

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

**24 DECEMBER 2023 / 7532 SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

Sunday of the Ancestors of Christ. *The Holy Great Martyr Eugenia.*



### LITURGY SCHEDULE:

- Sat. Dec. 23 17:00 VIGIL: **SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS** 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 +Fr. Cyprian Constantine, OSB – Bingo workers
- Sat. Dec. 30 17:00 VIGIL: **SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS** Suffrages for +Fr. Cyprian Constantine, OSB – Bingo workers
- Sun. Dec. 31 10:30 **SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS** Suffrages pro populo

**Christmas to Theophany, 12/25 to 1/4, is free from all fasting and abstinence.**

✠	☆	✠	☆	✠	☆
<b>12 / 17 / 2023</b>	Adults: \$1276	Candles: \$82	Holy Days: \$5	Fuel: \$5	
<b>COLLECTION</b>	Christmas: \$50	Initial Off.: \$5	Spec. Don.: \$200		
<b>TOTAL: \$1623</b>					



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.

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 Pascha, the Passover 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 Nativity, O Christ!*

We worship Your Passion, O Christ!

*We worship Your Nativity, O Christ!*

We worship Your Passion, 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 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. May his memory be eternal! **Бѣчнаа памать!**
- ✠ The parish is very appreciative of a Christmas floral donation given in memory of Wasil Uschock, Barbara Uschock, and William Basil Uschock. May their memories be eternal! **Бѣчнаа памать!**
- ✠ **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 YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO THE PARISH, PUTTING BCW ON THE MEMO LINE.** Thank you!
- ✠ **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 information.