

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

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

April 10th 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

April 2nd, 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: Suzanne Krofchik, Mary Jane Bodner, 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>) Mar. 13

Offertory: \$1188.00

Refreshments: \$5.00

Patronage Church:

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

Offertory: \$1435.00

Tith.ly: \$60.00

Covid Update: The indoor mask requirement has been lifted for both Prince Georges and Baltimore County. People may continue to wear masks during services, if they desire, but it is not required. We ask that everyone continues to follow good public health guidelines, regardless.

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.

Looking at the holy cross, we see Jesus, not only crucified, nailed to a tree, but Jesus, who out of love for us sacrificed His life to give us eternal life. The Savior's outstretched arms on the cross are an invitation to all people to come to Him, to trust in His fatherly arms.

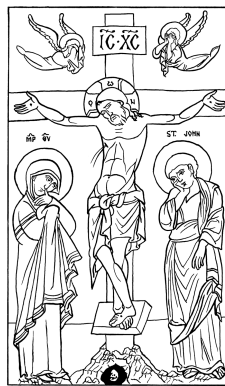
The Holy Fathers teach that God gives us the cross, and the cross reveals God to us, gives us the knowledge of His life. It is through the Lord's cross that a new knowledge of good and evil is revealed to us. As Adam in paradise wished to become God, he wished to build his life without the Creator, Who gave him this life, and because of this prohibition Adam was put to death and this death spread to all mankind. Thus, the Scriptures continue to encourage us:

"Through the transgression of one many have died... through the grace of one man, Jesus Christ, the grace of God has been generously poured out on many." Because of one man's disobedience, many people have become sinners, so because of one man's obedience, many people will become righteous" (Romans 5: 15-19).

Gregory the Theologian teaches that all that happened on the cross, all this was the redemption of what happened in paradise as a result of the Fall. The cross tree becomes a symbol of paradise; hands outstretched on the cross - hands that stretched to the tree of knowledge of good and evil; the crown of thorns - becomes a symbol of evil rule; tasting of bile and vinegar - symbolizes illegal tasting of the forbidden fruit...

The Holy Fathers teach us: "Look at the three crosses: the cross of the Savior, the cross of the prudent thief who cried out to Christ: "Jesus! Remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23: 41-42); and the cross of a foolish robber, for whom the cross did not become a sign of salvation because he mocked God. And the whole human race carries crosses in life. However, for some who trust in God's help, they represent salvation, and for others, who constantly complain about their lives, they do not become salvation at all.

Dear believers! Following the example of the good thief who was crucified next to Christ, let us repeat his words to Jesus: "Remember me, Lord, when you come into your kingdom!"



Schedule of Divine Services:

SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

SUNDAY, Mar. 20, 2022

Third Sunday of the Great Fast
Veneration of the Holy Cross
Our Venerable Fathers of the St. Sabbas Monastery,
killed by Saracens (796)
 10:00 AM *Matins*
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy*

WEDNESDAY Mar. 23, 2022

Mid-Lent.
The Holy Venerable-Martyr Nikon and his students martyred with him
Our Holy Mother Rafka
 6:00 PM *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts*

FRIDAY Mar. 25, 2022

–Solemn Holy Day–
Annunciation of the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

SUNDAY, Mar. 27, 2022

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast
Memory of Our Holy Father John Climacus
Our Venerable Mother Matrona of Thessalonica
 8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

PATRONAGE CHURCH

SUNDAY, Mar. 20, 2022

Third Sunday of the Great Fast
Veneration of the Holy Cross
 8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Deacon Robert Keeley as requested by Marilyn Colley followed by Panachida for All the Faithful Departed*

FRIDAY Mar. 25, 2022

–Solemn Holy Day–
Annunciation of the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary
 6:30 PM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Rev. Conan Timoney as requested by Sean Albert*

SUNDAY, Mar. 27, 2022

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast
Memory of Our Holy Father John Climacus
 11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Rev. Conan Timoney as requested by Sean Albert*

The Feast of the Annunciation: Without the Word of God taking flesh in the womb of the Mother of God, we humans could never enter into Heaven. That is why the icon of the Annunciation is always present on the Royal Doors of the Icon Screen, and why the Feast of the Annunciation is always celebrated with great solemnity, even if it falls on Great and Holy Friday, as it did in 2016, or on Pascha, as it will in 2035.

The Annunciation is also closely tied to the death of Jesus, since, according to an ancient tradition, men of great significance die on the anniversary of their conception. According to the Gospel of John, Jesus was crucified at the same time the lambs for the Passover meal were being slain. That would be 10 *nisan* on the Hebrew calendar. It was later determined that in the year Jesus died, 10 *nisan* would have corresponded to March 25 on the Roman calendar. Therefore, that day was chosen to mark the Annunciation as well.

Special Collection for Ukraine: Metropolitan William has authorized a special collection for the relief of the victims of the war in Ukraine be taken up throughout the Metropolia. Starting today and for the next two Sundays, parishioners are encouraged to remember our brothers and sisters in need. Checks should be made out to your respective parish with the memo "For Ukraine." A single check from each parish will then be forwarded to the Eparchy after the collection.

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. We will be holding in each church over the next two weeks.

- **March 27** Patronage Church: Potluck dinner and discussion after liturgy. There will be no liturgy in Abingdon on this day.
- **April 3** St. Gregory of Nyssa: Potluck dinner and discussion after liturgy

This is a very special time for the Church. Please make an effort to attend.

A Very Sincere Thank You to Maryanna and William Fournier, who donated \$ 2,000 to Fr. Serhii's family in Ukraine. May the Merciful Lord grant William and Maryanna long and blessed years of life.

Orthodox Scholars Preach: The Orthodox Christian Studies Center is pleased to present the 2022 installment of the Speaker Series: Orthodox Scholars Preach. Every week until Pascha, a different Orthodox Scholar will release a new 10-minute video. This Series provides a platform for Orthodox scholars to reflect on the spiritual themes of each Sunday's liturgical calendar while drawing on their expertise. Last year's and this year's videos can be found on their website <https://shrtnu.org/5XTz>

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.

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!

- 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.

3rd Sunday of Lent Homily

Dear brothers and sisters!

On the third Sunday of Lent, our Church honors the Holy Cross of the Lord. Together with the cross, we honor Jesus Christ himself, who sanctified this sign with his sufferings and made it a powerful means of sanctification and salvation for Christians. Contemplating the cross of the Lord, it appears before us first of all as an extraordinary source of God's sacrificial love, which saved people from the bondage of sin and eternal damnation, as a source of spiritual strength. Coming to church today, we see the Cross of the Lord placed in the middle of the temple, and on it the Crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ. At Golgotha, our Lord and God Jesus Christ suffered, taking upon Himself the sins of the whole world. All the earthly life of our Lord was a continuous feat of love, but on Golgotha it shone with such a strange, divine light, before which even the sun shone. He is nailed to the cross innocently, and He begs His Heavenly Father at this time, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Before His crucifixion, Jesus Christ told his disciples, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

This Sunday we sing: "We bow to Your Cross, Lord..." With this song we honor the sufferings that Jesus endured for our sanctification and salvation.