27 September**. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Make your check payable to **EASTERN CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS, not the parish!**
- **Feast of the Protecting Veil ~ 1 October**, our patronal feast day will be celebrated with the serving of the Divine Liturgy w/ procession at **17:30**, immediately followed by our traditional festive meal together in the parish hall. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Kindly offer to bringing a parishioner who may not like to drive at night. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO PREPARE THE HALL FOR THE DINNER.**
- **CONDOLENCES** to Robert Knouse on the death of his uncle John Corona. *In blessed repose, grant, O Lord, eternal rest to your departed servant John and remember him forever.*
- **THE SICK AND HOME BOUND OF THE PARISH:** Kindly keep the following in your daily prayers: The Davis Family, Dolores Harhai, Eva Harouse, Agnis Osif, Joseph Regalla, Mary Catherine Ross, Conrad Semensky.
- **REMINDER TO ALL PARISH VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN:** Copies of your «*Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance*» form must be sent to **BOTH** the parish office **AND** the offices of the Archeparchy at 66 Riverview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15214. If you have NOT resided in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the last ten years, you **MUST** be finger printed for an FBI search and clearance. Questions you may have should be directed to Father.
- **ANCIENT FAITH MINISTRIES** exists to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ through accessible and excellently crafted publications and creative media that lead to a living experience of God the Father, through Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit. Its mission is to embrace the fullness of the Orthodox Christian faith, encourage the discipleship of believers, equip the faithful for ministry, and evangelize the world.

ΠΟΚΡΟΒ



BE THE BEE: this brief weekly video podcast will focus on the various ways in which God has infused all of creation with goodness and beauty. The title refers to the metaphor of the bee and the flies that was used by Elder Paisios to describe how Christians should approach life. The host of the program is Steven Christoforou, the Interim Director of the GOA Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. **This is a great podcast for the youth and young adults of our parish.**

The following podcast is highly recommended **FOR ADULTS**. **COFFEE WITH SR. VASSA:** a weekly video program hosted by Sr. Dr. Vassa Larin, a nun of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad and liturgiologist at the Catholic Theological Faculty of the University of Vienna in Austria. Her program offers engaging reflections on the Byzantine Church calendar of the current week, the lives of the saints, scriptural passages, and the Orthodox liturgical tradition. From 2006 to 2008 she worked as the Graduate Assistant of the renowned expert on Byzantine Liturgy, Jesuit Professor Robert F. Taft, S.J., at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. Fr. Taft directed Sr. Vassa's doctoral dissertation; she was the 2014 guest speaker at our Saints Cyril and Methodius Lecture Series sponsored by our Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh.



The continuous reading of the Gospel of the Holy Evangelist Luke begins this Monday following the Sunday after the exaltation of the Holy Cross. The four Gospels are all read in their entirety in the Byzantine Church and the reading of each begins with a great Feast. **THE GOSPEL OF SAINT JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN** begins with the Feast of Feasts, the Pascha / Passover of our Lord and is read until Pentecost. **THE GOSPEL OF SAINT MATTHEW** begins with the Feast of Pentecost and is read until the Feast of the Holy Cross. **THE GOSPEL OF LUKE** begins with the Feast of the Holy Cross and is read until the Great Fast. The first Sundays in the Matthew and Lucan cycles are of the call of the apostles Peter, Andrew James, and John, indicating that these Gospels also call **US** to follow after Jesus our Lord. **THE GOSPEL OF MARK** is read during the Holy and Great Fast before Pascha, but since the Divine Liturgy is celebrated only on Saturdays and Sundays, the remaining sections are read in the last six weeks of the Matthean and Lucan cycles. This is why, no matter where we are in the cycle of Sundays after Pentecost, we begin the course reading of the Gospel of St. Luke on the Monday that comes after the Feast of the

Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Epistles are read continuously so that there is a discrepancy between the week for the Epistles and the week for the Gospels. An historical factor for this was 23 September (the birthday of the Cæsar Augustus, very important when the imperial ideals were still living) was the beginning of the New Year, so that the reading of a new Gospel seemed appropriate at this time. Later, for financial reasons – The Indiction – the New Year was moved to 1 September.

PROPERLY PREPARING TO ENTER INTO THE DIVINE LITURGY. The Church's book of the Divine Liturgy – the Liturgikon – describes how the clergy [bishop, priest, and deacon] are to prepare for the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries. They enter the Altar (sanctuary) only after saying the appropriate prayers before the Holy or Royal Doors and venerating the icons. Then they vest saying the appropriate vesting prayers, ritually wash their hands saying portions of Psalm 25, and then proceed to the Table of Preparation to prepare the gifts of Bread and Wine that are to be offered in the Divine Liturgy and that will become the Body and Blood of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

What is expected of the clergy is also fittingly required of all those who have been ordained to the laity through the Mysteries of Holy Baptism, Chrismation, and Divine Eucharist, namely, **PREPARATION!** One, therefore, should arrive early enough to the Lord's temple to do this without haste. After venerating the icon on the Tetrapod, marking the appropriate sections of the pew book as shown on the Hymn boards in order to more fully participate in the Divine Liturgy, one can begin to focus on centering oneself – «**setting aside all earthy cares**» – for the start of the Liturgy by using the prayers of preparation for the faithful that begin on page four in the teal colored pew book. One may also use any prayer book that is of inspiration; this is the time to pray the rosary or the Jesus Prayer or to read from the Bible, meditate on the Sunday's gospel. It is **NOT** the time to gossip in the narthex, read the GCU magazine, text on your cell phone, read a Harlequin romance novel! Both the Faithful and the Clergy are to strive as best as we can, together with God's grace, to «**set aside all earthy cares**» that we may be lifted up into the heavenly liturgy by the King of All and escorted into His bridal chamber to dine at His Mystical Supper – the wedding feast of the Lamb.



UP-COMING MAJOR PROJECTS: (1) BOTH church furnaces need to be replaced; (2) A new tractor for mowing and snow plowing is also needed. Each will be of major expense to the parish and shall require **ALL** to help in whatever way possible to meet this challenge; especially in supporting the various fundraising projects that will be taking place.