

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  
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

**6 APRIL 2025 / 7533**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**  
**OUR VENERABLE MOTHER SAINT MARY OF EGYPT**



**LITURGY SCHEDULE:**

Sat. Apr. 05 17:00 Vigil: **FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**  
*Suffrages pro populo*

Sun. Apr. 06 10:30 **FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**  
*Suffrages & Panachida for Anthony Macchiaroli – 40<sup>th</sup> Day*

Wed. Apr. 09 18:30 **LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS**

Sat. Apr. 12 17:00 Vigil: **PALM SUNDAY**

Sun. Apr. 13 10:30 **PALM SUNDAY** *Suffrages pro populo.*

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<b>03 / 30 / 2025</b>	Adults: \$1576	Candles: \$74	Holy Day: \$90
<b>COLLECTION</b>	Memoriam: \$540	Flowers: \$340	<b>TOTAL: \$2620</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE:</b>	<b>Wed. 13</b>	<b>Sat. 6 + 3</b>	<b>Sun. 34 + 5</b>



**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Friday (April 11<sup>th</sup>) marks the end of the 40 Fast before Christ's Pascha / Passover. In origin this fast seems to be an imitation of the 40 day fast Jesus made immediately after His baptism in the Jordan. In Egypt, it prepared the catechumens for the reception of baptism on the fortieth day after Theophany. Today it is done immediately before Pascha and concludes with a day of baptism on Lazarus Saturday (April 12<sup>th</sup>). Great and Holy Week remains as a period of six days of even more intense prayer and fasting as an immediate preparation for Pascha, perhaps originating in the Jewish Week of Unleavened Bread, which was understood as a time of fasting. The Paschal Fast of Holy Week, therefore, is more ancient than that of the Great Forty-Day Fast.



When Mary was only twelve years old, she left her parents and departed to Alexandria, where she lived a depraved life for seventeen years. Then, moved by curiosity, she went with many pilgrims to Jerusalem, that she might see the Exaltation of the venerable Cross. Even in the Holy City she gave herself over to every kind of licentiousness and drew many into the depth of perdition. Desiring to go into the church on the day of the Exaltation of the Cross, time



and again she perceived a certain invisible power preventing her entrance, whereas the multitude of people about her entered unhindered. Therefore, wounded in heart by this, she decided to change her way of life and reconcile herself to God by means of repentance. Invoking our Lady the Theotokos as her protectress, she asked her to open the way for her to worship the Cross, and vowed that she would renounce the world. And thus, returning once again to the church, she entered easily. When she had worshipped the precious Wood, she departed that same day from Jerusalem and passed over the Jordan. She went into the inner wilderness and for forty-seven years lived a most harsh manner of life, surpassing human strength; alone, she prayed to God alone. Toward the end of her life, she met a certain hermit named Zosimas, and she related to him her life from the beginning. She requested of him to bring her

the immaculate Mysteries that she might partake of them. According to her request, he did this the following year on Holy and Great Thursday. One year after this, Zosimas again went thither and found her dead, laid upon the ground, and letters written in the sand near her which said: "Abba Zosimas, bury here the body of wretched Mary. I died on the very day I partook of the immaculate Mysteries. Pray for me." Her death is reckoned by some to have taken place in 378, by some, in 437, and by others, in 522. She is commemorated twice in the liturgical year: on April 1<sup>st</sup> and on the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast. Her life was recorded by Saint Sophronius of Jerusalem.



## CAN I BE A BYZANTINE CATHOLIC WITHOUT GOING TO CHURCH?

**Yes, of course! It is just as possible as being:**

- A student who does not go to school.
- An employee who does not go to work.
- A soccer player who does not show up for a match.
- A soldier who deserts the army.
- A teacher who never shows up for class.
- A musician who will not practice or go to rehearsals / concerts.
- A baseball player who stays in the locker room.
- A citizen who is unpatriotic.

**Our Church is our home base  
for serving Christ and one another in our life.**

The **Catechism of the Catholic Church**, in describing the Sunday Obligation, states that «*The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are **obliged** to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, [...] Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.*» (CCC 2181). The three conditions for a sin to be considered 'mortal' are **grave matter** (it is a serious wrong), **knowledge** (you know or should know that it is wrong), and **consent** (you have to freely choose it, even though you know it is wrong). A Catholic in such a state **CANNOT** receive the Eucharist until he or she has received sacramental absolution from a priest in the Mystery of Holy Confession. **By receiving Holy Communion without prior confession one does not receive the grace of the sacrament AND commits another grave or mortal sin.**

*You cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests.*

St. John Chrysostom

*De incomprehensibili Dei natura 3,6*



**ETERNAL MEMORY!** The parish is most grateful for the following two donations: one given in memory of **Fr. Deacon Richard Ciganko** by his daughter Lara and her husband Daniel Balach, and the other from Ray & Denise Figas in memory of **Anthony Macchiaroli**. БЪЧНАА ПАМАТЬ! *Requiem æternam dona eis, Domine!*

**The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir** will live-stream Lenten hymns for reflection during the final days of the Great Fast 2025 at **8:00 pm (eastern) on Thursday April 10, 2025**. The program also will be available for replay at any time. Hosted online by St. Elias Church in Munhall, Pa. <https://steliasmunhallpa.weebly.com>



Metropolitan William will be consecrating Chrism on **Great and Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025** at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Munhall: the Divine Liturgy will be served at **11 AM**. The faithful of the Archeparchy are encouraged to attend and participate. The number of those attending the Divine Liturgy is needed, so please sign up on the sheet located in the Narthex.