

# 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

Offertory: \$1100.00

Tithe.ly: \$627.29

Refreshments: \$8.00

Aug 7:

Offertory: \$1382.00

Tithe.ly: \$567.45

Dormition: \$20.00

Rebate from

Bishop's Appeal: \$4228.00

### Patronage Church:

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

Offertory: \$1,518.00

Tithe.ly: \$55.00

**Hagerstown mission:** Tithe.ly: \$19.00

**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)

### **Bow and arrows**

One courageous warrior, going to war, armed himself only with a bow, but without arrows. They asked him, because he was experienced and knowledgeable in military affairs, why he did such a strange thing.

“Why should I worry about arrows? After all, they will fly from the enemy's side, then I will collect them.”

“And if they don't come?” they asked him.

“Then it will be even better. Because there will be no war, death and fear. Peace, brotherhood and love will prevail.”

Let's try to pray not only with the mind, but also with the heart, because "God will not despise a humble and contrite heart" (Ps. 50.19). Let us not despair and not complain, even when the Lord is not in a hurry to fulfill our request. Because the Lord, the guide of the heart, knows better than us when to fulfill our request. From the Holy Scriptures and from the history of the Church, we know that some righteous people fasted and prayed and asked God for the fulfillment of their covenant and holy desires for many years. For example, how long Sarah prayed that God would give her a son. And she gave birth to him in old age. The righteous Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth prayed a lot, and their barrenness was resolved even at the end of the years. The holy and righteous Forefathers Joachim and Anna prayed and fasted and gave alms for 50 years, and in the end the Lord gave them a daughter – the Most Holy Theotokos. Dear believers! Thomas Wright comments on this passage: "The point, of course, is not in the 'size' of faith, but in God to Whom it is addressed. If you want to see the moon, it doesn't matter what size your window is. You will not see anything even from the largest window if it faces the wrong side, but the smallest crack on the right side is enough to see the moon." And in order for this faith to be addressed to the true God, a lot of prayer and fasting is needed in order to free oneself from incorrect ideas about Him, and to be able to accept the grace of Him Who, according to the final words of today's reading, was delivered into the hands of the people who killed Him, but on the third day He rose again (cf. Mt 17.22).



Schedule of Divine Services:

**SAINT GREGORY CHURCH**

SUNDAY, Aug. 14, 2022

**Tenth Sunday After Pentecost  
Prefestive Day of the Dormition  
The Holy Prophet Micah**  
8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

MONDAY, Aug. 15, 2022

**The Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos  
and Ever-Virgin Mary**  
6:00 PM *Divine Liturgy followed by Mirovaniye*

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 17, 2022

**Postfestive Day of the Dormition  
The Holy Martyr Myron**  
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy followed by recitation of the Holy Rosary*

SUNDAY, Aug. 21, 2022

**Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost  
Postfestive Day of the Dormition**  
11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Scott M. Dennis with Panachida as requested by Christine Dennis, followed by Mirovaniye*

**PATRONAGE CHURCH**

SUNDAY, Aug. 14, 2022

**Tenth Sunday After Pentecost  
Prefestive Day of the Dormition**  
11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy*

MONDAY, Aug. 15, 2022

**The Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos  
and Ever-Virgin Mary**  
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy followed by Mirovaniye*

THURSDAY Aug. 18, 2022

**Postfestive Day of the Dormition**  
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Phyllis Skovran as requested by Michael Skovran*

SUNDAY, Aug. 21, 2022

**Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost  
Postfestive Day of the Dormition**  
8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy followed by Mirovaniye*  
Propers begin on page 125 then page 351

**Feast of the Dormition:** On August 15 we celebrate the falling asleep (dormition) of the Mother of God. Just as her nativity on September 8 occurs at the beginning of the church year, so her falling asleep happens at the end. Since she is the perfect disciple of Christ, it is only fitting that her life encompasses the church year.

Liturgy for the feast will be held at 9 AM at Patronage Church and at 6 PM at St. Gregory on Monday, August 15.

**Outreach to Homebound Parishioners:** We have many opportunities for our homebound parishioners to participate in the liturgical life of both St. Gregory and Patronage Churches. Besides livestreams of our Sunday liturgies, an electronic version of the bulletin is available for those who wish to receive it by email. Also, Fr. Serhii, or one of the deacons can bring communion to those who wish to receive it. Please send an email to us at [frsergij@stgregoryofnyssa.net](mailto:frsergij@stgregoryofnyssa.net) or [frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com](mailto:frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com) for more information about either.

Also, we have received word that one of the founders of Epiphany of Our Lord Church is currently in residence at a senior facility in Fulton, MD and would like assistance in attending Divine Liturgy. If you are able to help, please contact Deacon Bill, [deacon@stgregoryofnyssa.net](mailto:deacon@stgregoryofnyssa.net).

**St. Gregory Parish Potluck and Meeting:** Next Sunday, August 21, St. Gregory Church will have a parish potluck lunch followed by a parish meeting after liturgy. Please bring a dish to share, as well as ideas as to how we can improve the life of our parish community.

**Eastern Christian Formation (ECF) Program for Children:** It is that time of year, again, to begin registering your children for our upcoming ECF Program.

- St. Gregory Church: Jacob Szewczyk has graciously accepted the position of ECF coordinator for the coming year. Sessions will be held once a month in the church hall after liturgy. Please see Jacob or email him at [jacob.n.szewczyk@gmail.com](mailto:jacob.n.szewczyk@gmail.com) for more information.
- Patronage Church: 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 two families who makes monthly assistance for their priest and his family. *Blessed are the merciful because they will receive mercy.*

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Dear brothers and sisters!

The today's Gospel tells us about God's healing grace, the weakness of the demon-possessed boy, the weakness of the faith of the apostles and the zeal of the prayer of a loving father. The young man's father told the Savior about his son's illness: "On the full moon he is raging and suffers grievously" (Mt. 17.15), "the spirit throws him to the ground, and he foams and gnashes his teeth, becomes wooden... Many times, the spirit threw him into fire and into water to destroy him (Mk. 9.18,22), and retreats from him by force, wearing him out" (Lk. 9.39).

The father asked the Lord for mercy He would have mercy on the upset father and wanting to see in him faith in the gracious miraculous power, answered him: "...If you have even a little faith, then everything is possible to a believer. And at the same time, the young man's father cried out with tears: 'I believe, Lord! Help my lack of faith!'" (Mk. 9.23-24). The Lord rebuked the unclean spirit and said: "I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again" (Mk. 9.25), and the unclean spirit left the young man.

Saint John Chrysostom teaches that when someone prays and fasts, he has two wings that are lighter than the wind, because there is no one stronger than a person who sincerely fasts and prays.

Saint Philaret says: "If fasting is necessary for the apostles, then it is necessary for us as well. If fasting helps miracle workers, then we too, whose body often fights against the soul, should not reject its help. Fasting and prayer strengthen our faith, hope and love, and connects us with God. Prayer makes the impossible possible, the unfavorable profitable, the difficult easy. The Apostle James teaches us that the sincere prayer of the righteous can do much (James 5.16). The Holy Fathers and Teachers of the Church call prayer "the mother of all virtues."

Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us: "Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it will be fulfilled for you. And when you stand at prayer, forgive if you have anything against anyone, so that your Heavenly Father may also forgive you your sins" (Mk. 11.24-25). Prayer without faith and without attention is like a censer without incense, or a body without a soul. The Apostle Paul teaches us: "Pray without ceasing! Give thanks to God for everything, because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5.17-18).