

# 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](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**

June 5th 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**

May 4th, 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: Ken Demianchik, 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 15

Offertory: \$861.00

Tithe.ly: \$325.00

Refreshments: \$17.00

Seminary: \$20.00

### Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) May 8

Offertory: \$1198.00

Tithe.ly: \$705.20

Easter: \$50.00

Ascension: \$60.00

Seminary: \$25.00

May 15: Offertory: \$1,060.00

Tithe.ly: \$240.00

Seminary: \$20.00

Candles: \$110.50

### Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: May 7

Offertory: \$227.00

Seminary: \$25

**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. 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)

*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]*

# Christ is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

water of the spring, the blind man became sighted and went to tell about this Miracle to all whom he met, causing their distrust and astonishment. When asked who did it, the blind man talked about a man named Jesus.

Rumors of this miraculous event reached the Pharisees, who had already heard of the Messiah and were hostile to Him. And given that the Miracle happened on Saturday, the Sabbath, their anger knew no bounds. Inflammatory disputes about the origin of talents (from God or the Devil) did not end even after the interrogation of the blind man. He stood his ground and claimed that the Prophet had helped him. And to the assumption that the man who was healed was not a sinner, he replied that God does not listen to sinners.

The great significance of this event is relevant today, when many years have passed since that day. In the example of the blind man, who by God's grace was restored to the ability to see, the Lord is trying to convey to us that the blindness of the soul is worse than physical blindness. The Lord is the light of the world, so we all need His attention and warmth to varying degrees. We must strive for the enlightenment of the soul in order to multiply and strengthen God's presence on earth and in each of us by our Faith. And for this you need to constantly worry about your moral condition, to serve as an example of piety for your children, to fight against bad habits and tendencies. And do not forget about constant improvement and sincere prayer. St. Augustine says: "This blind man shows humanity ... when blindness is unbelief and enlightenment is faith ... He washed his eyes in the baptismal font, which translates as 'sent' – he was baptized into Christ."

The Christian thinker Origen metaphorically speaks of two "books" that we must read to understand the God-created world. The first is our soul, which "reads" events with its own eyes and mind. The second book is Scripture. These two books complement each other. By reading the Scriptures, we understand ourselves better and find it easier to find the spiritual meaning of His texts for us. When we know the spiritual meaning of human existence, then our understanding of reality also expands.

Once a king turned to a hermit monk: "Ask me for anything you want. I will give you everything!" The monk said: "How good. Then give me immortal life, eternal youth, inexhaustible wealth, joy that no sorrow can overshadow." The king replied: "You are kidding. I have no power over such things." "Then do not disturb me, and do not tempt me with earthly things," replied the monk. "I will ask the merciful Lord for all this, because He alone can give me all this."

Dear believers! May the Holy Spirit fill our souls and our consciences with His divine gifts, which will make us strong, courageous and ready to change not only ourselves but also the world around us.

Schedule of Divine Services:

## SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

SUNDAY, May 22, 2022

**Sunday of the Man Born Blind**  
**The Holy Martyr Basiliscus**  
**The Holy and Righteous Melchisedek, King of Salem**  
**Commemoration of the Second Ecumenical Council (381)**  
8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

THURSDAY, May 26, 2022

**The Ascension of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ**  
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy followed by Mirovanije*

SUNDAY, May 29, 2022

**Sunday of the Fathers at the First Nicean Council**  
**Postfestive Day of the Ascension**  
**The Holy Venerable Martyr and Virgin Theodosia**  
**Our Holy Father Paul VI, Pope of Rome**  
10:00 AM *Matins*  
11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Norman Dennis, Jr. followed by Panachida as requested by Christine Dennis*

## PATRONAGE CHURCH

SUNDAY, May 22, 2022

**Sunday of the Man Born Blind**  
**The Holy and Righteous Melchisedek, King of Salem**  
11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy Divine Liturgy and baptism of Isla Alexandra, child of Alexandra and Jonathan Mariotti*

THURSDAY, May 26, 2022

**The Ascension of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ**  
11:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Rev. Conan Timoney as requested by Sean Albert. Mirovanije*

SUNDAY, May 29, 2022

**Sunday of the Fathers at the First Nicean Council**  
8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Hank Zabka as requested by Linda Jeane Stoll*

Propers begin on 189

# ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕСЕ! ВОИСТИНУ ВОСКРЕСЕ!

**The Ascension:** Thursday marks the fortieth day after Pascha, the *Feast of the Ascension of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ*. The Word of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity, took flesh in the person of Jesus of Nazareth at the Incarnation. This week's feast marks the event when Jesus takes our humanity to heaven where he now sits enthroned at the Father's right hand. This marks mankind's entrance into heaven and is the promised end of all the faithful. Liturgy for the feast will be celebrated at 9:00 AM at St. Gregory Church and 11:00 AM at Patronage Church.

**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 Mukačevo 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/>.

**Patronage Parish is planning a hike!** Youth, families, and friends are welcome to attend. It will take place Saturday, May 28th at 10:00 am (Rain date June 4th), beginning at Soapstone Trail Head (1288 S Rolling Rd, Halethorpe, MD 21227). Contact Jeremy Romanik Romano at [zasderjrr123@gmail.com](mailto:zasderjrr123@gmail.com) for more information.

**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 Man Born Blind

Christ is Risen!

Dear brothers and sisters!

One man asked the elder if God forgave sinners. And the old man said: "Tell me, my friend, if you cut your arm or break your leg, will you cut them off and throw them away as unnecessary?" The man replied: "Of course not. I will treat them until they are healthy." The old man said: "If you take such care of your body, will the Lord not be merciful to His creation, His own Image?" Today is our Sunday dedicated to the story from the evangelist John about Jesus' return of sight to a man born blind, who is also created in the image of God. This story has many interpretations, and everyone finds an explanation that ignites the Light in the soul and takes a step closer to understanding God's Teaching.

One holy day while visiting the Temple in Jerusalem with his disciples, Jesus saw a blind man in the crowd. The Jews have always believed that a serious illness is given for sins. And when such misfortune affects newborns, it is retribution for the foolish behavior of the child's parents. Therefore, the question of students who wanted to know who sinned is quite clear: was it the blind man or his parents?

But Jesus denied this assumption, explaining that the disease was sent to this man to "reveal the works of God to him." He thus made it clear that not every suffering is a punishment for a sinful life. To some, illness is given to test the firmness of Faith in the Lord, to strengthen beliefs, and to others as a step toward enlightenment and acceptance of true Faith. He called the blind man to him, spat on the ground and smeared the mixture on the patient's eyes. Jesus commanded the man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. After washing with the