

# 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: stgregorybyzcat

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 AND ABINGDON

### St. Francis Chapel

1450 Abingdon Road, Abingdon, MD 21009

**Pastor: Reverend Serhii Deiak**

**Contact:** Deacon Anthony and Theresa Kotlar:

(410) 734-6973 / [kotlar@alum.mit.edu](mailto:kotlar@alum.mit.edu)

**Next Liturgy: Sunday**

February 27th at 3pm

### 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**

February 19th, at 10am

For +William Cooley as requested by Richard Cooley

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

**Let Us Remember in Prayer:** Those who are ill or convalescing: 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, Andy Turian, Doris Ruszin, Anne Gupman, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Anna Martin, Marge Dulina, Georgianna Kostak, Betty Rankin, Sandra Suseck, and especially those who are afflicted with Covid-19.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician and Healer of souls and bodies, grant them peace and good health for many blessed years.

Please let Fr. Serhii or Fr. Deacon Bill know if there are names to be added or taken away from this list.

### St. Gregory Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2442387>) Feb. 6

Offertory: \$1220.00

Refreshments: \$28.00

Kolachi sales: \$70.00

ECL: \$60.00

### Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Feb. 6

Offertory: \$1631.00

Tithe.ly: \$195.00

### Abingdon Mission:

Stewardship: Jan. 30

Offertory: \$215

### Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: Feb. 5

Offertory: \$104.00

**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. We hope you will become an active part of our parish community. 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)

**Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic**  
**Fasting Regulations for the Great Fast 2022**

**Abstinence:**

- The law of Abstinence forbids the use of meat, permitting the use of eggs and dairy products.
- *All the faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to abstain.*
- Abstinence is to be observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays during the Holy Season of the Great Fast.

**Strict Abstinence:**

- The law of Strict Abstinence (Fast) forbids the use of meat, eggs, and dairy products.
- *All the adult faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to observe Strict Abstinence.*
- Strict Abstinence is to be observed on the First Day of the Great Fast, Pure Monday, February 28 and on Great and Holy Friday, April 15.

It is no coincidence that Christ pointed out that this unfortunate man had become a swineherd, for grazing pigs was the most humiliating occupation for a true Jew, for the law of Moses despised pigs as unclean animals. In this way, the Savior shows the extremely difficult condition of this man, because no one even gave him corn cobs to feed pigs. And this prodigal son came to his senses, realized his deplorable condition, and seemed to wake up from a sinful sleep and his conscience awoke. When he woke up, he saw and understood the gravity of his condition, and began to look for a way out of it. He thought, "I will get up, go to my father and say to him, 'Father! I have sinned before heaven and before you, and am no longer worthy to be called your son; accept me as one of your hirelings' "(Luke 15: 18-19). In these words we see an expression of deep humility and a sense of our unworthiness, which is always accompanied by a sincere repentance of the sinner and an expression of deep love for the father's house and consent to be accepted into parental homes, even in the most difficult conditions. St. John Chrysostom says, "God never rejects sincere repentance, but even if one reaches extreme depravity and then decides to return to the path of virtue, he accepts it and brings it closer to Himself and does everything to bring him to the former and even better condition." Saint Ephraim the Syrian, the teacher of repentance, says: "Repentance is a holiday for God, because Heaven also calls us to rejoice. Angels rejoice when repentance invites them to dinner." The famous Hollywood actor Robert De Niro once said brilliantly "There is nothing better than going back to where nothing has changed, to understand how much you have changed." This view, albeit not to the end of the Christian, illustrates very well the meaning of today's Gospel. Dear believers! Today's parable, of course, is not over. We would like to know what happened next, how the younger brother will behave, whether the older and younger brothers will reconcile, whether the older son will return home to share the joy with his father, or whether he remains uncompromising and angry. However, the Lord leaves us in a certain ignorance so that we can consider the continuation of this story and our place in it. There is no end to the parable, because each of us adds to it with his or her own life.

#### Important Upcoming Dates

Feb. 19, 2022	First All Souls Saturday
Feb. 20, 2022	Meatfare
Feb. 27, 2022	Cheesefare
Feb. 28, 2022	First Day of the Great Fast
Mar. 12, 2022	Second All Souls Saturday
Mar. 19, 2022	Third All Souls Saturday
Mar. 25, 2022	Feast of the Annunciation
Apr. 10, 2022	Palm/Flowery Sunday
Apr. 15, 2022	Good Friday
Apr. 17, 2022	Pascha/Easter

#### Schedule of Divine Services:

##### SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

SUNDAY, Feb. 13, 2022

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

**Our Venerable Father Martinian**

8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Nicholas Patchan as requested by Kathleen Patchan*

MONDAY, Feb. 14, 2022

**Our Venerable Father Auxentius**

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Michael and +Juliana Dolgash*

SATURDAY, Feb. 19, 2022

**First All-Souls' Saturday**

6:00 PM *Vespers followed by Panachida and the reading of the Hramoty*

SUNDAY, Feb. 20, 2022

**Meatfare Sunday**

**Our Venerable Father Leo, Bishop of Catania**

**Our Holy Father Agathon, Pope of Rome**

10:00 AM *Matins*

11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy*

##### PATRONAGE CHURCH

SUNDAY, Feb. 13, 2022

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*

11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Paul Ruszin as requested by Daniel Dinko*

TUESDAY, Feb. 15, 2022

**The Holy Apostle Onesimus**

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Rev. Conan Timoney as requested by Sean Albert*

FRIDAY, Feb. 18, 2022

**Our Holy Father Leo, Pope of Rome**

*Divine Liturgy in memory of +Rev. Conan Timoney as requested by Sean Albert*

SATURDAY, Feb. 19, 2022

**First All-Souls' Saturday**

4:00 PM *Divine Liturgy followed by Panachida and the reading of the Hramoty/Diptychs*

SUNDAY, Feb. 20, 2022

**Meatfare Sunday**

8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Eugene, +Elizabeth, +Eugene and +Paul Kakalec as requested by the Kakalec Family*

Propers begin on Tone Four, page 146, then page 216

**Memory of the Faithful Departed:** As Catholics we are baptized into the death of Christ so that we might share in His Resurrection (Rom 6:3-4), therefore it is appropriate to remember the faithful departed in the time surrounding the celebration of His Death and Resurrection. The Church sets aside five Saturdays, one before the Fast, three during the Fast, and one before Pentecost, for us to pray in a special way for the departed.

It is important for all of us to pray for the remission of the sins and the mercy of God for the departed since, one day, we will join them and be in need of the prayers of the living as well. Please make an effort to attend one All Souls Saturday this year.

The first All Souls Saturday is this Saturday, February 19. Divine Liturgy followed by *Panachida* will be celebrated at Patronage Church at 4 PM. Vespers followed by *Panachida* will be celebrated at St. Gregory Church at 6 PM.

**Synod on Synodality:** In October of 2021, Pope Francis announced a two-year process of listening and dialogue in the Catholic Church. His wish is that the voices of *all* the faithful be heard during this time. Therefore, he has instructed every bishop to establish a process to collect the concerns of the people in their diocese. Bishop Kurt has just issued instructions and a timeline for the Eparchy of Passaic. We will be implementing those instructions in the coming weeks. Please stay tuned.

**Tax Statements:** A sign-up sheet is available for those who wish a charitable tax statement for the year 2021. For those people in the missions who wish to receive a statement, please send an email to [frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com](mailto:frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com) with the subject "Tax Statement."

**Catechetical Resources:** God With Us On Line has resources for at home catechetical enrichment. Just go to <https://godwithusonline.org/catechetical-resources/ruthenian/> and click on the appropriate Sunday.

**Image & Likeness:** On Wednesday, February 23, God With Us Online will present a one night presentation on St. John of Damascus and the Holy Icons. The Rev. Nathan Symeon Adams will be the speaker.

**Service Projects:** Patronage is planning to undertake some new service projects in the coming year. Among those being considered are:

1. Collecting canned food for a **food pantry**. Looking at donating to Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church's food pantry. They serve a mostly Hispanic population that has been affected by the Coronavirus.
2. Collecting toiletry items & snacks for **Little Sisters of the Poor** for their patients. We have been doing this for over 10 years.
3. Collecting religious items, toiletry items & used men's clothes for seafarers, **Apostleship of the Sea in Baltimore (ministry of Baltimore Catholic Archdiocese)** focus is on seafarers from around the world – the Philippines, Ukraine, India, Bulgaria, China.

We are proposing to only support one group every month or two.

Sunday of the Prodigal Son Homily

Dear brothers and sisters!

Today's Sunday "about the prodigal son" brings us closer again and prepares us for Lent. Holy Mother Church calls everyone to repentance, reminding us that in the case of true humility and repentance, the Lord, as a loving Father, opens to us the embrace of His mercy and forgives the gravest sins.

The parable of the prodigal son or good Father, as it is sometimes called, is a lesson in repentance. It is a story of repentance preceded by decline, repentance preceded by sin. This is a story about a son who, due to his own carelessness, leaves the house of love, the Father's house. It is a touching description of parental love, hope and expectation, which cannot be logically explained, but simply makes you think – think about God and think about yourself.

However, it should be noted that at the very beginning of the story the son demands from his father his share of the estate, which, of course, should greatly offend the father. But something completely different is happening. There is no description of the offended father, but there is a simple statement of fact: "And the father divided the property between them" (Luke 15:12). Each of the sons received his share of the estate, to which they had little to contribute. What does this indicate? Nothing but the love and trust of the Father.

Running away from home does not bring happiness, but only sadness and hunger. The property all went to waste, the departing son's friends disappeared, he himself was forced to go to work, but the owner did not care about him: (Luke 15:16).

The Holy Fathers teach us that every sinner, when attached to some object through which he satisfies his sinful passion, often brings himself to the most humiliating state. He begins to "feed the pigs," that is, as if a slave serves the passions and lusts that are inspired by the spirits of the wickedness and captivate the soul.