

Glory to Jesus Christ!
Слава Иисусу Христу!

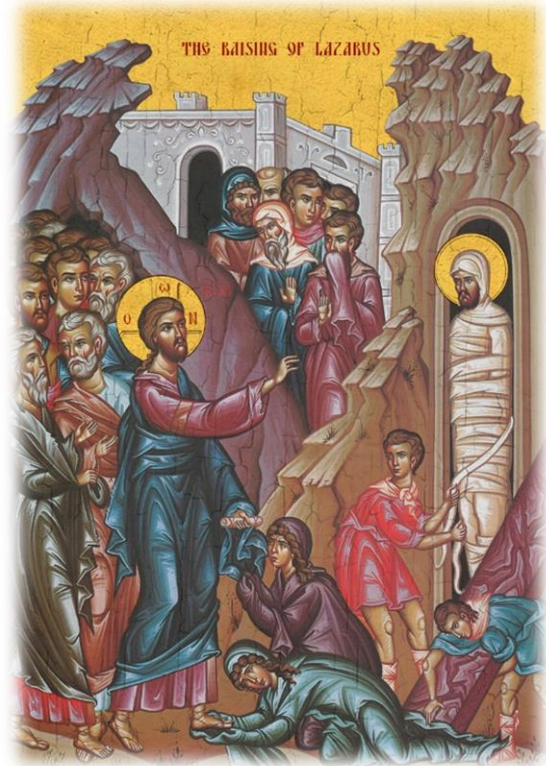
St. Mary ~ Holy Protection
Byzantine Catholic Church
4480 Route 981 Latrobe, PA 15650

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

22 MARCH 2026 / 7534
FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
MEMORY OF OUR HOLY MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT



LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Sat. Mar. 21 17:00 Vigil: **FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST** Suffrages for **+James Kontir** – The Kontir Family: Mary Ann, Natalee, Shane.

Sun. Mar. 22 10:30 **FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST.**
Suffrages *pro populo*

Wed. Mar. 25 18:30 **ANNUNCIATION** w/ Mirovanije.
Suffrages for **+The Cantor Andrew Regalla** – Joseph & Joyce Regalla

Sat. Mar. 28 17:00 Vigil: **PALM SUNDAY** w/ Mirovanije. Suffrages for **+The Cantor Andrew Regalla** – The Kontir Family: Mary Ann, Natalee, Shane.

Sun. Mar. 29 10:30 **PALM SUNDAY** w/ Mirovanije.
Suffrages *pro populo*



03 / 15 / 2026
COLLECTION
TOTAL: \$1031

Adults: \$762
E. Europe: \$25
ATTENDANCE:

Candles: \$44
Flowers: \$165
Sat. 12 + 2

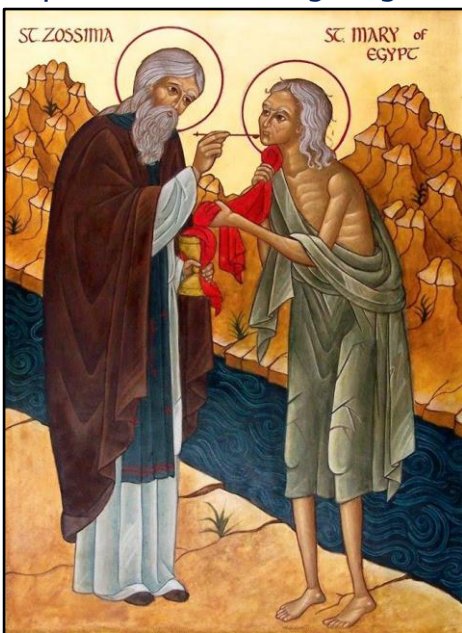
Maintenance: \$10
Holy Day: \$25
Sun. 15 + 10



HISTORICAL NOTE: This coming Friday (March 27th) marks the end of the forty-day fast before Pascha that runs from the Monday after Forgiveness Sunday until the day before Lazarus Saturday. In origin this fast seems to be an imitation of the forty-day fast Jesus made 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. Great and Holy Week remains as a period of six days of even more intense penance of 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 is, therefore, 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 1st and on the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast. Her life was recorded by Saint Sophronius of Jerusalem.

~ THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS ~

The archangel Gabriel was sent from heaven to bring the Virgin glad tidings of her conception. When he came to Nazareth, he marveled at the miracle and thought to himself: How is it that He



Whom the heavens cannot comprehend is now being born of a virgin? The One Who has heaven for a throne and earth for a footstool is being enclosed within a virgin's womb. He upon Whom the six-winged Seraphim and the many-eyes Cherubim cannot gaze, wills to become incarnate of her by a single word. The Word of God is at hand. Then why do I stand by and not say to the Virgin: Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you! Rejoice, O pure Virgin and maiden bride! Rejoice O Mother of Life! Blessed is the Fruit of your womb.



~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

- The annual **SPECIAL COLLECTION** to aid our sister churches in **CENTRAL** and **EASTERN EUROPE** will be taken up during the month of March. The war against Ukraine is now in its 4th year! Horrific devastation and untold anguish have been inflicted upon the Ukrainian people; this year's collection to help our Byzantine Catholic brethren is more important than ever. **PLEASE BE GENEROUS!**
- The Building and Maintenance Committee is selling a **\$500 LOTTERY STRIP TICKET**. The number will be taken from the PA Lottery Evening Pick 3 evening drawing next **Sunday, March 29th**.
- **19th EGG EGGSTRAVAGANZA** at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church Social Hall, Uniontown is **this Sunday, March 22nd from Noon – 4:00**. Admission is free. A Lenten luncheon will be served. For additional information, call **724-438-1382, M – F** (leave message). See posters in Narthex for more details of all the many events planned for the day.