

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

07 DECEMBER 2025 / 7534

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The 11th Sunday after the Holy Cross. Pre-festive Day of the Maternity of Holy Anna. Our Holy Father Ambrose, Bishop of Milan.



LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Sat. Dec. 06 17:00 Vigil: **26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Suffrages for +Gregory Harhai – The Fullman Family

Sun. Dec. 07 10:30 **26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Suffrages pro populo

Sat. Dec. 13 17:00 Vigil: **SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS**

Sun. Dec. 14 10:30 **SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS** *Suffrages pro populo*

11 / 30 / 2025

COLLECTION

ATTENDANCE

Adults: \$705

Fuel: \$80

Sat. 21

Candles: \$50

TOTAL: \$855

Sun. 15 + 1

Holy Day: \$20

If today's gospel statistics are any indication then ninety percent of us live life at skin level. That is, we live on the surface. It is a "what you see is what you get" attitude. We assume there is nothing else. At skin level our view of life is mostly determined by whether life is going our way and whether we get what we want. Life is very much exteriorized. That is not to suggest that skin-level life is easy or pain free. To the contrary life at that level feels mostly like day-to-day-survival, is rarely peaceful, and leaves us feeling as if something is missing. More than anything else skin-level life seeks to be comfortable; physically, emotionally, spiritually, socially, and financially. There is nothing wrong with being comfortable until we choose to settle for being comfortable rather than moving to a deeper place, a deeper way of seeing, relating, and living. Sometimes comfort can insulate us from the reality of life and the presence of God. It seems that only about ten percent, one in ten lepers, are willing to move in a new direction, to seek a wholeness that cannot be found in mere comfort.

Regardless of our skin condition we know what it is like to be a leper. We may not have lived under the same conditions as the lepers of Jesus' time but we could each tell a story about a time when we just could not get comfortable in our own skin. That is the leprosy of today. Today's leprosy is not a medical condition or a legal status. It is, rather, a spiritual condition. It is leprosy of the heart. Its symptoms have nothing to do with our skin. Instead they are things like perfectionism, gluttony, sadness, anger, pride, boredom, gossip, the need for control or approval, fear, being judgmental, restlessness, excessive busyness, grudges, prejudice, jealousy, condemnation, indifference, addiction. Leprosy distorts how we see and relate to God, the world, others, and even ourselves. Leprosy keeps life at a superficial level. These symptoms, what the early church mothers and fathers called "passions," reveal a deep discomfort. As long as we deal with them at the level of skin, seeking cleanness rather than wholeness, we can never truly be made well.



~ ANNOUNCEMENT ~

- **CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW / BAKE SALE!** The Ethnic Craft Club of **St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Uniontown** will be having its annual Christmas Craft / Bake Sale on **Saturday, December 6th** from **Noon - 4:00 PM**, and **Sunday, December 7th** from **10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**. The sale will feature decorations, wood crafted items, folk crafts, religious articles, parish cookbooks, imported items, homemade candy, various baked goods, and many other articles that would make fine Christmas gifts or holiday decorations. There will be a display of collectible Nativity sets, raffles, and a basket raffle sponsored by St. John Social Ministry. Admission is free. For more information, call: 724-438-1382 between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm and leave a message.

