

Glory to Jesus Christ!  
Слава Иисусу Христу!

St. Mary ~ Holy Protection  
Byzantine Catholic Church  
4480 Route 981 Latrobe, PA 15650

Glory Forever!  
Слава на вѣки!

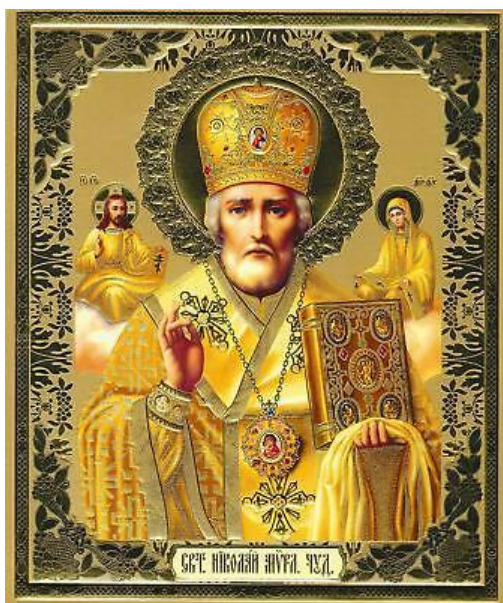
Administrator: Fr. Paul-Alexander Shutt, OSB  
Confession Schedule: Saturday 16:00 – 16:30  
Parish email: st.marytrauger@gmail.com

Parish Office: 724-423-3673 Hall: 724-423-8838  
Sunday 9:00 – 9:30, or by appointment  
Website: www.stmarybyzantinecatholic.org

**6 December 2020 / 7529 27<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Our Holy Father Nicholas the Thaumaturgos of Myra**

*Fourth Sunday of the Philip or Christmas Fast*



#### LITURGY SCHEDULE:

- Sat. Dec. 05 17:00 Vigil: **27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.**  
*Suffrages for + Helen Krynicky – Loretta Matsko*
- Sun. Dec. 06 10:30 **27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** *Suffrages pro populo.*  
40<sup>th</sup> Day Memorial Service – Mary Knouse
- Mon. Dec. 07 18:30 Maternity of Holy Anna  
*Suffrages for +Andrew Boytim – Marge Hulyk*
- Tues. Dec. 08 09:30 Maternity of Holy Anna  
*Suffrages for +Andrew Boytim – Parish Choir*
- Wed. Dec. 09 18:30 **EMMANUEL MOLEBEN**
- Sat. Dec. 12 17:00 Vigil: **Sunday of the Forefathers**  
*Suffrages for +Andrew Boytim – Parish Choir*
- Sun. Dec. 13 10:30 **Sunday of the Forefathers** *Suffrages pro populo*



11 / 29 / 2020  
COLLECTION

Adults: \$956  
Holy Day: \$25

Candles: \$26  
Christmas Flowers: \$25

Fuel: \$55  
**TOTAL: \$1087**

## PHILIP FAST MEDITATIONS: «Come and see!» «Come, Lord Jesus!»

**W**ho is the heavenly Word, eternal Light, Begotten of the Father's might, Who in these latter days wast born for blessing to a world forlorn: Pour light upon us from above, And fire our hearts with ardent love, That, as we hear Thy truth today, All wrong desires may burn away.

**O**ur light will come, Jerusalem; the Lord will dawn on you in radiant beauty. You will see His glory within you.

**C**ome and set us free, Lord God of power and might. Let your face shine upon us and we shall be saved.



### THE MATERNITY OF HOLY ANNA

*«The Lord swore an oath to David; He will not go back on His word.*

*A Son, the fruit of your body, will I set upon your throne.»*

Ps. 132:11

**J**oachim and Anna, the righteous couple, gave birth to the precious heavenly fruit, the Jewe-lamb, who in turn will give birth in a manner beyond understanding to the Lamb of God Who is to be sacrificed for all. Because of this, they offer to the Lord an unceasing and humble hymn of praise. Let us, therefore, praise them with fervor. And let us joyfully celebrate the birth of the one who was born of them, Mary, the Mother of our God; because through her, great mercy is granted to all of us.

*Vespers: Apostichon*

**O**n this day the royal purple appears, descending from the root of David. The mystical flower of Jesse buds forth; from her shall blossom Christ our God, the Savior of our souls.

*Vespers: Apostichon*

**W**e the Faithful extol you, O Mother of God, as the life-giving spring that does not dry up, the gilded candlestick of the Light, the living temple of the Lord and His immaculate tabernacle which is more spacious than earth and heaven.

*Matins: Magnificat Ode 9*

**M**ary, Virgin Mother, we glorify you as the purple which dyed the cloth of the Word in His ineffable incarnation; you are the golden censer and the holy table which hold Christ, the true Bread of Heaven.

*Matins: Magnificat Ode 9*



### ~ PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

- ❖ **ETERNAL MEMORY AND BLESSED REPOSE** to the servant of God, Christopher Davis who has fallen asleep in the Lord. The parish's deepest sympathies and continued prayers are extended to his father Edmond, and sisters Jennifer and Jessica. «In blessed repose, grant, O Lord, eternal rest to your departed servant Christopher and remember him forever. Бѣчнаа памать!»
- ❖ The church and rectory furnaces were serviced this week. All set for winter.

**CHANUKKAH 2020 BEGINS AT SUNDOWN ON 9 DECEMBER.** The Jewish festival of rededication, also known as the festival of lights, is an eight day festival beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev. Chanukkah is probably one of the best known Jewish holidays, not because of any great religious significance, but because of its proximity to Christmas.

### The Story

The story of Chanukkah begins in the reign of Alexander the Great. Alexander conquered Syria, Egypt and Palestine, but allowed the lands under his control to continue observing their own religions and retain a certain degree of autonomy. Under this relatively benevolent rule, many Jews assimilated much of Hellenistic culture, adopting the language, the customs and the dress of the Greeks, in much the same way that Jews in America today blend into the secular American society.

More than a century later, a successor of Alexander, Antiochus IV was in control of the region. He began to oppress the Jews severely, placing a Hellenistic priest in the Temple, massacring Jews, prohibiting the practice of the Jewish religion, and desecrating the Temple by requiring the sacrifice of pigs (a non-kosher animal) on the altar. Two groups opposed Antiochus: a basically nationalistic group led by Mattathias the Hasmonean and his son Judah Maccabee, and a religious traditionalist group known as the Chasidim, the forerunners of the Pharisees (no direct connection to the modern movement known as Chasidism). They joined forces in a revolt against both the assimilation of the Hellenistic Jews and oppression by the Seleucid Greek government. The revolution succeeded and the Temple was rededicated.



According to tradition as recorded in the Talmud, at the time of the rededication, there was very little oil left that had not been defiled by the Greeks. Oil was needed for the menorah (candelabrum) in the Temple, which was supposed to burn throughout the night every night. There was only enough oil to burn for one day, yet miraculously, it burned for eight days, the time needed to prepare a fresh supply of oil for the menorah. An eight day festival was declared to commemorate this miracle. Note that the holiday commemorates the miracle of the oil, not the military victory.

### Traditions

*Our rabbis taught the rule of Chanukkah: ... on the first day one [candle] is lit and thereafter they are progressively increased ... [because] we increase in sanctity but do not reduce. -Shabbat 21b, Babylonian Talmud*

Chanukkah is not a very important religious holiday. The holiday's religious significance is far less than that of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Passover, and Shavu'ot. It is roughly equivalent to Purim in significance, and you won't find many non-Jews who have even heard of Purim! Chanukkah is not mentioned in Jewish scripture; the story is related in the book of Maccabees, which Jews do not accept as scripture.

The only religious observance related to the holiday is the lighting of candles that are arranged in a candelabrum called a menorah (or sometimes called a chanukkiah) that holds nine candles: one for each night, plus a shammas (servant) at a different height. On the first night,



one candle is placed at the far right. The shammas candle is lit and three blessings are recited: *l'hadlik neir* (a general prayer over candles), *she-asah nisim* (a prayer thanking G-d for performing miracles for our ancestors at this time), and *she-hekhanu* (a general prayer thanking G-d for allowing us to reach this time of year). After reciting the blessings, the first candle is then lit using the shammas candle, and the shammas candle is placed in its holder.

Each night, another candle is added from right to left (like the Hebrew language). Candles are lit from left to right (because you pay honor to the newer thing first). On the eighth night, all nine candles (the 8 Chanukkah candles and the shammas) are lit.

Why the shammas candle? The Chanukkah candles are for pleasure only; we are not allowed to use them for any productive purpose. We keep an extra one around (the shammas), so that if we need to do something useful with a candle, we don't accidentally use the Chanukkah candles. The shammas candle is at a different height so that it is easily identified as the shammas, [making the Chanukkah Menorah different from the Menorah that was in the Jerusalem Temple].

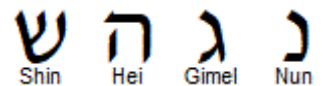
It is traditional to eat fried foods on Chanukkah because of the significance of oil to the holiday. Among Ashkenazi Jews [from Eastern Europe], this usually includes latkes.

Another tradition of the holiday is playing dreidel, a gambling game played with a square top.



Most people play for matchsticks, pennies, M&Ms or chocolate coins. The traditional explanation of this game is that during the time of Antiochus' oppression, those who wanted to study Torah (an illegal activity) would conceal their activity by playing gambling games with a top (a common and legal activity) whenever an official or inspector was within sight.

A dreidel is marked with four Hebrew letters: **Nun**, **Gimel**, **Hei** and **Shin**. These letters stand for the Hebrew phrase "*Nes Gadol Hayah Sham*", a great miracle happened there, referring to the miracle of the oil.



<https://www.jewfaq.org/holiday7.htm>