

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

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 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

Next Liturgy: Sunday

March 13th 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

Next Liturgy: Saturday

March 5th, 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: 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, 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. 20

Offertory: \$2878.00

Refreshments: \$28.00

ECL: \$48.00

Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Feb. 13

Offertory: \$140.00

Tithe.ly: \$240.00

Stewardship: Feb. 20

Offertory: \$1096.00

Tithe.ly: \$240.00

Abingdon Mission:

Stewardship: Feb. 13

Offertory: \$59.00

Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: Feb. 19

Offertory: \$100.00

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 or 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.

This passage from the Book of Isaiah, although written several hundred years before Christ, seems to explain his words. In today's Gospel, Christ points to the signs of God-pleasing fasting: it is combined with prayer and finds its authentic expression in almsgiving. Fasting, like prayer and almsgiving, is the foundation on which our relationship with God and our neighbor is based. Jesus emphasizes that their practice should be sincere, without hypocrisy, so as not to devalue fasting as the scribes and Pharisees do.

Unfortunately, in today's world, we often forget that material things are gifts from God. That is why we read in the Gospels that we should look for the "true treasure" to which neither moths, nor worms, nor thieves can reach. This treasure is the one that does not accumulate for itself, but is given to the needy, because "he who does good to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his good deeds" (Prov 19:17). In the Book of Sirach we read: "Lock alms in your storerooms - it will save you from all misfortune" (Sir 29, 11-12). And the Apostle Paul taught, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

The coming of Christ, the Savior of the world, to earth opens again the door to paradise for all who follow him. And the Church, showing us the beauty of the Kingdom of God, encourages all of us to go this easy way to the heavenly Motherland. This path is first and foremost a path of sincere repentance and purification. Without repentance there is no purification, and without purification there is no salvation. The publican was justified by repentance, the sinner was forgiven through repentance, repentance opened the gates of heaven to the prudent robber, and the repentance of the Apostle Peter restored him to apostolic dignity.

Dear believers! As we enter Lent, let us try to be patient with one another. Let us refrain not only from meat dishes, but also from sins. Enmity between us is created by sin, which must be fought.

"Forgive and experience peace," Saint John Paul II said the following in one of his messages, urging all people of good will to seek peace on the path of forgiveness. He says, "I am fully aware that forgiveness can seem contrary to human logic, which often yields to the dynamics of conflict and revenge. But forgiveness is inspired by the logic of love, that love which God has for every man and woman, for every people and nation, and for the whole human family."

Important Upcoming Dates

Feb. 28, 2022	First Day of the Great Fast
Mar. 5, 2022	Clean-up Day St. Gregory
Mar. 5, 2022	Holupki Making Patronage
Mar. 12, 2022	Second All Souls Saturday

Schedule of Divine Services:

SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

SUNDAY, Feb. 27, 2022

Cheesefare Sunday

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the Decapolite

8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy for the health and salvation of **Nicholas M. Patchan** as requested by Kathy Patchan*

WEDNESDAY, Mar. 2, 2022

The Holy Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrene

6:00 PM *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts*

SUNDAY, Mar. 6, 2022

First Sunday of the Great Fast

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Memory of the Holy Prophets

The Holy Forty-Two Martyrs of Ammorium

10:00 AM *Matins*

11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy*

PATRONAGE CHURCH

SUNDAY, Feb. 27, 2022

Cheesefare Sunday

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the Decapolite

11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*

11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of **+Hank Zabka** as requested by Rich and Lisa Guba*

FRIDAY, Mar. 4, 2022

Our Venerable Father Gerasimus of the Jordan

6:30 PM *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts in memory*

*of **+Rev. Conan Timoney** as requested by Sean Albert*

SUNDAY, Mar. 6, 2022

First Sunday of the Great Fast

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the Decapolite

8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of **+Hank Zabka** as requested by Anna Esquela and family*

Propers begin on Tone Seven, page 156, then page 218

Pure Week: The first week of the Great Fast is known as *Pure Week*, a chance to enter into the Fast with a true spirit of repentance with fasting and prayer. This year it takes on special importance since Pope Francis has declared this Wednesday, March 2, to be a day of *Prayer and Fasting for Peace in Ukraine*. Let us join our prayers with those of the Church and ask that through the intercession of Blessed Theodore Rhomzha and all the New Martyrs of Ukraine that peace and stability be restored to their country.

Cheesefare Liturgy and Dinner: Today Patronage Church will have a Slavonic liturgy at 11:15 am. There will be a luncheon in the parish hall immediately following the liturgy. As this is Cheesefare Sunday, this will be a meatless meal, with pirohi, haluski (a gluten-free option will be available), salad with dressing, rolls and butter, beverages, and kolachi. Please join us for some fellowship and a pre-Lenten meal! The faithful from our mission churches are especially invited to attend.

There will be no liturgy at the Abingdon mission next Sunday because of this event.

Clean-up Day at St. Gregory: The winter has brought its usual gift of down branches and other debris to our property at St. Gregory. Next Saturday, March 5, we will have a clean-up day beginning at 9:30 to get the grounds ready for the Spring.

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.

Food Pantry: Patronage will be collecting food items that we will be donating to Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church's food pantry. A box will be put in the back of church for donations. We will collect items and will deliver the donations on March 27th.

Items requested: They can only accept: nonperishable goods, which have a long shelf life and do not require refrigeration.

Items in need: Canned fruits, canned meats (spam, chicken etc.), canned pasta (ravioli etc), rice, sugar, dried fruits, nuts, feminine hygiene products, reusable grocery bags

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.

The Patronage Ethnic Food Festival is fast approaching and we will be needing volunteers for several dates to make this a success. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for as many of the following dates as possible in order to keep this wonderful event alive and well. We are planning to return to a traditional festival for this event!

- Saturday March 5 at 9 am Holupki making and envelope stuffing/labeling
- Wednesday April 6 at 9 am Kolachi making
- Friday April 8 at 9 am Festival Preparation
- Saturday April 9 Festival. 10 am-2 pm

Anyone who has questions can contact Mary Demyan at mdemya1@verizon.net or 410-591-5654.

Sunday of Cheese-Fare

Dear brothers and sisters!

Today's Sunday in the Church calendar is called Cheese-Fare, and tomorrow Lent begins, which spiritually prepares us for the Bright Resurrection of Christ. On this day, the Gospel of the Sermon on the Mount is read at the liturgy in churches, and Christians have a pious custom of asking each other for forgiveness of sins. We learn how important this virtue is from the Lord's prayer, "Our Father ... Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us," we pray daily, even several times a day. Christ emphasizes forgiveness to emphasize the sincerity of the words of man in prayer to God the Father.

Jesus emphasizes that fasting should be addressed only to God and should not be manifested in front of others by any outward signs. The deep meaning of fasting is to humble oneself before God in order to enter into a deeper relationship with him, to accept his forgiveness, his grace. Jesus presents his teaching on fasting as the fulfillment of the Law and the prophets. In the biblical sense, fasting is first and foremost a manifestation of conversion to God and obedience to his will. Then the prophets' criticism of fasting becomes clear, as it often becomes formal (only the refusal to eat) and their call to true fasting, which consists in righteous deeds and brotherly love (Is 58: 1-12; Zech. 7: 5-10). Let us listen to these words of the prophet Isaiah: "Yea, on the day of fasting you do your work, you oppress all your laborers. You fast to quarrel and quarrel and pound mercilessly. You are not fasting today so that your voice can be heard in heaven. Do I like this fast, the day when someone kills himself? Bow your head like a cane, a sack, and lay the ashes under you. Do you call it fasting and a day pleasing to the Lord? Here is the fast I love: to break the shackles of injustice, to untie the shackles of the helm, to release the oppressed, to break every yoke, to share your bread with the hungry, to bring the poor, the homeless into the house, to see the naked, to clothe him, to clothe him. Then you will cry, and the Lord will answer, you will shout, and he will say: - here I am! When thou shalt cast out thy oppression from the midst of thee, thou shalt cease to threaten with thy finger, and to speak wickedly."