

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 22th 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 21st, at 10am

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

Let Us Remember in Prayer: The soul of **+Rev. Robert Jones** of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh who fell asleep in the Lord this past week. Fr. Robert was pastor of St. Mary Church in Weirton, WV.

The people of Ukraine, that peace may be soon restored to their land.

Those who are ill or convalescing: Michael Fitzgibbon, 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>) May 8

Offertory: \$1920.00

Tithe.ly: \$193.90

Ascension: \$30.00

Easter: \$50.00

Kolachi sales: \$75.00

Seminary: \$100.00

Refreshments: \$25.00

Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2442387>) May 8

Offertory: \$1333.00

Hagerstown:

Stewardship: \$252.00

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. [Lamplighting Sticheri from Bright Week]

At the end of today's Gospel reading, we hear the words, "Look at the fields, for they are ready for the harvest, and the reapers are few" (John 4:35). Unfortunately, these words apply to each of us, let's look around. What will we see? Are we not afraid of the thought that there are so many of us Christians, and the word of God is dying among us, love for God and each other is fading, faith is disappearing, hatred and enmity reign around us? Unfortunately, the Word of God, which is so loud in our temples - fades so quickly. It sounds loud - and so quietly, almost imperceptibly, disappears, leaving no trace. How many people around us seek to hear the words of truth, seek to feel the words of hope, words of love, words of faith, seek to meet the living witnesses of Christ?

St. Francis was such a witness to God's mercy. One day he left the monastery and met a fellow monk named Juniper, who was an extremely simple and kind man. St. Francis asks him, "Brother, where are we going to preach?" And the brother answers, "You know I didn't study; I never went to school, how can I preach?" But because Francis insisted, the brother went with St. Francis, they walked around the city, praying quietly for all those who worked in shops and gardens, smiled at children, especially the poorest, exchanged a few words with the elderly, stopped at the sick, and helped one woman carry heavy buckets of water. After walking around the city streets several times, St. Francis says: "It's time to return to the monastery." And the brother asks, "And when shall we preach?" "Today we have been preaching all day with our deeds," Francis replies.

May St. Francis and this brother, St. Juniper, be an example of the need to proclaim the Gospel first of all by your example, your spiritual and material gifts.

When the Samaritan woman heard from Christ the words that touched her soul, spilled into this sinful, wounded soul, as living water penetrates the parched land of the desert, she left everything; she forgot everything, she forgot why she came to the well; she hurried to the city to share the miracle with its inhabitants: she met the One in whom she saw the Messiah, the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ! And what she said and what happened to her was such a great miracle that people believed her words.

Dear believers! We need to think about our role in our salvation. We are all invited to worship God in Spirit and Truth. May the wells of our hearts always be full of living water, Christ's truth and love, and may the Lord help us to share this truth and love generously with others in need.

The Patronage Parish is planning a hike!

- Youth, families, and friends are welcome to attend.
- Will take place Saturday, May 28th (Rain date June 4th)
- Currently 3 proposals, Patapsco State Park, South Mountain, or Harpers Ferry, one will be chosen by Sunday May 22nd.
- Contact Jeremy Romanik Romano at zasderjjrr123@gmail.com for more information.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

Schedule of Divine Services:

SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

SUNDAY, May 15, 2022
Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
Post-festive Day of Mid-Pentecost
Our Venerable Father Pachomius the Great
Our Venerable Father Isaiah the Wonderworker, Bishop of Rostov
 11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy*

WEDNESDAY, May 18, 2022
Leave-taking (Otdanije) of Mid-Pentecost
The Holy Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra
The Holy Martyrs Peter, Dionysius and their Companions
The Holy Seven Virgins
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy followed by recitation of the Holy Rosary*

SUNDAY, May 22, 2022
Sunday of the Man Born Blind
The Holy Martyr Basiliscus
The Holy and Righteous Melchisedek, King of Salem
 8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

PATRONAGE CHURCH

SUNDAY, May 15, 2022
Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
 8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy for the 50th anniversary of the marriage of **Bill and Dana Tomcanin***

FRIDAY, May 20, 2022
The Holy Martyr Thaleleus
 10:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Rev. Conan Timoney as requested by Sean Albert*

SUNDAY, May 22, 2022
Sunday of the Man Born Blind
The Holy Martyr Basiliscus
 11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy and baptism of **Isla Alexandra**, child of Alexandra and Jonathan Mariotti*

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 Decent 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.

Ecumenism as a Peace Movement: The Case of Ukraine On Friday, May 20, the Washington Theological Consortium will sponsor a discussion at St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral on how Christian churches can stand together to witness and work for peace. The speakers for this event will be Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, Bishop John Michael Botean of the Romanian Greek Catholic Eparchy of St. George in Canton, OH, and the Archpriest Andriy Dudchenko (via online) Rector, Cathedral of the Transfiguration Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Kyiv. The evening will begin at 6:00 PM with a *Panachida* service for those who have died in the war. To attend in person, or online, please visit their website at <https://shrtm.nu/BEzR>.

The Orientale Lumen XXVI Conference will be held as a "virtual" conference in June 2022 on the theme of *Nicaea and the Date of Pascha/Easter*. Speakers will pre-record their lectures for viewing on YouTube in early June, and two 2-hour live, interactive panel discussions will be held on Wednesday, June 22 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm EDT, and on Thursday, June 23 from 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon EDT via Zoom video conference. There will also be archive lectures with other background video material.

Instead of the usual conference fee, the Orientale Lumen Foundation is asking that each participant make a minimum contribution of \$50. All contributions will be sent to the Eparchy of Mukachevo in Transcarpathia, Ukraine to help with relief efforts there. All registrations must be completed by June 20. To register visit <https://olfoundation.net/conferences/ol-xxvi/>.

Becoming Byzantine is a free video and webinar series on Byzantine Catholic faith, worship, and life based on the *Christ Our Pascha* catechism. Their videos are available on the Becoming Byzantine YouTube channel at <https://shrtm.nu/hxJH>.

Patronage Potluck: Our next lunch be held on Father's Day, Sunday, June 19 after the Divine Liturgy. We plan to serve grilled kielbasa and hot dogs, with kraut for those who want it, provided by the parish. We would ask those who plan to join us to bring either a side dish or dessert. Please plan to join us in June as this will be our last planned event until the fall. Hope to see everyone there!

Föltámadt Krisztus! Valóban föltámadt!

Sunday of the Samaritan woman

Christ is Risen!

Dear brothers and sisters!

In the Byzantine tradition, the Samaritan woman is called Photina (i.e., Svetlana) - "illuminated by light", because her heart was firm and later filled with the light of Christ. We know that sometimes our hearts are hardened, self-contained, full of frustration, rebellion, or bitterness. It is with such sorrow in her heart that the Samaritan woman meets Jesus. Everything starts to change when Jesus asks her to drink.

Jesus is the first to look for us, near the well where we try to quench our spiritual thirst. He comes to us and this moment is very important. Let us not turn our faces away from Him, let us listen to His words. Let us accept this view of the Lord with a sincere heart, and then His light will begin to fill us.

In the Gospel reading, the Lord again offers reflections on the meaning of water, translating it into the spiritual plane. "He that drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst" (John 4:14). The Samaritan woman immediately wanted this water. Jesus is this water; His word is living and healing water. He came to serve all, sanctify and save all. He is a gift to every person, the Lord came "to seek and to save that which was lost." His attention and love do not escape even hostile and distrustful people, because He calls the tax collectors to salvation, forgives the sins of the adulteress and leads the robber to paradise.