



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: stgregorybyzcath

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

May 8th 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

May 7th, at 10am

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

Let Us Remember in Prayer: the soul of **+Rev. Deacon Basil Soroka** who fell asleep in the Lord at 7AM on the exceedingly Bright and Saving Day of Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022. He was deacon at St Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Wilkes Barre, PA where the Very Reverend Michael Kerestes is Pastor. Deacon Basil was ordained to the Order of Deacon on June 23, 2007 at St Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Wilkes-Barre, PA by +Bishop Andrew Pataki. He is survived by his wife, Christine, as well as his daughters, Christine and Karen, and their families.

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>) Apr. 10

Offertory: \$886.00

Tithe.ly: \$125.00

Lent: \$25.00

Easter: \$1630.00

Easter Flowers: \$20.00

Kolachi sales: \$745.00

Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Apr. 10

Offertory: \$896.00

Tithe.ly: \$295.00

Easter: \$1330.00

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)

O Christ, you abolished the curse of the tree by Your Cross; You have destroyed the power of Death by your Burial, and You have enlightened the world by Your Resurrection. Therefore we cry out to You: O God and Benefactor, glory be to You!

O Lord, the gates of Death opened before You in defeat, and the gatekeepers of Hades were filled with dread at the sight of you. You smashed the gates of brass and crushed the posts of iron. Then You burst our chains asunder and led us out from the darkness, away from the shadow of death.

Christ descended into the Abyss and announced to those confined there: Take courage, for today I have conquered Death. In the Resurrection, the One who will set you free. I have shattered the gates of the realm of Death. [Lamp-lighting Sticheri from Bright Week]

given to people not through feelings or through some inference of reason, but through the action of all the spiritual forces that are in human nature. Saint Filaret (Drozdov) says: "Faith begins in the mind, although it belongs to the heart." That is, in order for us to understand this, faith in each of us is manifested both through the mind and through the heart, because the heart itself becomes the center of all our sensations. From this we can see that faith is a kind of result of aspiration and interaction of all spiritual forces of the person: reason, feelings and will. St. John Chrysostom says: "Believing in Christ is a very important thing and for this you need to have not only the human mind, but also revelation from above." Also, the teacher of the Church of Chrysostom says: "faith is the anchor of a rebellious nature; it is the quiet haven of mankind; it is a clear mirror of the invisible; it is the best teacher about the Holy Trinity." The celebration of the eighth day after Easter, as the end of the celebrations of Holy Week, has long been considered a separate holiday. The theme of the services of this feast, as well as the week following it, is the Gospel event, describing the appearance of Jesus Christ on the eighth day after the Resurrection and the moving conversion and confession of faith of St. Thomas the Apostle. On the significance of the celebration of this holiday, St. Gregory the Theologian (d. 389) in his speech on St. Thomas Sunday says: Was it not the day of renewal and the first resurrection day that came after the sacred and light-bearing night? Why do we give this name to today? That (that is, Easter) was the day of salvation, and this was the day of remembrance of salvation. That day separates burial and resurrection, and this day is the day of a completely new birth... Today we celebrate the real renewal, passing from death to life. So get rid of the old man and renew yourself and live a new life."

In his homily on St. Thomas Sunday, St. John Chrysostom praises the apostolic work of the Apostle Thomas: By his preaching St. Thomas traveled almost the whole earth, not afraid to preach the word of God to fierce, savage and bloodthirsty nations. And legend has it that the holy apostle Thomas died a martyr for the faith of Christ in India.

Upcoming Dates for Patronage:

April 27: The 54th anniversary of the marriage of Eric and Joann Schittl
 May 15: The 50th anniversary of the marriage of Bill and Dana Tomcanin
 May 22: Baptism for Isla Alexandra, child of Alexandra and Jonathan Mariotti
 June 19: Baptism for Elliot Isaiah, child of Claudia and Greg Hrinda
 July 20: The birthday of Anna Esquela

Christ is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

Schedule of Divine Services:

SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

SUNDAY, Apr. 24, 2022 **Thomas Sunday**
 8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

SUNDAY, May 1, 2022 **Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women**
The Holy Prophet Jeremiah
The Passing of Blessed Clement Sheptyckyj (1951)
 10:00 AM *Matins*
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy*

PATRONAGE CHURCH

SUNDAY, Apr. 24, 2022 **Thomas Sunday**
 11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy*

SATURDAY, Apr. 30, 2022 **Thomas Week**
The Holy Apostle James, Brother of John the Theologian
 1:00 PM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Hank Zabka as requested by Andrea Scochin*

SUNDAY, May 1, 2022 **Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women**
The Holy Prophet Jeremiah
The Passing of Blessed Clement Sheptyckyj (1951)
 8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Rev. Conan Timoney as requested by Sean Albert*

Propers begin on 175

ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕСЕ! ВОИСТИНУ ВОСКРЕСЕ!

The Great Fifty Days: After 40 days of fasting and penance we are now in the Great Fifty Days (*Pentecost*) of the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection. This 50-day celebration culminates in the *Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit*.

During the period of Pentecost there is **no kneeling** during any Liturgical Services. The time of penance and fasting the Great Fast is over. As a jubilant symbol of the Resurrection of Christ we stand throughout the Divine Services to the extent that we are able. Further, we also stand whenever "Christ is risen / Christos voskrese" is sung. If you are unable to stand for longer periods of time, please feel free to be seated, but please **do not kneel** during the celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection.

All of Bright Week is one continuous celebration of Pascha, so there is no fasting during this week.

Parish Potlucks: Patronage Church will have its next potluck lunch today, Sunday, April 24 (St. Thomas Sunday) following the liturgy. This will be a potluck lunch, with the parish providing holupki. There will be no liturgy at the Abingdon Mission that day.

The next potluck for St. Gregory Church will be next week Sunday, May 1 (Sunday of the Myrrhbearers) following liturgy.

Please plan to bring a dish and join us for an afternoon of food and fellowship!

Charitable Outreach: Patronage will be continuing to participate in donating Casseroles for "Our Daily Bread", a Catholic Charities facility in Baltimore which serves 250,000 hot meals each year to homeless and needy persons. Our Daily Bread relies on churches to help with this important mission by supplying premade casseroles. The casseroles are due May 15th.

How it works:

- If you are able to donate your time, ingredients and supplies (pans will be available at Patronage in the kitchen) you would take pans home and prepare the casseroles per the recipes supplied
- Please use ½ size aluminum pan, which is 10x12 inches and 2 9/16 inches deep.
- The casseroles need to be dropped off at Patronage (put in the freezer at Patronage) and then they will be delivered (frozen) to Our Daily Bread
- Please Cover the tray completely with aluminum foil and FREEZE – (NO plastic wrap)
- Write the Name of Casserole (i.e. Zippy Beef), Patronage and Date on a label and place on foil

The recipes are listed in the attached PDF- please don't substitute.

<http://www.catholiccharities-md.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/casserolerecipes.pdf>

For questions, please contact Mike Skovran or Lisa Guba.

Easter Flowers: The flowers donated for Easter at Patronage may be picked up today after liturgy. Any flowers that remain will be planted around the church property.

Föltámadt Krisztus! Valóban föltámadt!

St. Thomas Sunday

Dear brothers and sisters!

Thomas Sunday is a remembrance of the second meeting of Jesus Christ with the Apostles, where the door was locked because the disciples were still afraid of the Jews. The Apostle Thomas was not present at the first meeting. Jesus enters the disciples' room through a locked door and says, "Peace be with you! As the Father sent me, so I send you ... You will receive the Holy Spirit" And He gives the disciples the power to forgive sins. At the second meeting, he approaches Thomas, who previously did not believe what the other disciples were relating, and Thomas challenges them three times: "If I don't see, if I don't put my finger in the wound and if I don't put my hand in it, I won't believe it." Jesus answers all three of Thomas' challenges: "Put your finger here and look at my hands. And stretch out your hand and put it in my side. And don't be an unbeliever, but a believer!" Then Thomas confesses his faith, saying, "My Lord and my God!" And Jesus answered, "Seeing me, you believe. Blessed are those who have not seen, but have believed."

Later, the first Christian community had one heart and one soul; and they were in unison in prayer and in the breaking of bread. The apostles witnessed with great power the resurrection of Christ and were very dear to all (cf. Acts 4: 32-35). "Many signs and wonders were done by the hands of the Apostles among the people. The sick were taken out into the street and laid on beds and sleeping mats so that, as Peter would pass, his shadow would fall on some of them and they would all recover" (Acts 5:15). The members of the first Christian communities came out of those meetings joyful, in brotherly love, ready even to give their lives for the faith in Jesus Christ.

Our knowledge in life, as a rule, is supported by certain experience that we gain on our own. It is no coincidence that the Lord associates faith with bliss, because faith, unlike knowledge, is