

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: stgregorybyzath

Services live-streamed on Facebook

Pastor: Reverend Serhii Deiak

Email: frsergij@stgregoryofnyssa.net

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

Deacon: Deacon William (Bill) Szewczyk

Email: 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 / Office: (410) 247-4936

Pastor: Reverend Serhii Deiak

Email: 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

Next Liturgy: Saturday

February 4th, at 10am

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

Let Us Remember in Prayer: The people of Ukraine, that peace may be soon restored to their land.

Those who are ill or convalescing: Father Joseph Borodach, Rosemarie Pipta, 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. 22

Offertory: \$1111.00

Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Jan. 22

Offertory: \$1101.00

Tithe.ly: \$270.00

Initial offering: \$24.00

ECL: \$40.00

Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: Jan. 22

Offertory: \$225.00

Tithe.ly: \$19.00

Initial offering: \$8.00

Lector Signup: A signup sheet for lectors for Sunday's Divine Liturgies is on the table in the back of the hall. Please consider signing up for this important service. If you have never chanted the Epistle, the cantors will be happy to work with you to make you feel comfortable.

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 or frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com. *My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.* (Isaiah 56:7)

Tree of Sadness

At times when people in Hasidic communities complained about their misfortunes and difficult life trials, the mentors told them the story of the Tree of Sorrow.

"On the edge of one village grew a large tree, which everyone called the Tree of Sorrow. Every person was allowed to hang their troubles and misfortunes on it. When someone found a branch that could support their life burden, they hung it there. Then they went around the tree and chose another burden instead. However, after careful examination and walking around the Tree, it was found that each person found their own burden more lovely than the others. So eventually everyone took their own burden back. And everyone who brought their troubles to the Tree of Sorrow returned home wiser and calmer than they were before."

One of the important reasons for the failure of changes and reforms in our world is the lack of personal change in people. People want good, truth and justice, but they themselves do not want to be good and honest, living in truth and justice.

Dear believers! After listening to everything that was said today, we come to understand what our prayer should be, so that it is sweet to God and useful to us. Therefore, let the example of a good prayer be for us the publican who stood somewhere in the corner of the Holy Church, not even daring to raise his eyes. The Lord heard him and rewarded him: "I tell you: this one has returned to his house justified" (Lk. 18:14).



Schedule of Divine Services:
SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

SUNDAY, Jan. 29, 2023

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Translation of the Relics of the Bishop and Martyr Ignatius of Antioch
8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Anna Wroblewski and her family*

MONDAY, Jan. 30, 2023

Feast of the Three Holy Bishops: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom
The Holy Bishop-Martyr Hippolytus
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy followed by Mirovanije*

THURSDAY, Feb. 2, 2023

The Meeting of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ With Simeon and Anna
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy for peace in the world and in our families, followed by Prayer of Supplication to the Most Holy Theotokos and Mirovanije*

SUNDAY, Feb. 5, 2023

Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Postfestive Day of the Meeting
The Holy Martyr Agatha
11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*
11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy followed by Mirovanije*

PATRONAGE CHURCH

SUNDAY, Jan. 29, 2023

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Translation of the Relics of the Bishop and Martyr Ignatius of Antioch
11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*
11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Charity Sweeney as requested by Victor Haburchak*

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 1, 2023

The Meeting of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ With Simeon and Anna
5:00 PM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Charity Sweeney as requested by Victor Haburchak followed by Mirovanije*

SUNDAY, Feb. 5, 2023

Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Postfestive Day of the Meeting
8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +George and Margaret Helms as requested by Lisa and Rich Guba. followed by Mirovanije*
Propers begin on Page 125 followed by Page 215

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: This Sunday we begin our preparation for the Great Fast, which begins on the evening of February 19. From now until Holy Saturday the propers for each day will come from the book known as *The Triodion* ("three odes"). The week of *The Publican and Pharisee* is a fast-free week, so that when we begin the Great Fast we can fast with the proper attitude and not the pride of the Pharisee.

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.

St. Gregory ECF: Next Sunday we will have ECF after liturgy. The topic will be *Lent and the Triodion*. Jacob has asked those attending to review the material at <http://bit.ly/3R6tgV5>. The file titled *The Meaning of the Great Fast (excerpt from The Lenten Triodion, Mother Mary and Archmandrite Kallistos Ware)* is highly recommended, but not required reading.

Tax Statements: Those that wish to receive a charitable tax statement for the year 2022, please let us know by sending an email to either patronage.church@gmail.com or frsergij@stgregoryofnyssa.net, and add to the subject line, "Tax Statement."

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!

Ancient Faith Radio is a website with many useful resources for those wishing to deepen their understanding of our faith in the current age using modern methods such as podcasts, blogs, and ebooks. It can be found at <https://www.ancientfaith.com>.

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), or mail it to the rectory. Thank you for your help!

Today's Propers for St. Gregory: The page numbers for today's Divine Liturgy are in the green pew book as follows: Troparion, Prokeimenon and Alleluia - 125-7; Kontakion – 215; Cherubic Hymn – 42; Our Father - 66
We will be taking the "A" version of most hymns and prayers.

Sunday of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee Homily

Dear brothers and sisters!

You and I listened to the Gospel from Luke, in which the parable of the tax collector and the Pharisee is told. Two men came to the temple: the publican is a tax collector, a sinful and corrupt person. The Pharisee is a representative of a religious-political party that united people who were very concerned about their own piety.

This wonderful parable helps us to understand that there is good before God in the sphere of our inner, spiritual life. It doesn't matter to God what political party we belong to or how righteous we think we are, because God's judgment is not human judgment and God's assessment of our life is not our own assessment. The external piety of the Pharisee, which he scrupulously observed, considering himself a person worthy of God's condescension, turned out to be wrong. The Lord looked at the publican, a man who is more sinful than the Pharisee. The Lord chooses the image of a publican as an example of fallen humanity. Today we would call such a person a great sinner, and perhaps even a criminal. But in the inner life of this fallen, sinful man who stood before God in the temple, something happened that raised him above others.

The Apostle James reminds us: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). Sincerity and humility in prayer testify to the awareness that everything is a gift from God. God wants and is ready to help us, and for this we only need to believe as the publican did.

Saint John Chrysostom writes that the Pharisee was condemned not for fulfilling the Law, but for condemning another person. Condemnation is a sign of false piety. A person who truly lives in God's Law will never judge another because he or she sees their own sins first of all. A truly spiritual person in the place of a Pharisee, when seeing someone's sin, would not boast of their own righteousness, but would try to help their neighbor correct their sin. However, the Pharisee shuns the publican, considers him "subhuman", and therefore does not even want to communicate with him, which shows an example of false piety.

Sincerity in prayer should change ourselves first, and then our life. Sometimes we want quick, miraculous help from God, so that we can ask once and everything will be resolved by itself, without our personal involvement. The publican's prayer shows us that God changes our lives as we change ourselves; that is, we fill ourselves with patience and trust. There is no life change without personal change, without being able to allow God to work, because God's grace works on our lives through us.