

Glory to Jesus Christ!  
Слава Иисусу Христу!

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

Glory Forever!  
Слава на вики!

Administrator: Fr. Paul-Alexander Shutt, OSB

Parish Office: 724-423-3 673 Hall: 724-423-8838

Confession Schedule: Saturday 16:00 – 16:30,

Sunday 9:00 – 9:30, or by appointment

Parish email: st.marytrauger@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarybyzantinecatholic.org

## 17 DECEMBER 2023 / 7532 SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

*The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youth:  
Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael.*



### LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Sat. Dec. 16 17:00 VIGIL: **SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS**

*Suffrages for +Bonnie Daniels – Donna Fullman, sister*

Sun. Dec. 17 10:30 **SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS**

*Suffrages pro populo, esp. for*

Sat. Dec. 23 17:00 VIGIL: **SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS OF CHRIST**

*Suffrages for + Hieromonk Cyprian Constantine, OSB – Bingo workers*

Sun. Dec. 24 10:30 **SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS OF CHRIST** *Suffrages pro populo, esp. for +Rosemarie Macchiaroli – husband Antonio*

Sun. Dec. 24 **20:00 VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS** w/ Mirovanije. Great Vespers w/ Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great. *Suffrages pro populo*  
Carols will be sung 15 minutes before the Liturgy.

Mon. Dec. 25 **10:00 CHRISTMAS: DAY OF PASCHA – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

w/ Mirovanije. *Suffrages for +Hieromonk Cyprian Constantine, OSB – Bingo workers*



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<b>12 / 10 / 2023</b>	Adults: \$1130	Candles: \$80	Holy Days: \$230	Fuel: \$240
<b>COLLECTION</b>	Christmas: \$40	Flowers: \$150	<b>TOTAL: \$1870</b>	



**GOD THE FATHER PROVIDES THE SUPPER. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA:** We understand the man to be God the Father. For similes represent the truth, but are not the truth itself. The Creator of the universe and the Father of glory made a great supper, a festival for the whole world, in honor of Christ. In the last times of the world and at our world's setting, the Son rose for us. At this time, He suffered death for our sakes and gave us to eat His flesh, the bread from heaven that gives life to the world. Toward evening and by the light of torches, the lamb was also sacrificed according to the Law of Moses. With good reason, the invitation that is by Christ is called a supper.

COMMENTARY ON LUKE, HOMILY 104



**BEHOLD, I HAVE PREPARED MY DINNER.** «All that is needful for the soul's nourishment and refreshment has been prepared. Truth nourishes the soul; truth is fully revealed as the King's most rich banquet. Victory over evil spirits, victory over sickness and cares, victory over nature – all these victories, that nourish and refresh the despairing human soul are here, so come! Heaven had earlier seemed as though closed with iron bars to mankind, and men's souls were as miserable brides shut in a dank prison; now heaven is wide open: God Himself has appeared on earth, angels have come down to earth, the dead have been seen alive and man's dignity has been raised up to God. Oh how sweet the food! How abundant the table! Come! [...] The body and blood of the crucified Lord, incomparably sweeter than fatlings, are brought to the King's table. Come and communicate of the sweetness that is the envy of the angels! The grace-filled streams of the Holy Spirit, the almighty and life giving Spirit, are open wide. «*All things are ready.*» - all things! All that is necessary for the defiled bride to be purified, for the hungry to be fed, the wounded to be healed, the naked to be clothed, the bewitched brought to their senses, the drunken sobered, the dead raised. Here is baptism with water; here is baptism with fire and the spirit; here is ease from fasting; here are the wings of prayer; here is oil; here is bread and wine; here is the royal priesthood to be the guide; here is the Church of holiness and love. All these gifts are brought by the Bridegroom to His Bride, and He places them all on the King's table. Come then; come to the wedding.»

Nikolai Velimirović, Bishop of Ochrid



Hark! A herald voice is calling:  
«Christ is nigh,» it seems to say;  
«Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day!»



As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we are asked to choose which gift we really want. Will we welcome God's gift of His Son as the source of Life, or will we drift to the tune of whatever music is played in the marketplace, until, rootless, we wither and die in the desert?

Thus says the LORD: Cursed is the man who trusts in human beings, who makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a barren bush in the wasteland that enjoys no change of season, but stands in lava beds in the wilderness, a land, salty and uninhabited.

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD; the LORD will be their trust. They are like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: It does not fear heat when it comes, its leaves stay green; in the year of drought it shows no distress, but still produces fruit.

**Canticle of Jeremiah 17:5 – 8**

Jesus said to the crowds: “To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, ‘He is possessed by a demon.’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, ‘Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is vindicated by her children.”

**Matthew 11:16 – 19**

The children who refuse to dance or mourn represent souls deadened by self-absorption and doubt. But the Son of Man, enlivened by His great love, experienced both exquisite joy and profound sorrow. He invites us to share in His life and cross with the assurance that, if we do, our «name will never be cut off or blotted out from His presence.» Believing this is true wisdom.



### ~ Announcements ~

- The parish is most appreciative for a generous donation received this past week in memory of Mary Catherine Ross given by her daughter Denise Zozula. May Mary Catherine's memory be eternal – **БѢЧНАА ПАМАТЬ!**
- **THANK YOU** to all the parishioners who worked so very, very hard to make our monthly bingo truly successful. We have reached the end of another year and your hard efforts have been so very profitable to the financial stability of the parish. I would also like to thank you for your kindness in expressing your condolences at the passing of Fr. Cyprian and for the many Liturgy intentions you have requested for him. **БѢЧНАА ПАМАТЬ!**
- **BCWSUBSCRIBERS:** 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 YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO THE PARISH, PUTTING BCW ON THE MEMO LINE.**
- **«LET THERE BE LIGHT!» THANK YOU** to the **Hess Family** and **David Regalla** for the luminous improvement made to the Narthex of our parish church.

- The **PITTSBURGH BYZANTINE CATHOLIC ARCHEPARCHIAL CHOIR** invites all to experience the joy and splendor of the Nativity season this **Sunday December 17** as they present '**Neath the Star of Bethlehem: Hymns and Songs of the Nativity**'. The program begins at 2:00 pm at **St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church**, 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road in Munhall. Admission is free, For those who cannot attend in person, the **program will be live-streamed** from St. Elias Church online at  
**<https://steliasmunhallpa.weebly.com>**
- **NEW YEARS DAY!** St Paul Lutheran Church, 108 Dutch Hill Road, Trauger, is hosting a FREE community dinner from 11:00 to 14:00, on January 1, 2024. On the menu is pork and sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner rolls, hot dogs, homemade desserts, and beverage. Call 724-423-2590 for any questions you may have or visit their parish website:  
**<http://www.splchurch.com>**

