

Glory to Jesus Christ!  
Слава Иесу 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

14 DECEMBER 2025 / 7534

## SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

*The 11th Sunday after the Holy Cross. The Holy Martyrs Thrysus, Leucas, Philemon, Appolonious and Callinicus.*



### LITURGY SCHEDULE:

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

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

Sat. Dec. 20 17:00 Vigil: **SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

Sun. Dec. 21 10:30 **SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS** *Suffrages pro populo*



### *The Holy Forefathers, the Patriarchs*

**T**oday we commemorate the ancestors of Christ. Sing with fervor a hymn of praise to Christ the Savior Who exalted them among all nations. He is the Lord Who does wondrous deeds because He is powerful and mighty. From them He brought forth a royal scepter, the immaculate maiden of God and virgin Mary. From her, Christ our God came forth to give life and eternal salvation for all.

*Vespers: at Psalm 140*

**C**ome, O lovers of the feast, let us sing a hymn of praise to the assembly of the Forefathers: Adam, the father of the human race, Enoch, Noah, Melchisedek, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Let us also honor those who came after the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, and David; together with Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, Daniel and the twelve minor Prophets; likewise Elijah, Elisha, and all the others; also Zechariah and the Baptist, and all those who preached Christ, the Life and the Resurrection of our race.

*Vespers: Apostichon*

**C**ome, let us faithfully celebrate the annual memory of the Fathers who preceded the Law: Abraham and all those with him. Let us worthily venerate the tribe of Judah. With Daniel let us exalt, as a symbol of the Trinity, the youths who extinguished the flame in the furnace. Let us carefully heed the sayings of the Prophets. With Isaiah, let us cry out in a loud voice: Behold, the Virgin shall be with child and give birth to a Son, and they shall call Him Emmanuel, a name that means: God is with us.

*Matins: at the Praises*

**B**ethlehem, make ready, for Eden has been opened for all. Ephrata, be alert, for the Tree of Life has blossomed forth from the Virgin in the cave. Her womb has become a spiritual paradise wherein the Divine Fruit was planted, and if we eat of it, we shall live and not die like Adam. Christ is coming forth to bring back to life the likeness that had been lost in the beginning.

*Byzantine Vespers, 20 December*

**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 is 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*



## ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

- **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.** Thank you!
- **VISITATION OF THE SICK!** It is very important that a family member contact Father whenever a family member is sick, or who is now confined to their home or a nursing care facility. They are still members of our parish, remaining one with us through the Mysteries of Holy Anointing and the Divine Eucharist. Also, if a parishioner is to undergo a surgical or medical procedure, the Mystery of Holy Anointing should be celebrated; ideally in Church the Sunday before having the procedure.

