

# 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**

August 14th 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**

August 20th, 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: Michael Gray, 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, Doris Ruszin, Anne Gupman, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Anna Martin, Marge Dulina, Georgianna Kostak, Betty Rankin, Sandra Suseck. 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>) July 31

Figures will appear in next week's bulletin

### Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) July 31

Offertory: \$548.00

Tithe.ly: \$295.00

### Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: July 31

Tithe.ly \$30.00

**St. Gregory Lector Signup:** A signup sheet for lectors for Sunday's Divine Liturgies is on the table in the back of the hall. Please consider signing up for this important service. If you have never chanted the Epistle, the cantors will be happy to work with you to make you feel comfortable.

**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)

One man was looking for the perfect place on earth. He searched for a long time. And finally, in a distant country, he found a city where he felt comfortable and well. He walked the streets of the city, looked around, admired the landscapes and houses, feeling joy and a desire to stay there forever. Suddenly he got to the cemetery - and was horrified. On each grave, the date of death indicated that these people lived only two or three years, it was written with precision to the hours and minutes lived.

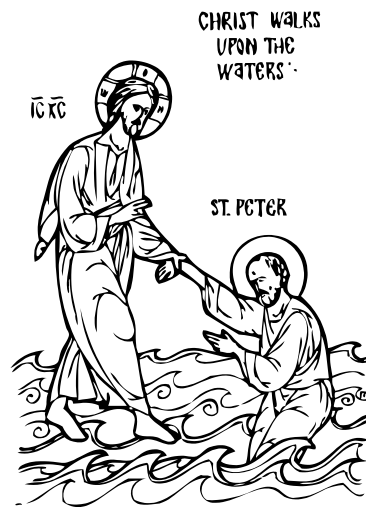
And this man ran as fast as possible from this city. On the square, in the middle of the city, he bumped into an old man and shouted, "How can you? Do you kill your children?"

The old man showed him the little book hanging around his neck and said the following words, "When the child reaches maturity, we give him such a book. And every moment, every minute or hour of real happiness in life, each of us notes in this book. After death, all these happy moments are counted. And we get years of true happiness. Here I am 90 years old, but I was actually happy for only three and a half years of my entire life."

him and said to him: "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14, 30-31). As we can see, Jesus not only saved his body, but also his soul from perishing in the waves of despair and hopelessness. With the words "You of little faith, why did you doubt?", Christ spiritually supported and strengthened Peter's spirit.

Thomas Wright (N. T. Wright) in one of his popular commentaries, says this about this passage of the Gospel: "The apostles who were sitting in the boat saw many manifestations of the power of Jesus, listened to His sermons and prayed as He taught. Now these skillful fishermen had a hard time: they struggled with their oars, but could hardly make headway against the wind. And today, although we have invented, learned, discovered a lot, we still do not have enough strength, power and knowledge to achieve all that is necessary for us. We have invented a lot of military equipment, but so far, we have not invented such machines that could establish peace on earth. We are ready to send a man to the moon, but we cannot feed the hungry on planet Earth. Our devices allow us to listen to the sounds that whales make in the depths of the ocean, but we are not able to hear the cry of a person who lives on the next street."

Dear believers! We are weak; our forces are weak; we have little living faith capable of working miracles. And there are too many temptations that lead to destruction. And we, like the apostle Peter, drowning in the sea, are drowning in the sea of life. If we begin to look back at the waves, and at the winds, and at the looming threat of death, we, like Peter, will begin to sink. But even then, we should not lose hope: we are given the assurance that, no matter how little our faith in God is, His faith in us is unshakable; however small our love for Him may be, His love for us is boundless. And at the moment when we feel that there is no hope, that we are perishing, if in this last moment we have faith enough to cry out, as Peter cried out: "Lord! I'm drowning! Help me!", He will extend a helping hand to us as well.



Schedule of Divine Services:

**SAINT GREGORY CHURCH**

SUNDAY, Aug. 7, 2022

**Ninth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Postfestive Day of Transfiguration**  
**The Holy Venerable Martyr Dometius**  
 11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Michael and +Juliana Dolgash followed by the blessing of fruit and Mirovaniye*

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 10, 2022

**Postfestive Day of Transfiguration**  
**The Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Lawrence of Rome**  
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy followed by recitation of the Holy Rosary*

SUNDAY, Aug. 14, 2022

**Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Prefestive Day of the Dormition**  
**The Holy Prophet Micah**  
**Translation of the Relics of our Father Theodosius, Hegumen of the Monastery of the Caves**  
 8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

**PATRONAGE CHURCH**

SUNDAY, Aug. 7, 2022

**Ninth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Postfestive Day of Transfiguration**  
**The Holy Venerable Martyr Dometius**  
 8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Antoinette Cole as requested by Ann Marie Elwell followed by the blessing of fruits and Mirovaniye*

SATURDAY, Aug. 13, 2022

**Leave-taking of the Feast of the Transfiguration**  
**Our Venerable Father Maximos the Confessor**  
*The Wedding of Natasha Kotula and Grayson Kershner*

SUNDAY, Aug. 14, 2022

**Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Prefestive Day of the Dormition**  
**The Holy Prophet Micah**  
**Translation of the Relics of our Father Theodosius, Hegumen of the Monastery of the Caves**  
 11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy*  
 Propers begin on page 346 then page 161

**A Newly-Recognized Ruthenian Martyr:** This past Friday, Pope Francis recognized the martyrdom of Father Petro Paolo Oros, a priest of the Eparchy of Mukačevo, murdered by the Communist authorities on August 28, 1953, shortly after celebrating a Divine Liturgy in secret. The soon-to-be beatified martyr Petro will join the many others, named and unnamed who gave their lives in witness to the faith during the time of the suppression of our church in Europe.

**The Dormition Fast:** The last fast of the liturgical year continues through August 15, the *Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos*. This is considered a penitential time in the Metropolia of Pittsburgh. Fasting and other acts of penance are left to the discretion of the individual.

**The Feast of the Transfiguration:** It is customary to bless the first fruits of the season on the *Feast of the Transfiguration*. Fruit will be blessed after liturgy followed by *mirovanije*.

**Patronage Pirohi Sale:** In preparation for the upcoming Fall food festival, Patronage has pirohi available for sale to clear the freezer. We will be offering single dozen bags for \$4.00 each. If you are interested in purchasing, please see Mary Demyan after Liturgy. Thank you!

**The Children's Home in Catonsville:** Thank you to those who made a donation in July to this organization. Sports equipment and bathing suits were collected and delivered to the orphanage. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**Church of St. Gregory:** In September-October, we start work on landscape design around our church. Our plans include planting flowers, bushes and building decorative areas. Larry Queen is responsible for the project, his email is [Larryqueen6290@gmail.com](mailto:Larryqueen6290@gmail.com). We invite everyone to participate in this project.

**Patronage Church - Eastern Christian Formation (ECF) Program for Children:** It is that time of year, again, to begin registering your children for our upcoming ECF Program. Catechetical Sunday is scheduled for September 18th, with the blessing of teachers and students, under the coordination of Loui Villanueva. This year's ECF Program will be held in the church hall. More details regarding the schedule and time will be forthcoming. You can pick up a registration form in the back of church or you can download one on our church's website. Registration forms are due no later than Sunday, September 4th so books and supplies can be organized. You can either email or mail your completed registration form to the church or drop it in the collection basket. We are in need of teachers, and if you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions, please email Loui at [villanuevaluxmundi@yahoo.com](mailto:villanuevaluxmundi@yahoo.com) and let him know.

Also, if anyone has any books from this past school year, kindly leave them on the counter in the church hall and Loui will collect them. "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

**Support of the Pastor:** Dear friends, a big thank you to everyone who financially supports Father Serhii, especially to one family who makes monthly assistance for their priest and his family. *Blessed are the merciful because they will receive mercy.*

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Dear brothers and sisters!

Now we live in difficult times, using the example of today's Gospel, the church shows us how to survive these times together with Jesus. In this gospel story, in addition to the description of a historical event from the earthly life of Jesus Christ, a deep mysterious meaning is hidden.

Today, the Evangelist Matthew restores before us the night when the disciples were sailing on the lake, and the wind was contrary, and the Lord went to meet them on the water. They saw in the darkness the figure of Him who was walking and cried out in terror.

Let's think about this boat with the apostles, which the Lord sent ahead of Him, and He Himself went to the mountain to pray. The waves throw their boat, they can drown, the night is dark, all around – gloom, water, death and the abyss; they are scared. Isn't that how you and I feel when we experience difficulties, trials and temptations. Sometimes it seems to us that God has abandoned us and we are alone, that life is like complete darkness and there is no way out, that only failures are waiting for us, and in the end, we will go to the bottom and there is no salvation for us... Christ, then and now comes to us and calms us down. On this stormy night, the apostles were even more frightened when they saw Christ. They panicked, thinking it was a dying ghost threatening them with death, and screamed. And then His words were heard amid the noise of the sea: "Be calm, it is I, do not be afraid." Peter, the bravest among all, shouted: "Lord, if it is You, let me go to meet You." Peter wanted to follow Christ, wanted to go, and the Lord approved him. "Go!" he said, and if we want to live according to the Gospel, we will certainly hear the voice of Christ. Go! Go you too, go and don't be afraid, knowing that the waves are raging all around. Peter moved and he had to take a risk, take a step into the abyss, which is in constant motion. Splashes of foam, dark and scary... as if rushing into the void. But he knew that the Lord had taken a step ahead.

Because of Peter's gaze on Christ, the water became a firm foundation under his feet, like the earth. But Peter turned his gaze to the strong wind and turbulent waves, turned his attention away from Christ for a moment, began to care about the waves, thereby weakening his hope in Him and began to sink. But then, when he turned to Jesus again with hope for help, crying out: "Lord, save me!", he was saved from the water. Jesus immediately stretched out his hand, caught