

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,
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Sunday 9:00 – 9:30, or by appointment
Website: www.stmarybyzantinecatholic.org

01 FEBRUARY 2026 / 7534 SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Pre-festive Day of the Encounter. The Holy Martyr Tryphon.



LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Sat. Jan. 31 17:00 Vigil: **SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON**
Suffrages pro populo

Sun. Feb. 01 10:30 **SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON**

Sat. Feb. 07 17:00 Vigil: **SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT, First All Souls.** Suffrages *pro populo*

Sun. Feb. 08 10:30 **SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT.**
Suffrages for **+Karen Saffin** – The Syphan Family



«People feel unhappy and they don't know why. They feel that something is wrong, but they can't put their finger on what it is. They feel uneasy in the world, confused and frustrated, alienated and estranged, and they can't explain it. They have everything and yet they want more. And when they get it, they are still left empty and dissatisfied. They want happiness and peace, and nothing seems to bring it. They want fulfillment, and it never seems to come. Everything is fine, and yet everything is wrong. In America this is almost a national disease. It is covered over by frantic activity and endless running around. It is buried in activities and events. It is drowned out by television programs and games. But when the movement stops and the dial is turned off and everything is quiet...then the dread sets in, and the meaninglessness of it all, and the boredom, and the fear. Why is this so? Because, the Church tells us, we are really not at home. We are in exile. We are alienated and estranged from our true country. We are not with God our Father in the land of the living. We are spiritually sick. And some of us are already dead.»

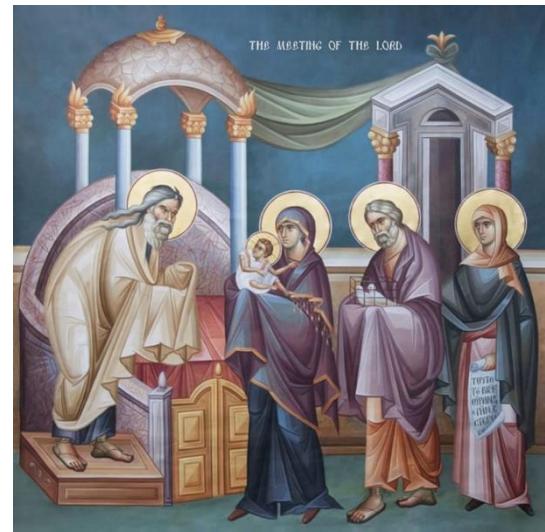
The Lenten Spring by Fr. Thomas Hopko



Ambon Prayer on the Feast of the Encounter

¶ Master, Lord and God, You sent Your only-begotten Son, Your Word, into the world, born of a woman under the Law for the sake of our redemption. Through Your Spirit, You foretold His coming and bore witness to His presence to Simeon the Elder. Bless us also, Your unworthy servants, by His radiance and accept our prayers, as You accepted the acknowledgment of the prophetess Anna. Make us worthy to embrace Your incarnate Word in our souls, and to be called consecrated temples of Your all-holy Spirit. By Your strength, give joy to our civil authorities and to all your Church, that in us Your Name may be glorified, and that of Your only-begotten Son and that of Your adorable and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Today, Simeon the Elder enters the Temple, rejoicing in spirit, to receive in his arms the One Who gave the Law to Moses, the One Who fulfills the Law in Himself. For Moses was counted worthy to see God, although in darkness and sounds that were not clear; and with covered face he rebuked the unbelieving people. But Simeon carried the pre-eternal Word of the Father in bodily form, and he revealed the Light to the Gentiles, the Cross and the Resurrection. Anna was shown to be a prophetess, announcing the Savior and Deliverer of Israel. Unto Him let us cry aloud: Through the Theotokos, have mercy on us, O Christ our God.



Vespers: At the Litija

THINGS HAPPEN IN GOD'S TIME, NOT OURS: One of the readings for the Synaxis of the Holy Prophets Anna and Simeon (Feb. 3) is about the quality of faithful patience that they demonstrate so well. The Apostolic Letter of James counsels us, *«Be patient, therefore, beloved until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient»* (5:7-8). These words remind us that things happen in God's time, not ours. The farmer is patient with the land until God sends the rain. For Anna and Simeon, the time of waiting was very long, so their patience had to be very great. Whatever situations face us – the ones that require patience – may also stretch on. We must strive to *«strengthen our hearts»* as did Simeon and Anna. That doesn't mean that we are to just sit idly by waiting for something to happen – Anna spent many

years in the Temple «worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day» (Lk 2:37). We must be ready for God to act at any moment, and not «grumble against one another» when our patience gets tested for a longer time that we might have expected or wished. Even a lengthy period of time in human reckoning is only an instant in God's sight. So no matter how far away it may seem to us, the Apostle James tells us, «the coming of the Lord is near» (5:8).



ALL SOULS' SATURDAYS: On the day before the Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meat-fare Sunday) and in close connection with the theme of this Sunday, there is a universal commemoration of the dead «from all the ages». Before we call to mind the Second Coming of



Christ in the services on Sunday, we commend to God all those departed before us, who are now awaiting the Last Judgment. In the texts for this Saturday there is a strong sense of the continuing bond of mutual love that links together all the members of the Church, whether alive or dead. For those who believe in the risen Christ, death does not constitute an impassable barrier, since all are alive in Him; the departed are still our brethren, members of the same family with us, and so we are conscious of the need to pray insistently on their behalf.»

from the Lenten Triodion of Mother Mary and Metropolitan Kallistos



~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

- **LAST CHANCE!** Mail your **CALLED BY NAME** recommendation(s) to the Office of Vocations. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and monastic life. Remember those men and women of our parish whose names have been submitted that they may appreciate their giftedness and respond to God's call. Use the nomination brochure form or the QR code. You may also find all information at the Metropolitan Vocations website:
byzantinecatholicvocation.com
- The first of the **ALL SOULS SATURDAYS** is February 7th.
- **2025 OFFERTORY STATEMENTS** are located in the Narthex. Please notify the office of any errors.