

Christ is Born!
Χριστός Γεννάζεται!

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

Glory Him!
Славите!
Δοξάσατε!

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

25 DECEMBER 2022 / 7531 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST – DAY OF PASCHA



LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Sat. Dec. 24 **20:00 VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS** w/ Mirovaniye. Great Vespers w/ Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great.

Sun. Dec. 25 **10:30 CHRISTMAS – DAY OF PASCHA – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST** w/ Mirovaniye. *Suffrages pro populo*

Sat. Dec. 31 **17:00 Vigil: SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY**
Circumcision of our Lord. Our Holy Father Basil the Great
Suffrages for +David Overdorff – Mary Bezbiaty

Sun. Jan. 01 **10:30 SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY**
Circumcision of our Lord. Our Holy Father Basil the Great
Suffrages pro populo

**THERE IS NO FASTING
FROM DECEMBER 25th THROUGH JANUARY 4th!**

✠	✠	✠	✠	✠	✠
12 / 18 / 2022	Adults: \$1192	Children: \$7	Fuel: \$65	Candles: \$73	
COLLECTION	Holy Days: \$90	Flowers: \$25	Christmas: \$20	TOTAL: \$147	



May heaven and earth rejoice prophetically this day. May angels and people spiritually celebrate, for God has appeared in the flesh to those groping in darkness and resting in a shadow. Having been born of a Virgin, a cave and a manger receive Him. Shepherds relate a miracle; the Magi from the East bring gifts to Bethlehem, while we, with unworthy lips, render Him angelic praise: Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth, for the hope of the nations has arrived. Having come, He has saved us from hostile bondage.

Come, O believers, let us see where Christ is born. Furthermore, with the Magi, the kings from the East, let us follow wherever the star goes. The angels are praising Him there unceasingly; the shepherds are singing a worthy song, saying: Glory to God in the highest; glory to Him Who is born of the Virgin in a cave in Bethlehem of Judea.

Although Adam was formed from clay of the earth, he shared in God's life; yet through the tempting of a woman, he sunk and fell into corruption. But now when he sees Christ, born of a woman, he cries aloud: For my sake, You have become as I am; glory to You, O Lord.

Bethlehem has opened up Eden for us. Come and let us see the delights that we have found there in secret. Come and let us gather the fruits of Paradise that are within the cave. There, the unwatered Root has manifested itself, and it has sprouted forgiveness. There, the undug Well, of which David yearned to drink is found. There, the Virgin, who gave birth to the infant immediately quenched the thirst of Adam and David. Therefore, let us hasten to the place where the young infant, the Eternal God, is born.

Today Christ is born of the Virgin in Bethlehem. Today the Eternal One has a beginning; today the Word becomes incarnate. All the heavenly powers rejoice, and all who dwell on earth are happy. The Magi offer gifts to the Master; the shepherds proclaim the marvel; and we cry aloud unceasingly: Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will to all.



CHRISTMAS – DAY OF PASCHA!

When winter begins to make its way into the northern hemisphere, the Church of Christ begins to celebrate a «splendid three-day Pascha.» [...] The liturgical services for Christmas [...] are consciously patterned after the services for the festival of the Pascha of our Lord, the holy Resurrection. There is the forty-day fast. There are prefeast preparations. There are the special royal hours with their prophecies, epistles, gospels and hymns on the eve of the feast, followed by the vespereal liturgy of St Basil the Great. There is the solemn all-night vigil, crowned by the matin's canon and hymn. And finally, after the eucharistic celebration of St. John Chrysostom on the day of the feast itself, the celebration continues to its completion in the festival of the

Meeting of the Lord in the Temple forty days later. At the center of the festal season remains the original «Festival of Lights,» the Holy Theophany of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

The liturgical verses and hymns for Christmas and Theophany, the Pascha of Christ's incarnation and manifestation in the flesh, repeat those of Easter, the Pascha of Christ's death and resurrection. The Lord's birth and baptism are directly connected to His dying and rising. He was born in order to die. He was baptized in order to be raised. The harmony between the events is overwhelming. The beauty of it is almost more than the believer can bear.

Today He who hung the earth upon the waters is hung upon the tree.

Today He who holds the whole creation in His hand is born of a virgin.

The King of angels is decked with a crown of thorns.

He whose essence none can touch is bound in swaddling-clothes as a mortal man.

He who wraps the heavens in a cloud is wrapped in the purple of mockery.

God who in the beginning fashioned the heavens lies in a manger.

He who freed Adam in the Jordan is slapped in the face.

He who rained manna on His people in the wilderness is fed on milk from His mother's breast.

The Bridegroom of the Church is affixed to the cross with nails.

The Bridegroom of the Church summons the wise men.

The Son of the Virgin is pierced with a spear.

The Son of the Virgin accepts their gifts

We worship Your Passion, O Christ!

We worship Your Passion, O Christ!

We worship Your Passion, O Christ!

We worship Your Nativity, O Christ!

We worship Your Nativity, O Christ!

We worship Your Nativity, O Christ!

Show us Your glorious Resurrection!

Show us Your glorious Theophany!

Jesus lay as an infant in the cave during the reign of Cæsar Augustus that He might lay in the tomb under Pontius Pilate. He was hounded by Herod that He might be caught by Caiaphas. He was buried in baptism that He might descend into death through the Cross. He was worshipped by wise men that the whole of creation might adore Him in His triumph over death. The Pascha of His Cross was prepared by the Pascha of His Coming. The Pascha of His Resurrection was begun by the Pascha of His Incarnation. The Pascha of His Glorification was foretold by the Pascha of His Baptism.

Adapted from The Winter Pascha, Fr. Thomas Hopko



Announcements ~

- ❖ **THANK YOU** to all who kindly and generously remembered me with cards, well wishes, home-baked delicacies of all sorts, and gifts during these holy and blessed days of Christmas. May this even greater «Feast of Lights» warm your hearts during this sacred season and throughout the New Year. *Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Christ is baptized in the Jordan! Glorify Him!* Father Paul-Alexander
- ❖ **BCW SUBSCRIBERS:** Time to renew your subscription. Please indicate on the sheet in the Narthex if you would like to continue your current subscription. The cost is **\$14**. If you would like to begin a subscription, there are additional spaces to fill in your name. **MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO THE PARISH, PUTTING BCW ON THE MEMO LINE.** Thank you!