

# 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**

December 18th 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**

December 17th, 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: Howard Guba, Wayne Roach, Lector Joseph and Marie Repasi, John Sekura, Charity Sweeney, Madeline Bender, Richard Cooley, Christine Szewczyk, Kathleen Lynch, 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, 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.

### St. Gregory Church:

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

Nov. 20	Nov. 27	Dec. 4
Offertory: \$1406.00	Offertory: \$1252.00	Offertory: \$2021.00
Advent: \$30.00	Tithe.ly: \$627.38	Christmas: \$400.00
Kolachi: \$30.00	Advent: \$80.00	Christmas flowers: \$75.00
Refreshments: \$16.00	Kolachi Sale: \$2431.00	Kolachi: \$60.00
		Refreshments: \$36.00
		Retired Religious: \$175.00

### Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Dec. 4

Offertory: \$1450.00

Tithe.ly: \$60.00

### Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: Dec. 4

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)

### **Become great through dreams.**

Once a successful businessman was asked, "How did you manage to achieve so much?" He answered, "I'm dreaming. I have always allowed my thoughts to dream freely about what I would like to achieve. When I went to bed, I thought about what I wanted. I had these dreams at night. And when I woke up in the morning, I already knew how they could be implemented. When others said: 'It won't be possible, it's impossible', I was already confidently walking towards my goal."

The twenty-eighth president of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, said: "We become great by dreaming. All great people are dreamers. They see things in the light mist of a spring day or in the red glow of a fireplace on a long winter evening. Some of us let these big dreams die, while others nurture and protect them. They nurture their dreams during bad days until they come to light. They believe and sincerely hope that their dreams will come true."

So don't let anyone take your dreams away, or even try to convince you that they can't be realized. Sing a song, immerse yourself in dreams, live in hope, pray.

processes: rooting in sin or waiting for salvation. Turning to the sacred books of the Old Testament, we will see there a number of sinners and a number of righteous people. A part of humanity sought to build the Tower of Babel and other things, while another part sought to be faithful to the Covenant with God. And here are those who sought to be faithful to God - the righteous of the Old Testament were in a state that required maximum faith and hope. God addressed the kings, the strong of this world, the powerful and powerful, but often He was heard by those who, by the standards of this world, are insignificant. You can ask, but what about the holy patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the prophet Moses? Were they ordinary people? Were they not rich and powerful? They were. But they grew up, let's say, grew up only after they heard the call of God, accepted it and went where the Almighty commanded them. Then and only then, from shepherds and nomads, they become patriarchs, prophets, ancestors of nations. Their lives were governed by faith.

And although the Old Testament did not provide salvation, it still had a place for personal holiness. And so, the righteous of the Old Testament live a holy life and expect salvation, or rather the Savior, who will become the mediator between God and people, and will once again connect the Creator with man. A famous theologian of the 20th century, V.M. Lossky, expressed the difference between the Old and New Testaments as follows: "Sinai's darkness was opposed to favor's light, as a hidden secret is a revealed secret." The Old Testament is a shadow, a prototype of the future New Testament. God reveals himself to Moses in the dark. Darkness is a symbol of the fact that the Old Testament man can learn and be obedient to the will of God. Christ is transfigured in white as snow of light in front of His disciples, which indicates in the New Testament, believers are also given the possibility of spiritual transformation.

Dear believers! According to St. Maxim the Confessor "From now on our salvation is already in our will", and each of us, when the Savior addresses us with an invitation to participate in His Heavenly banquet, must put aside all our affairs, all our worries and personal interests and respond to this call of God. And let the realization that Christmas is near instill in us faith and hope for a better tomorrow.

Schedule of Divine Services:

**SAINT GREGORY CHURCH**

SUNDAY, Dec. 11, 2022

**Sunday of the Forefathers**

**Our Venerable Father Daniel the Stylite**

**11:00 AM Hymns from Matins**

**11:15 AM Divine Liturgy for the health Hlinka Family as requested by Karabinos family, followed by Mirovanije**

THURSDAY, Dec. 15, 2022

**The Holy Martyr Eleutherius**

**Our Venerable Father Paul of Latra**

**Our Holy Father Stephen, Archbishop of Surozh**

**9:00 AM Divine Liturgy for peace in the world and in our families, followed by Prayer of Supplication to the Most Holy Theotokos**

SUNDAY, Dec. 18, 2022

**Sunday Before Christmas, of the Ancestors**

**The Holy Martyr Sebastian and His Companions**

**8:45 AM Hymns from Matins**

**9:00 AM Divine Liturgy**

**PATRONAGE CHURCH**

SUNDAY, Dec. 11, 2022

**Sunday of the Forefathers**

**8:45 AM Hymns from Matins**

**9:00 AM Divine Liturgy in memory of +Priest Conan (3 years), followed by Mirovanije**

SUNDAY, Dec. 18, 2022

**Sunday Before Christmas, of the Ancestors**

**The Holy Martyr Sebastian and His Companions**

**11:00 AM Hymns from Matins**

**11:15 AM Divine Liturgy in memory of +Joseph Carinci as requested by Ann Marie Elwell and Ryan Elwell**

Propers begin on page 130 then 281

**Schedule of Christmas Services 2022**  
**The Feast of the Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord God and**  
**Savior Jesus Christ**

**Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!**

**SATURDAY Dec. 24, 2022** - *Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great:*

**4:30pm** Patronage Church (Arbutus)

**9:00pm** St. Gregory Church (Beltsville)

**SUNDAY Dec. 25, 2022** - *Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom:*

**9:00am** Patronage Church (Arbutus)

**11:15am** St. Gregory Church (Beltsville)

**MONDAY Dec. 26, 2022** - *Synaxis of the Theotokos, Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom:*

**9:00am** Patronage Church (Arbutus)

**11:15am** St. Gregory Church (Beltsville)

**Phillip's Fast/Christmas Lent:** With the *Sunday of the Forefathers* we enter into the final preparation for *The Nativity of Our Lord*. If in the rush of preparing for the holidays we have been a little neglectful in our spiritual preparation for the feast, now is the time to recommit ourselves to truly welcome the Incarnate God into our world.

**St. Gregory St. Nicholas Potluck** will be December 11 after liturgy. St. Gregory will provide the main course, so please stay and enjoy the fellowship.

**Patronage Christmas Cards:** On the bulletin board, in the Narthex, is a list of parishioners we would like to send some holiday cheer to. Some of these parishioners are either homebound or they sometimes have a difficult time getting to Patronage Church for Liturgy. You are welcome to take a copy of the list home and write out your Christmas cards, with your personal message, to as many on the list as you can. Please drop off your Christmas cards no later than Sunday, December 18th, and place them in the marked basket in the Narthex. We will gather all of the cards that have been written out to these parishioners, and package them up in a large envelope filled with holiday cheer. If you are unable to obtain a list of these parishioners' names at church, please email the church and a list will be emailed back to you. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Kotula at [d.kotula@comcast.net](mailto:d.kotula@comcast.net). Let's make this Christmas a little merrier for those in our parish we do not want to forget about! God Bless all of your efforts for this project!

**Our Daily Bread Casseroles:** We are collecting Casseroles for Our Daily Bread in Baltimore on Sunday, Dec 11th. Please mark your casserole with "Name of Casserole, Date Made and Patronage Church on it". Recipes, pans and labels are located next to the stack of empty casserole pans in the basement at Patronage for you to pick up to take home to make your casserole. Our Daily Bread also accepts premade store bought, frozen Mac & Cheese trays (such as Stouffer's Macaroni & Cheese) if you are in a rush to make something. For questions, please email Mike Skovran or Lisa Guba.

Again, thank you again for donating your time, supplies and talent to help those in need at Catholic Charities "Our Daily Bread Mission". Over 15 Casseroles were collected in October for Our Daily Bread. We appreciate everyone's assistance and especially kudos to Mike & Karen Kakalec for dropping off the casserole to Our Daily Bread.

Sunday of the Forefathers

Dear brothers and sisters!

According to the Byzantine liturgical statute, in one of the weeks preceding the Nativity of Christ, the holy forefathers, the righteous of the Old Testament, are remembered. Today's gospel reading is the parable of those invited to dinner. Such a parable is found in the Evangelist Matthew (22:1-14). However, as the blessed Augustine believed, these are very similar, but still different parables. In any case, these evangelical parables are based on one theme - God's call to people.

The very parable about those invited to the dinner is spoken by the Lord after one man's exclamation: "Blessed is he who will eat bread in the Kingdom of God!" (Luke 14:15). Thus, it is immediately obvious that this parable is about the Kingdom of God. A wedding feast or a festive dinner, a prepared meal — all these are images of the Kingdom of Heaven in the Gospel. It is obvious that a joint meal in the culture of the ancient world is not just the consumption of food, but primarily the joy of communication. At that time, you could share a meal only with trusted people: relatives, friends, co-religionists. That is why a meal, a feast, a dinner is an evangelical symbol of the Kingdom of God, the feast of the righteous. And in this context, the Gospel parable about those invited to dinner acquires another important meaning. What is the meaning of that period of history called the Old Testament? How to determine in general what is the meaning of the life of each individual person, each individual genus, family or nation? When answering this question, we can say that the meaning of history lies in the conquest of new territories, the building of empires, the creation of some cultural monuments that will stun the attention and imagination. It can also be said that history is an irreversible process of survival and becoming stronger at the expense of the weaker. But you and I understand that such a meaning of history cannot be accepted by the Christian consciousness.

After the fall of the forefathers, the entire history of mankind is two mutually opposite