

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!

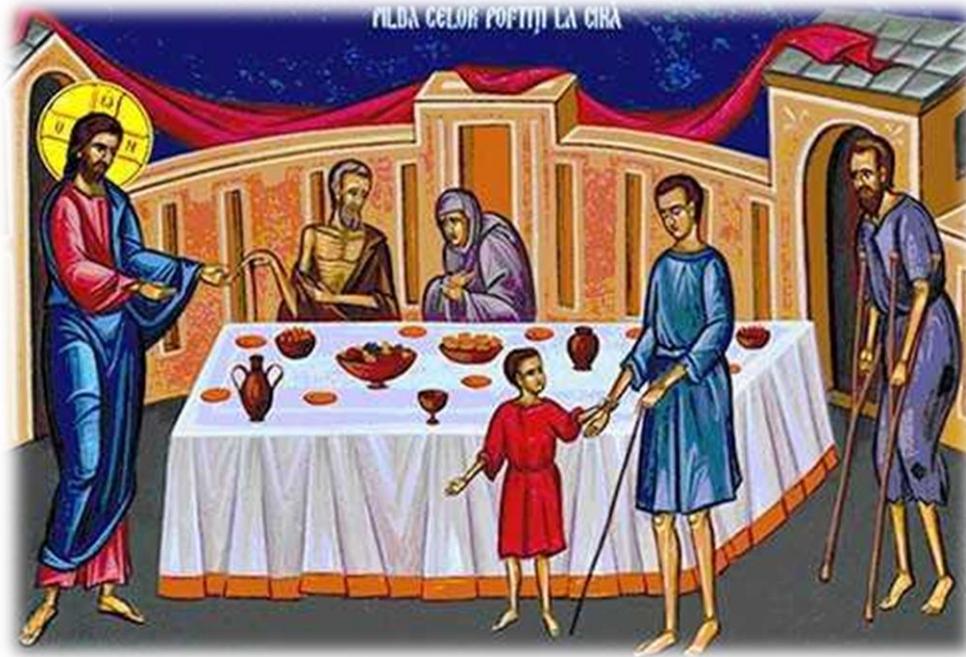
Administrator: Fr. Paul-Alexander Shutt, OSB
Confession Schedule: Saturday 16:00 – 16:30,
Parish email: st.marytrauger@gmail.com

Parish Office: 724-423-3 673 Hall: 724-423-8838
Sunday 9:00 – 9:30, or by appointment
Website: www.stmarybyzantinecatholic.org

11 DECEMBER 2022 / 7531 SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Our Venerable Father Spyridon the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Tremithus.

Our Venerable Father Daniel the Stylite.



LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Sat. Dec. 10 17:00 Vigil: **SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS** Suffrages for health and well-being of **Dolores Harhai** – daughter Christine; Suffrages for +**Joseph & Josephine Krynicky** – granddaughter Joanne

Sun. Dec. 11 10:30 **SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS**
Suffrages pro populo; esp. for +**Freida Kutch** – Helen Shott

Wed. Dec. 14 18:30 **EMMANUEL MOLEBEN**

Sat. Dec. 17 17:00 Vigil: **SUNDAY OF THE HOLY ANCESTORS**
Suffrages for +**David Overdorff** – Mary Bezbiaty

Sun. Dec. 18 10:30 **SUNDAY OF THE HOLY ANCESTORS** Suffrages pro populo, esp. for **Martin Osif** – James Knouse & grandchildren

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12 / 04 / 2022	Adults: \$1654	Children: \$11	Fuel: \$85	Candles: \$69
COLLECTION	Holy Days: \$515	Flowers: \$200	Spec. Donation: \$100	
TOTAL: \$2759	Christmas: \$125			

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THE TWOFOLD COMING OF CHRIST: We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom. In general, whatever relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future. At the first coming He was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At His second coming He will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming He endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming He will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels. We look then beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: *Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.* At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: *Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.* The Savior will not come to be judged again, but to judge those by whom He was judged. At his own judgement He was silent; then He will address those who committed the outrages against Him when they crucified Him and will remind them: You did these things, and I was silent. His first coming was to fulfil His plan of love, to teach men by gentle persuasion. This time, whether men like it or not, they will be subjects of His kingdom by necessity.

The prophet Malachi speaks of the two comings. *And the Lord Whom you seek will come suddenly to His temple:* that is one coming. Again he says of another coming: *Look, the Lord Almighty will come, and who will endure the day of His entry, or who will stand in His sight? Because He comes like a refiner's fire, a fuller's herb, and He will sit refining and cleansing.* These two comings are also referred to by Paul in writing to Titus: *The grace of God the Savior has appeared to all men, instructing us to put aside impiety and worldly desires and live temperately, uprightly, and religiously in this present age, waiting for the joyful hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

Notice how he speaks of a first coming for which he gives thanks, and a second, the one we still await. That is why the faith we profess has been handed on to you in these words: *He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.* Our Lord Jesus Christ will therefore come from heaven. He will come at the end of the world, in glory, at the last day. For there will be an end to this world, and the created world will be made new.

St Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop



December 10th – The Seed Blossoms

Today for Christians in Lebanon and other parts of the Middle East this is a day for planting. Fourteen days before Christmas people “plant” sprouted beans and seeds such as chickpeas, broad beans, lentils, oats and wheat on damp cotton wool. They water the seeds lightly each day until the feast by which time the seeds have brought forth new life. The custom has its roots in the prophecy of Isaiah. The Hebrew text reads, *«There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a **Branch** shall grow out of his roots»* (Is 11:1). Jesse is, of course, the father of King David, from whose family the Messiah was expected to come. The idea of depicting the ancestors of Christ as branches of the «Jesse Tree» became common in both Eastern and Western art as far back as the eleventh century. In the Greek version of the Old Testament, the Septuagint, however, we find Isaiah’s prophecy rendered this way: *«There shall come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse, and a **blossom** shall come up from his root.»* The idea of a rod that blossoms recalls the following story of Moses and Aaron from Torah: God promised, *«And it shall be that the rod of the man whom I choose will blossom... Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness, and behold, the rod of Aaron, of the house*

of Levi, had sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds» (Num 17: 5-8). The rod that blossomed was a sign that God had chosen Aaron; the rod from the stem of Jesse brought forth a chosen blossom as well.

- In a small pie tin “plant” sprouted beans and seeds such as chickpeas, broad beans, lentils, oats and wheat on damp cotton wool today. Keep this planter in your icon corner or other prominent place as a symbol of the Life Who is coming.



- Add these verses to your prayers during these days:

Isaiah, dance for joy: receive the word of God. Prophecy to the Virgin Mary that the bush burning with fire will not be consumed by the radiance of our God. Let Bethlehem be prepared! Let the gates of Eden be opened! Let the Magi come forth to see wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger of beasts the salvation which the star has pointed out from above the cave, the life-giving Lord, who saves mankind!

Bethlehem, receive Mary, the City of God: in you will be born the Light that never sets. Let the angels stand in wonder in Heaven, and let mankind glorify the Lord on earth! O Magi from Persia, prepare your illustrious gifts! Shepherds who pass the night in the fields, sing a hymn to the thrice-holy God. Let everything that has breath celebrate the Creator of All.

Behold, the time of our salvation is drawing near. Prepare yourself, O cave, for the Virgin is coming to give her Child to the world. Rejoice and exult, O Bethlehem of Judah, for the Lord shall shine forth from you. Listen, O mountains, hills, and all you regions around Judah; Christ is coming to save the human race which He created, for He is the Lover of mankind.

Glory to Your holy Nativity, O Lord!



~ Announcements ~

- **A PARISH CHRISTMAS POTLUCK LUNCHEON** will be held in the parish hall on Sunday, January 1st after the Sunday Divine Liturgy. A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex. Please indicate how many in your family will be attending and the dish you will be providing and if you are available to help decorate the tables.
- The parish is very grateful for two **MEMORIAL DONATIONS** given to our church in memory of **Freida Kutch** (by Helen Shott) and **Edmond Davis** (by Thomas Whitman). May their memories be eternal! **БЪЧНАА ПАМАТЬ!**