

Saint Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church

(Saint Mary's Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church, Inc.)

On the Corner of East 15th Street and Second Avenue

Father Edward G. Cimbala, MAOL, D.Min. ~ Pastor

Boris Derow ~ Music Director/Cantor

Parish Office

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January 26, 2025

36th Sunday After Pentecost

February 2, 2025

Sunday of Zacchaeus

Encounter of Our Lord With Simeon and Anna

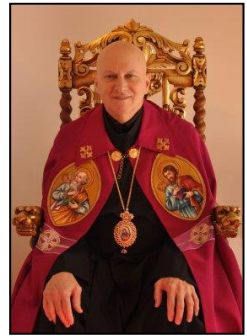
WELCOME VISITORS

**“MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER
FOR ALL PEOPLES.” - Isaiah 56: 7**

If you are a visitor to St. Mary's, we want you to know how deeply we appreciate your presence. Whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish, we are grateful for your interest in our church. We warmly welcome you and hope you find our worship true and reverent. We consider you part of our family and would be more than honored by your presence in our spiritual home. For more information about becoming a parishioner, please see Fr. Ed.

Bishop's Appeal

You have received information about the Bishop's Appeal. Please be generous. Bishop Kurt hopes each family will donate to this appeal. St. Mary's and Holy Cross benefit directly from this appeal, with these funds raised from the generosity of the people of the Eparchy of Passaic. You may pay your contribution over five months. **MAIL YOUR**



CONTRIBUTION DIRECTLY TO THE EPARCHIAL OFFICES. If you did not receive a brochure in the mail, copies may be found on the bulletin board outside the Social Hall. St. Mary's goal is \$5,000. If we meet our goal, we receive a 40% rebate. **The Eparchy financially supports St. Mary's by sending us \$6,000 monthly (\$72,000 annually) and additional payments such as snow removal and building maintenance of approximately \$25,000 for a total of \$97,000 for the year. As a parish family, we should show our appreciation by responding to the Bishop's Appeal.** If you have any questions, please see Fr. Ed. **As of January 24, St. Mary's parishioners have contributed \$2,200 from 10 people.**

Envelopes and Calendars are Available

Envelopes and Calendars may be found on the counter in the back of the church (eastside). If there is no box of envelopes with your name on it, please take a blank box and indicate the number you took on the sheet. Everyone should have a box of envelopes and support the parish to the best of their ability.

LITURGICAL SERVICES

Sunday, January, 26
10:00 AM

36th Sunday After Pentecost

For the Parish Families of
St. Mary's and Holy Cross
+Irene and Larry Palumbo
By Margie Ruschak

Thursday, January 30
6:30 PM

Akathist to St. Joseph

Sunday, February 2
10:00 AM

Sunday of Zacchaeus
Encounter of Our Lord
With Simeon and Anna

For the Parish Families of
St. Mary's and Holy Cross
+Anna Flanagan
By Mary DiMatteo
Festal Anounting for
the Feast of the Encounter
and Blessing of Candles
Undecorating the Church
After the Coffee Social

Sunday, February 9
Sunday of the Publican and
the Pharisee

10:00 AM ~ Divine Liturgy
For the Parish Families of
St. Mary's and Holy Cross
+John Speichert
By Joyce Speichert

Sunday, February 16
10:00 AM

35th Sunday After Pentecost

For the Parish Families of
St. Mary's and Holy Cross
In Thanksgiving by Fr. Ed

Sunday, February 23
10:00 AM

Sunday of Meatfare

For the Parish Families of
St. Mary's and Holy Cross
+Katherine Sikoryak
Followed By Panachida
and the
Reading of the Hramoty
for the
First All Souls Saturday

Sunday, March 2
10:00 AM

Sunday of Cheesefare
Forgiveness Sunday

For the Parish Families of
St. Mary's and Holy Cross
+Mikulas Beno by Mary Galus
Celebration of Forgiveness
Followed by Fashengy!

Tuesday, March 4
6:30 PM

Presanctified Liturgy
+Helen and +Charles Gaydos
By Patricia Dietz
Lenten Soup Meal

Wednesday, March 5

Noon
Lenten Moleben
Lenten Soup Meal

**Please Take This Bulletin Home
So, You Can Keep Up With All The Parish Activities**

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CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS were sent out to those who requested them in previous years. If you did not receive one and wished one to be sent, complete the form and drop it in the collection box or email Fr. Ed, and the statement will be sent to you.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST

Name: _____

Address: _____

2024 Envelope Number: _____

(It is not necessary if all your gifts were made online)



**Some Volunteer
Opportunities
At St. Mary's**

**Office Help – Organizing – Ushers
Church Tour Docent**

**Greeters - Collection Counters
Social Events – Parties**

**Special Event Hospitality – Photography
Flower Care**

**Anything that you see that needs to be done!
Please see Fr. Ed to Volunteer.**

Mystery of Reconciliation

Fr. Ed is always available to celebrate the Mystery of Reconciliation before the Divine Liturgy and at any other time. If Fr. Ed is not in the confessional, please look for him; he will gladly help you.



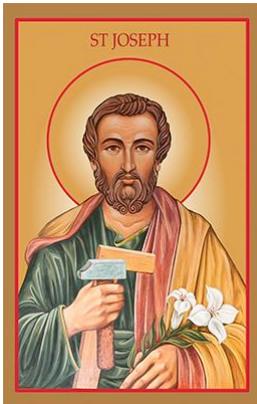
OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

Adapted by Fr Vitalii Stashkevych (BCC) for the Gregorian Calendar

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 9 TH	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 16 TH	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 23 RD FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 2 ND FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1 ST Sunday of Lent MARCH 9 TH	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2 ND Sunday of Lent MARCH 16 TH	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3 RD Sunday of Lent MARCH 23 RD	 GENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4 TH Sunday of Lent MARCH 30 TH	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5 TH Sunday of Lent APRIL 6 TH	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13 TH <i>GREAT WEEK BEGINS</i>	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 18 TH	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 20 TH NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

Metanoia 12



Do you want to prepare for Lent and Easter by growing in spiritual discipline in fellowship with other Catholic men? You are invited to join Metanoia, a 12-week men's asceticism group hosted by St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church on E. 15th Street. This is inspired by the popular Exodus 90 program — with a distinctive approach grounded in the ancient liturgical and spiritual traditions of the Christian East.

We kick-off on Thursday, January 30, with an optional information session at 6 pm followed by a 6:30 pm sung prayer service in honor of St. Joseph, whose blessing we ask as we seek to become better men together. Sign up or ask questions, email ic@studio4b.org, or text/call at 917-475-6899.



Encounter of Our Lord

February 2

On this Feast Day, we see Jesus, forty days old, carried into the temple in Jerusalem by Mary and Joseph to be recognized as God's Messiah by the aged Simeon and Anna. In obedience to the Law of Moses, the Lord Jesus, the firstborn, was presented in the Temple by his Blessed Mother and his foster father. Mary and Joseph respected the Mosaic Law by offering the sacrifice prescribed for the

poor: a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

In Jerusalem, at that time, there lived two venerable elderly people – Simeon and Anna. Their lives were dedicated to prayer and fasting, and their strong religious spirit enabled them to recognize the Messiah. Simeon, who was just and devout, had been visited by an angel of the Lord who foretold him that he would not see death before seeing the Messiah born of the Virgin. Led by the Holy Spirit into the temple on the day that the holy family brought the Child Jesus to fulfill the law,

Simeon took the Child into his arms and blessed God by saying: “Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32).

In the figure of the venerable Simeon, Jesus’ presentation in the temple also reminds us that prayer and contemplation are not just a waste of time or an obstacle to charity. On the contrary, time could not be better spent than in prayer, as true Christian charity is a consequence of a solid interior life. Only those who pray and offer penance, like Simeon and Anna, are open to the breath of the Spirit. They know how to recognize the Lord in the circumstances in which He manifests Himself because they possess an ample interior vision, and they have learned how to love with the heart of the One whose very name is Charity.

This is another ‘epiphany’ celebration insofar as the Christ Child is revealed as the Messiah through the canticle and words of Simeon and the testimony of Anna, the prophetess who was also in the temple that day.

This is also a second Annunciation to Mary. Simeon’s prophecy of Mary’s sufferings *tells her of the actual historical situation in which the Son is to accomplish his mission: misunderstanding and sorrow*. The archangel’s announcement was a fount of incredible joy because it pertained to Jesus’ messianic royalty and the supernatural character of His virginal conception.

The Feast Day of the Encounter is the meeting of the Old and New Covenants. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant and gives to us the New Covenant through the Eucharist. The announcement of the elder in the temple spoke of the Lord’s work of redemption that He would complete by associating Himself through suffering with His Mother. Therefore, this feast has a strong Marian dimension; it is also called the *Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. This refers to the other aspect of the presentation that consists of the ritual purification of Jewish women after they had given birth. In Mary’s case, this purification was unnecessary, but it indicates the renewal of her total offering of herself to God for accomplishing His Divine Plan.

This feast concludes the celebration of the Nativity. With the Virgin Mother's offerings and Simeon's prophecy, the events now point toward Easter. Christ is the light of the nations, hence the tradition of blessing candles.

Saint Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church

ALL SOULS 2025



If you did not receive an ALL SOULS list from last year, or you didn't submit a list, and you wish to have your loved ones commemorated – please use this form and return your list and the offering by January 28 – you may drop it in the collection basket or return by mail. Your deceased loved ones will be mentioned at the services held for the deceased on the All Souls Saturdays.

As we did last year, the celebration of All Souls will be on the Sunday near the designated Saturday – the dates will be February 23, March 16, 23, 30, and June 15. The regular Sunday Divine Liturgy will be celebrated followed by a Panachida and the reading of the Hramoty.

St. John Chrysostom assures us that:” It is a great honor to be worthy of mention, while the celebration of the Holy Mysteries is going on.” (Homily on Acts 21, 4) Family members are encouraged to attend these services on All Souls Saturdays (Sundays), for by their presence and personal prayers and receiving Holy Communion, they strengthen the bond of love with their departed loved ones and keep their memory everlasting!

Please commemorate the following people during the upcoming ALL SOULS SATURDAYS. (Sundays)

Name: _____

Offering Amount \$ _____