

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

August 28th 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

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>) Aug. 14

Offertory: \$1167.00

Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Aug. 14

Offertory: \$436.00

Tithe.ly: \$255.00

Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: Aug 14

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 or frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com *My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.* (Isaiah 56:7)

Reach out or pass by

A woman was standing on the sidewalk, waiting for the green light. On the opposite side of the street stood a seventeen-year-old girl. The woman noticed that she was crying.

When the light turned green, both started. They were about to meet, when the woman's maternal instincts stirred. Every cell in her wanted to reach out and comfort that girl. But the woman passed by. She didn't even say hello, she just went on her way.

The whole day the woman had this crying girl in front of her eyes. Again and again the woman reproached herself: "Why didn't I go back to her, why didn't I ask if I could help. Of course, the girl could refuse – so what! A few seconds would be enough to let her know that someone cares about her. Instead, I passed by. I behaved as if the girl did not exist."

Have such cases happened in your life?

remains to be done by the debtor? Rejoice with incredible joy and be infinitely grateful. But what do we see from the following words of the parable: coming out from the meeting with his Master, he meets a fellow who owed him a pittance in relation to his own debt. Contrary to his Master, this debtor began to mercilessly demand, grabbing him and strangling him and saying: pay me what you owe!

No requests and entreaties touched his heart. Did this forgiven debtor have love for his neighbor in his heart? No! Why? Because his heart was cold, stony, merciless and cruel. Sin reigned in him.

Saint John Chrysostom says that God does not need us at all, but still does not stop loving us. And we need Him very much, but we do not accept His love. We put money, human friendship, physical peace, power and glory above Him, when He does not put anything above us. How can we justify ourselves when we put the commands of Satan above the laws of Christ and do not care about our salvation? We put the works of wickedness above the One who endured everything for us!

In the forgiveness of sins & recovery from offenses, let us always remember about God's miraculous medicine, the bliss of mercy: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy" (Mt. 5: 7). Forgiveness of the sins of others is a manifestation of mercy towards them; thus, we ask God to free and heal them from the bondage of their evil deeds and intentions. The apostle Paul calls us to this: "Do not return evil for evil to anyone; take care of the good before all people. Whenever possible, as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. ... But when your enemy is hungry, feed him; and when he is thirsty, give him a drink, for in so doing you heap hot coals on his head. Do not allow evil to overcome you, but overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12: 17-21).

A man and a woman constantly quarreled. One day, the man went to consult with the priest about what he should do so that there would be love and harmony in the family. The priest advised him to pray together every day. That woman did not want to pray together with him. Once, during another big quarrel, she said to her husband: "I don't want to live with you anymore, I'm filing for divorce tomorrow." "Okay, woman," the man said, "but before we part ways, I'm asking you to pray together for the last time." Finally, somehow the woman agreed to the last joint prayer. The man devoutly began the "Our Father" prayer. When they came to the words "and forgive us our trespasses, as we also forgive our trespassers," the woman burst into tears. After the prayer, she threw herself on his neck and asked for forgiveness. Since then, there was peace and harmony in their family.

So, dear believers, let's remember what Antony Surozhsky said: in our hearts, let's restore true and loving relations with God and with our neighbor in order to build the Kingdom that the Lord speaks about; and we learn to forgive our neighbor a hundred coins, when God forgives us ten thousand coins. Because our salvation is in our hands.

Schedule of Divine Services:

SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

SUNDAY, Aug. 21, 2022

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
Postfestive Day of the Dormition
The Holy Apostle Thaddeus
The Holy Martyr Bassa

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*

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 24, 2022

The Holy Bishop-Martyr Eutyches, Disciple of St. John the Theologian
Our Blessed Confessor and Priest-Monk Dominic Methodius Treka

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy followed by recitation of the Holy Rosary*

SUNDAY, Aug. 28, 2022

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost
Our Venerable Father Moses the Ethiopian
Our Holy Father Augustine, Bishop of Hippo
The Holy Martyr Gebre Michael, Priest of Ethiopia
The Passing of our Venerable Mother Laurentia Herasymiv (1952)

8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Berniz Weaver as requested by Fatoumata B. Balde*

PATRONAGE CHURCH

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*

SUNDAY, Aug. 28, 2022

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost
Our Venerable Father Moses the Ethiopian
Our Holy Father Augustine, Bishop of Hippo
The Holy Martyr Gebre Michael, Priest of Ethiopia
The Passing of our Venerable Mother Laurentia Herasymiv (1952)

11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*

11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy*

Propers begin on page 130 then page 352

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 or frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com for more information about either.

St. Gregory Parish Potluck and Meeting: Today, August 21, St. Gregory Church will have a parish potluck lunch followed by a parish meeting after liturgy. Please plan to stay.

Uniontown Pilgrimage: The 88th Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, Pa. will be held this year from Friday, September 2 through Monday, September 5. A message from Sr. Elaine Kisinko, OSBM welcoming the pilgrims can be found at <https://archpitt.org/annual-pilgrimage-message/>.

The Carpatho-Rusyn Research Center is pleased to invite you to the 2022 Summer Seminars, presented by the John and Helen Timo Foundation. This year's exciting series features interactive presentations sharing new work in Carpatho-Rusyn Studies. The Summer Seminars will take place the week of August 29, 2022 from Monday to Friday. These are all live events that will include the opportunity to ask questions to the presenters. All of the presentations will also be recorded and shared later on YouTube. The seminars are free to attend, and this year, no registration is required, please visit <https://shrtm.nu/c31o> for more information.

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 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. 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 4. 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 and let him know.

- Loui would also like to assemble the furniture for the ECF classes after liturgy on Sunday, August 28. If you would like to help, please bring some tools from home.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience (WWME): A WWME will be held at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Catonsville the weekend of October 7-9. This is a non-residential event. More information can be found at moments4marriage.org.

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.*

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Shouldn't you have had mercy on your friend, as I had mercy on you? (Matthew 18: 23-35)

Dear brothers and sisters!

The Gospel stories that we read and listen to at the Holy Liturgy every Sunday and holy day have a double purpose: to help us create and strengthen our connection with God and the connection with our neighbors. An important element in building these connections is mercy and forgiveness. Today, Christ invites us once again to think about why we need to be merciful to our offenders and forgive the sins of our neighbors. The parable of the unmerciful debtor reminds us that the purpose of forgiveness should not only be to obey God's law or avoid eternal punishment, but good for the body and soul.

Happy is the person who has love for God, because he carries God within himself. (St. Ephraim the Syrian). Today's Gospel tells us the parable of the Master who forgave a large sum of money (debt) to his slave. And the debtor himself could not forgive the debt of one hundred dinars to his neighbor.

St. Macarius reproachfully asks: Why have we not yet been cured of our ingrained sins and passions? We are not cured of passions because of our lack of faith, and duplicity, and because we do not love God with all our hearts.

Our relationship with God should first of all be open, truthful, sincere and built on trust and love. The Apostle Paul said that knowledge puffs up, and love teaches... and whoever loves God is given knowledge from Him (1 Cor. 8:1-3). Knowledge provides that we would hear the Word of God in this stormy sea of life. Hearing and perceiving this Word is an attribute of God's grace. A stony heart does not feel or accept grace. An example of this is a debtor who was forgiven. The good Lord shows His love and mercy by forgiving all the debt, so that the debtor, being comforted and forgiven, runs and tells about it to his wife, children, and everyone he sees and meets. The owner gave him the opportunity to start a new life, to feel free, not burdened by heavy and overwhelming bonds of debt. A huge debt of ten thousand coins is forgiven! What