

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 18th, 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. 29

Offertory: \$1114.00

Tithely: \$705.98

Initial Offering: \$2.00

Epiphany: \$50.00

ECL: \$12.00

Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Jan. 29

Offertory: \$1172.50

Tithe.ly: \$250.00

Initial offering: \$45.00

ECL: \$15.00

GCU Donation: \$5000.00

Abingdon Mission:

Stewardship: Jan. 29

Offertory: \$135.00

Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: Jan. 29

Tithe.ly: \$19.00

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

God made me half

“Tell me, who created you?” the priest asked the little boy. The little one thought for a moment, then raised his head and said, “Half of me was created by God.” “How so? What does ‘half’ mean?” “This means that God created me small, and I need to grow myself.” Growing yourself is a life task for everyone.

from a sinful dream. He was like a patient who recovers from a serious illness accompanied by loss of consciousness, suddenly coming to his senses with his conscience awakened.

St. John Chrysostom says: "God never rejects sincere repentance, even if anyone came to extreme viciousness, and then decides to return to the path of virtue again. God accepts, and does everything to bring the sinner to the former and even better condition."

The Teacher of Repentance, St. Ephraim the Syrian says, "Repentance is a holiday for God, because the sky calls for fun. Angels rejoice when repentance invites them to dinner."

It was through His unspeakable love that God came into the world and saved us from the curse of sin and death. So, "let's take advantage of the Savior's Treatment of Repentance, or better to say, let's get from God repentance that treats us. Because we do not bring him repentance, rather He gave it to us," says Great John Chrysostom.

Remember that the Lord, as a loving father, is ready to wash us again and again, to clean and raise us to the height from which we fall every time after united with Him. Whatever pig we are grazing in our heart, no matter what sinful passion we have, it can be overcome by God's help. And it can only be attracted by the awareness of your sin, recognizing before God our mistakes, recognizing before Him our unclean life, responding with repentance and conversion.

Dear believers! It is very important that each of us looks at ourself through the prism of Divine Revelation, through the prism of the Law of God, in order to see our sinfulness. The Apostle Paul writes that the Law of God is a mirror, revealing to each person our real situation.

Therefore, let us cry out to the Merciful Heavenly Father: "Lord, do not deprive us of Your heavenly blessings. Lord, deliver us from eternal torment; we have sinned by word or deed; forgive us; we as humans have sinned. You, as a Generous God, have mercy on us."



Schedule of Divine Services:
SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

SUNDAY, February 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*

WEDNESDAY, February 8, 2023

Post-festive Day of the Meeting
The Holy Great Martyr Theodore
The Holy Prophet Zechariah
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy for peace in the world and in our families, followed by Prayer of Supplication to the Most Holy Theotokos*

SATURDAY, February 11, 2023

First All-Souls Saturday
Memory of all the Faithful Departed
The Holy Martyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste
5:00 PM *Vespers followed by Panachida and the reading of the Hramoty/Diptych*

SUNDAY, February 12, 2023

Meatfare Sunday
Our Holy Father Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch
8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Nicholas G. Patchan as requested by Kathleen Patchan (10th anniversary)*

PATRONAGE CHURCH

SUNDAY, February 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*

SATURDAY, February 11, 2023

First All-Souls Saturday
Memory of all the Faithful Departed
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy followed by Panachida and the reading of the Hramoty/Diptych*

SUNDAY, February 12, 2023

Meatfare Sunday
11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*
11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy*

Propers begin on Page 130 followed by Pages 321 and 216

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

St. Gregory ECF: Today we will have ECF after liturgy. The topic will be *Lent and the Triodion*.

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."

St. Gregory Pot Luck: Our next pot luck lunch will be on Cheesefare Sunday, February 19. John Cahill will also have the first of a series of videos on the Apocrypha in Scriptures. A signup sheet will be in the hall. Please join us.

Patronage Pot Luck: Our next pot luck lunch will be on the First Sunday of the Fast, February 26. We will also have the first of a series of videos on the Apocrypha in Scriptures. Please join us.

An Invitation from Bishop Kurt: To all the clergy and faithful of the Eparchy of Passaic, the Eparchy of Parma, the Eparchy of Phoenix, and the Exarchy of Toronto: Mark your calendar for the Metropolitan Assembly of 2023. Your Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla is calling you to assemble.

When: November 2-5

November 2-3, Thursday through Friday evening especially for clergy

November 3-4-5, Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday especially for laity

Where: St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church Hillsboro, New Jersey

Theosis In Action & the Eparchy of Passaic Present: *Poustinia An Evening of Encounter and Hospitality In the Light of the Byzantine East*. Dates are February 25, March 25, & April 29 2023 7:00 - 10:00 pm Open to all young adults (18-35). For more information, contact: FatherTomByz@gmail.com or [facebook.com/theosisinaction](https://www.facebook.com/theosisinaction)

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: Volunteers are requested to stay today after the Divine Liturgy to pick up the Christmas decorations in our church.

Sunday of the Prodigal Son Homily

Dear brothers and sisters!

When parents raise children, they gradually accustom them to certain responsibilities, to an independent life. They teach them to speak, to walk, eat, use different things. In spiritual education, parents tell them about God, the church, to say their prayers, and teach them to participate in worship. When children reach adolescence, parents sometimes note that the child's behavior has changed and often ask why the child stopped being pious - praying little, rarely going to confession and Holy Communion, not wanting to go to the Divine Liturgy? The common reason for this behavior of children is the lack of understanding of the meaning of and the need for these responsibilities. The responsibilities that parents teach children are beneficial when parents also give their children an understanding of their importance, indicating their need for life. Therefore, during periods of certain changes in the behavior of children, it is necessary to speak to them, to explain to them the importance of Christian responsibilities, and to pray for the gift of understanding of Christian theology for their good education.

From the text of the Parable of The Prodigal Son we see that the prodigal son also went through a period of change. When he lived in his father's home, everything was well in his life, and when he decided to leave his home and start his own life, this attempt ended in a collapse for him.

The prodigal son, being in a foreign land, in extreme need and hunger, remembered that his parents' servants lived better than he now lived. And he returned to the house primarily from hunger and material need. But in the case of need and famine, he also understood his mistake, and felt the need for care of his parents. The care and love of his father and mother would give him a happy life, and that awareness became the spiritual motive of his conversion.

The holy fathers teach us that sinners, when attaching themselves to some object through seeking to satisfy sinful passions, are often brought to the most humiliating state. The sinner begins to "herd pigs", that is, serving the passions and lusts that are inspired by the spirits of supernatural malice, capturing the soul.

It was not by chance that Christ pointed out that this unfortunate man became a swineherd, because herding pigs was the most humiliating occupation for a true Jew, because the law of Moses despised pigs as unclean animals. By this, the Savior shows the extremely difficult condition of this sinner, since no one gave him even the corn husks with which pigs are fed. And this prodigal son came to his senses and realized his deplorable state, as if he woke up