

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!

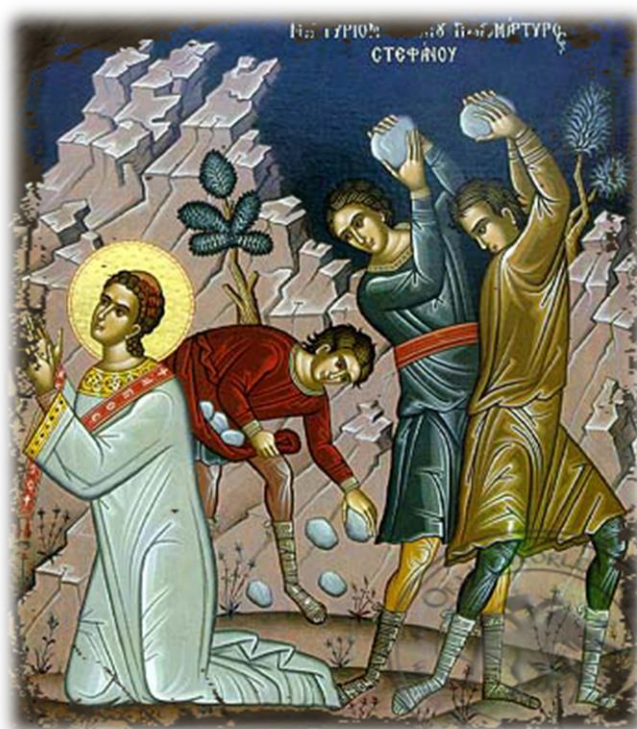
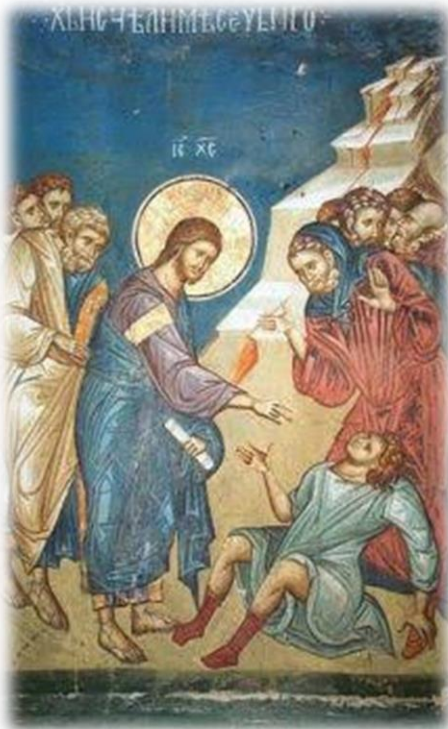
Administrator: Fr. Paul-Alexander Shutt, OSB
Confession Schedule: *Saturday* 16:00 – 16:30,
Parish email: st.marytrauger@gmail.com

Parish Office: 724-423-3 673 **Hall:** 724-423-8838
Sunday 9:00 – 9:30, or by appointment
Website: www.stmarybyzantinecatholic.org

02 AUGUST 2026 / 7534

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Translation of the Relics of the Holy Proto-Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen.
Our Venerable Father Basil, Fool for Christ.*



LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Sat. Aug. 01 17:00 Vigil: **TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Suffrages for **+David Rusinko** – Cheryl Rusinko

Sun. Aug. 02 10:30 **TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** Suffrages *pro populo*

Wed. Aug. 05 16:30 VIGIL: **THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD, GOD
AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST** w/ Mirovanije and the Blessing of Fruit

Sat. Aug. 08 17:00 Vigil: **ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** Suffrages:
+Martin Osif and deceased Osif Family members – James & Barbara Snitzer;
First Year Memorial for +Helen DeFlorio w/ Panachida.

Sun. Aug. 09 10:30 **ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** Suffrages *pro populo*



07 / 26 / 2026
COLLECTION

Adult: \$1182
ATTENDANCE:

Candles: \$40
Sat. 15

Total: \$1222
Sun. 16

THE PROCESSION OF THE CROSS ~ AUGUST 1

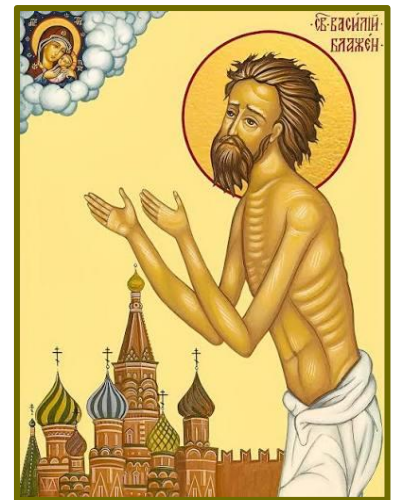
This feast was established in the reign of the Greek Emperor Manuel, as a memorial of Greek victory over the Saracens. The procession with the relic of the Precious Cross was made from the imperial palace to the Great Church of Hagia Sophia (Holy Wisdom); there the relic remained for 14 days, and then was carried back in procession to the church on the palace grounds.

Today all the faithful rejoice; for the glorious Cross appears throughout the world. It brightens the universe with an indescribable radiance, illumines the skies, and encompasses the whole earth. The Church of Christ sings spiritual songs and ministers in faith and venerates the divine and most wondrous Cross, which preserves her from on high. Strengthened now by this heavenly power, let us approach the Master, crying out: Give peace to the world and enlighten our souls.

TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF STEPHEN THE PROTOMARTYR

After the First Martyr had been stoned to death, Rabbi Gamaliel, the grandson of Hillel the Elder, the teacher of the apostle Paul and Stephen's teacher, encouraged certain of the Christians to go by night and take up the Saint's body and bury it in his field, which was at a distance of some twenty miles from Jerusalem and was called by his name, "Kaphar-gamala," that is, "the field of Gamala," where Gamaliel himself was later buried along with his two sons. About the year 427, a certain pious man called Lucian, who was the parish priest of a church near to that field, received from God a revelation in a dream concerning the place where the First Martyr was buried. He immediately made this known to John, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Thus, coming to the place indicated, and digging there, they found a box with the word "Stephen" in Aramaic letters. («Stephen» means «crown» in Greek.) On opening it, they took these most sacred relics and transferred them to Jerusalem with great honor and in the company of a very great multitude of the faithful.

SAINT BASIL ~ FOOL FOR CHRIST was born to a serf family in December 1468 at the portico of the Epiphany Cathedral at Yelokhovo (now in Moscow). His father was named Jacob and his mother Anna. Originally an apprentice shoemaker, he went to Moscow when he was sixteen. There he helped those who were ashamed to ask for alms, but were in need of help. He adopted a lifestyle of poverty; donating to the poor and hungry who were too ashamed to ask for alms when he could. He went naked and weighed himself down with chains. He rebuked Ivan the Terrible for not paying attention in church. Vasily was said to have the gift of prophecy. When he died on 2 August 1552, or 1557, St. Macarius, Metropolitan of Moscow, served his funeral with many clergy. He is now buried in St. Basil's Cathedral located in Red Square in Moscow, which was commissioned by Ivan for commemoration of his conquest of Kazan. The veneration of Saint Basil the Blessed was always so strong that the Trinity temple and the attached Protection church were renamed for him [the famous Saint Basil's Cathedral in Moscow]. Basil was formally canonized in 1588. For a much fuller account of St. Basil's life go to following link: <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/1999/08/02/102185-blessed-basil-of-moscow-the-fool-for-christ>



BLESSING OF GRAPES: The custom of blessing grapes, as well as other fruits and vegetables on August 6th is a most beautiful sign of the final transformation of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the paradise of God's unending kingdom of Life where all will be transfigured by the glory of the Lord. This is an ancient Christian custom. The first week of August, on the feast of the Transfiguration, farmers used to gather the early fruits of their summer harvest (grapes, figs, etc.) and present them in the Church to be blessed and then given freely to the congregation. These fruits are called the «beginnings». In a text from the 7th century: «The Laws of the Kingdom» by Emperor Constantine Porifirogenitos, we read: «The Emperor of Constantinople gathers the «**beginnings** / **aparches**» in Chalcedon, where there are many vines, and then he waits for the Patriarch of Constantinople to come on the Holy Day of the Lord's Transfiguration to bless the fruits and to personally hand out the grapes to the laity». This custom is still practiced in many places in Greece where there are countless vineyards. In northern climates, however, where grapes were not always readily available, APPLES were commonly blessed and the Transfiguration became to be known as the «Apple Feast of the Savior».



~ Announcements ~

- Due the Feast of the Dormition (the Assumption in the West) being celebrated in the parish on Friday, August 14th, **THERE WILL BE NO BINGO IN AUGUST**. The next Bingo will be Friday, 11 September.
- **THEOTOKOS: BEACON OF HOPE!** THE 92nd Annual Mount Saint Macrina Pilgrimage in honor of our Lady of Perpetual Help will take place the weekend of **September 4 - 7**. A schedule of services for each day of the pilgrimage is posted in the Narthex.