

# BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MARYLAND



## SAINT GREGORY OF NYSSA

### Byzantine Catholic Church - Washington community

12420 Old Gunpowder Road Spur, Beltsville, MD 20705

www.stgregoryofnyssa.net / Facebook: stgregorybyzcatch

Services live-streamed on Facebook

**Pastor: Reverend Serhii Deiak**

Email: [frsergij@stgregoryofnyssa.net](mailto:frsergij@stgregoryofnyssa.net)

Fr. Serhii Cell: (240) 644-2661 / Office: (301) 953-9323

**Deacon: Deacon William (Bill) Szewczyk**

Email: [deacon@stgregoryofnyssa.net](mailto:deacon@stgregoryofnyssa.net)

## PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

### Byzantine Catholic Church – Baltimore community

1260 Stevens Avenue, Arbutus, MD 21227

www.patronagechurch.com / Facebook: Patronagechurch

Email: [patronage.church@gmail.com](mailto:patronage.church@gmail.com) / Office: (410) 247-4936

**Pastor: Reverend Serhii Deiak**

Email: [frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com](mailto:frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com) / Fr. Serhii Cell: (240) 644-2661

## PATRONAGE MISSIONARY CHURCH IN HAGERSTOWN

### St. Ann Catholic Church

1525 Oak Hill Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742

**Pastor: Reverend Serhii Deiak**

**Contact:** Adam and Lauren Myers:

(301) 791-0930 / [axxearp@yahoo.com](mailto:axxearp@yahoo.com)

**Next Liturgy: Saturday**

January 21st, at 10am

**CONFESSION:** Fr. Serhii is available 20 minutes before or immediately after Divine Liturgy.

**Let Us Remember in Prayer:** The soul of *+Charity Sweeney* of the Hagerstown Mission who fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday. Arrangements are still being made.

The people of Ukraine, that peace may be soon restored to their land.

Those who are ill or convalescing: Laverne Hametz, Michael and Carol Slovinsky, James DeWolfe, Howard Guba, Lector Joseph and Marie Repasi, John Sekura, Madeline Bender, Richard Cooley, Christine Szewczyk, Kathleen Lynch, Ken Demianchik, Michael Fitzgibbon, Suzanne Krofchik, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Robert P. Pipta, Christine Pipta Svitana, Ann Dardzinski, Doreen Dardzinski, David Chekan, Anna Rae Brabston, Keith Hay, Walter Krofchik, Sylvia Rusnock, Nickolette Dobrovoczky, Irene Simi, John Cahill, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Nancy Erdek, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Anne Gupman, Anna Martin, Marge Dulina, Georgianna Kostak, Betty Rankin, Sandra Suseck. May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician and Healer of souls and bodies, grant them peace and good health for many blessed years.

### St. Gregory Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2442387>) Jan. 8

Offertory: \$995.00

Tithe.ly: \$1100.00

Epiphany: \$50.00

First Offering: \$12.00

Memorials: \$550.00

### Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Jan. 8

Offertory: \$1106.00

Tithe.ly: \$60.00

Initial Offering: \$24.00

Theophany: \$13.00

ECL \$75.00

### Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: Jan. 8

Offertory: \$281.00

Tithe.ly: \$19.00

Initial Offering: \$26.00

Holiday: \$17.00

**Welcome to Our Parish:** We welcome all new visitors to our parish family, and are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. If you would like to be added to our parish email list, send an email to us at [frsergij@stgregoryofnyssa.net](mailto:frsergij@stgregoryofnyssa.net) or [frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com](mailto:frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com) *My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.* (Isaiah 56:7)

**Greek Catholic Union (Gcu) 2023 Art & Photo Contest:** This year's theme: "Invested in...Things that make us smile!" If you're 12 or younger, enter your artwork! Submission must be original on paper or art board (maximum size 12"X18"). Please include a short description of your art, name, age, address, phone number, and email on the back of your submission, and send it to: GCU Art Contest, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009. If you're age 13-UP enter your photo! Include a short description, name, age, address, phone number, and email with your submission. Photos that include identifiable people require a model release. The model release form is available for download at [GCUusa.com/events](https://GCUusa.com/events). Please email photos and model release forms to [events@GCUusa.com](mailto:events@GCUusa.com) and include Photo Contest as the subject. Please note: you must be a member of the GCU in order to participate in this contest. The deadline for submission is April 3, 2023! Good luck!

heard other harsh words – but she heard them, and at the same time she saw the face of Divine Love, addressing her.

And the Savior here, as in other cases, responds to faith with love and His power to heal, and mercifully save. "Woman! Your faith is great! Let it be according to your will." And at that hour her daughter recovered. Here we also see once again that there is no limit to God's compassion. He does not divide people into believers and non-believers, His own and strangers: for Him there are no strangers – all are His. But at the same time, He expects and demands from us not frivolous faith, but true faith. This we must learn from the Canaanite.

One man was very fond of frequenting cafes and getting drunk with his friends. Every time after a good drink, his conscience woke up and he repented, saying, "Forgive me, Lord." It happened time and time again. Satan looked and looked at all this, but then he could not stand it and asked God, "This man sins and repents, and then he sins again and You accept him every time after repentance." God answered, "If you, Satan, are ready to accept him after every sin, then I am all the more ready to accept him after repentance, because My mercy is much greater."

In ancient times, a master who made swords tempered them, and then beat them with full swing against a stone, testing their strength and fitness for battle. Thus, the Lord tested the great strength of faith of the Canaanite woman. The Holy Fathers say that here the daughter's body is our body, which is inflamed by passions. And when our passions rise so strongly against the soul, then we also become like the possessed.

John Listvychnyk teaches that in the virtue of humility, pride sinks with all its attachments, like a ship in the sea. A demon is a proud spirit that fears submission more than anything. And that is why humility is a great help in the spiritual struggle. Humility is the truth about yourself and about God. We have nothing of ourselves – everything we have comes from God: "Whatever you have, you have received" (1 Cor. 4:7). Anthony the Great claims that faith drives out demons, and obedience drives out devilish princes. Ephram the Syrian saw the various spiritual weapons of the saints in the fight against demons, but he is ready to choose humility. Humility alone saves a sinner, and without this virtue all virtues are small.

Dear believers! The example of the Canaanite woman reminds us of this important truth that Jesus helps us by the power of our faith. The more true and strong our faith is, the more Christ manifests his omnipotence, cleanses life from evil and fills each of us with good – truth and love.

## Schedule of Divine Services:

### SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

SUNDAY, Jan. 15, 2023

**Thirty-Second Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Our Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes and John the Hut-dweller**  
**Rest of the Blessed Bishop-Martyr Tit Liviu Chinezu**  
8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 18, 2023

**Our Holy Fathers Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria**  
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy for peace in the world and in our families,*  
*followed by Prayer of Supplication to the Most Holy Theotokos*

SUNDAY, Jan. 22, 2023

**Thirty-Third Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Sunday of Zaccheus**  
**The Holy Apostle Timothy**  
**The Holy Venerable-Martyr Anastasius the Persian**  
11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy*

### PATRONAGE CHURCH

SUNDAY, Jan. 15, 2023

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8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Lynne Glair as requested by*  
*Eileen Nawara*

Propers begin on Page 156

**All Souls Saturday:** The first of the five *All Souls Saturdays* of this year will be February 11. If you have any changes to make to your family's *Hramoty* please let us know by Sunday February 5, so your loved ones can be remembered.

**Patronage Church Parish Meeting:** Today January 15, we will be having our first parish meeting of the year along with a pot-luck luncheon. One of the items we would like to discuss is the much needed renovation of our social hall kitchen and bathrooms. If you have any other ideas you would like to suggest for our parish, we would love to also hear them.

**St. Gregory Church Parish Meeting:** On January 22, we will be having our first parish meeting of the year along with a pot-luck luncheon. A sign-up sheet is available in the hall. If you have any other ideas you would like to suggest for our parish, we would love to also hear them. Please mark your calendars, and we hope everyone can attend!

**Our Daily Bread Casseroles:** We are collecting Casseroles for Our Daily Bread in Baltimore on Sunday, January 22. Please mark your casserole with "Name of Casserole, Date Made and Patronage Church" on it. Recipes, pans and labels are located next to the stack of empty casserole pans in the basement at Patronage for you to pickup to take home to make your casserole. Our Daily Bread also accepts premade store bought, frozen Mac & Cheese trays (such as Stouffer's Macaroni & Cheese) if you are in a rush to make something. For questions, please email Mike Skovran or Lisaa Guba.

Again, thank you again for donating your time, supplies and talent to help those in need at Catholic Charities Our Daily Bread Mission.

**Dear believers!** As the mission of Patronage Church in Abingdon is closed from the beginning of this year, we will celebrate the last Divine Liturgy on Sunday 29th January at 3.00pm. We invite everyone who wishes to participate in the Divine Liturgy in the chapel of St. Francis. (St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church (Stone Chapel), 1450 Abingdon Road Abingdon, MD 21009). May the Merciful Lord grant many years of life to all those who supported the activity of our Byzantine Divine Liturgies in Abingdon!

**Patronage Church:** We are working on updating our parish records, and would like every family to complete a Parish Census 2023 form. This form can either be found on the shelf in the Narthex, next to the bulletins, or on our parish website. Please return your Parish Census 2023 form no later than Sunday, January 29th. You can either put your completed form in the collection basket, email it to our church ([patronage.church@gmail.com](mailto:patronage.church@gmail.com)), or mail it to the rectory. Thank you for your help!

**Patronage Church ECF:** We will resume our ECF meetings on The Sunday of Zacchaeus, January 22, 2023. Class will begin after the 9:00 Divine Liturgy. Parents and parishioners are always welcome to attend. For questions about the ECF program, please contact Loui Villanueva at [villanuevaluxmundi@yahoo.com](mailto:villanuevaluxmundi@yahoo.com).

**Poustinia: An Evening of Encounter and Hospitality In the Light of the Byzantine East.** Theosis, the Young Adult Ministry of the Eparchy of Passaic is sponsoring an event on January 28 at our church in Hillsborough, NJ. More information can be found on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/216749634344405/?ref=newsfeed>

### Thirty-second Sunday After Pentecost Homily

Dear brothers and sisters!

Today we listened to the Gospel story about the Canaanite woman, who was probably the only one of all who turned to Christ that was initially rejected by Him. She asked the Lord to heal her daughter, but Christ continued to walk on without even returning. But she ran after Him with shouts, begging Him to respond. He was silent. He was silent until the disciples said to Him, "Teacher, let her go, because she is crying out after us." Then the Lord returned to this pagan woman and said such words that we do not find anywhere else in the Gospel. He told her that she was a pagan, worshiping idols, and therefore could not receive the grace of healing.

However, this woman did not take offense, did not turn back, but continued to ask. And when the Lord told her strictly that He gives bread to children, that He cannot give bread to dogs, she objected, "Lord, even dogs eat crumbs that fall from the children's table." Then the Lord stopped and answered, "Woman, your faith is great. Go, your daughter will be healthy." Why did the Lord test her so? Of course, we cannot answer for Him. The secret of Christ's thoughts is hidden from us. We only know that He never refused anyone, not even pagans. There was a centurion in Capernaum, a Roman — He did not refuse him. On the contrary, He immediately praised this man, saying that even in Israel He did not find such faith, and then healed his servant.

Christ says, "I am not sent to everyone — I am sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel..." The Canaanite answers, "Lord! Help..." She does not respond to His remark that He is not sent to her; she simply believes that He will pity her; she does not argue; she does not claim, "How so — I am also a person!" No, she just believes. Jesus tests her faith once more. Of course, he knew this belief, and the Canaanite knew His insight. But the disciples probably had to measure the depth of faith of which the heathen was capable. He tells her, "It is not good to take bread from the children and give it to the dogs..." These words seem so cruel and merciless that you can understand them if you imagine the Savior who lowered his gaze — an attentive, thoughtful, compassionate gaze — to the raised eyes of this woman. She heard these words — as she had