

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

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

February 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: Laverne Hametz, Michael and Carol Slovinsky, James DeWolfe, Howard Guba, Lector Joseph and Marie Repasi, John Sekura, Madeline Bender, Richard Cooley, Christine Szewczyk, Kathleen Lynch, Ken Demianchik, Michael Fitzgibbon, Suzanne Krofchik, 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>) Jan. 15

Offertory: \$832.00

Tithe.ly: \$325.00

Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Jan. 15

Offertory \$1496.50

Tithe.ly: \$345.00

Initial offering: \$34.00

Holydays: \$100.00

Candles: \$2.00

ECL: \$45.00

Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: Jan. 15

Tithe.ly: \$19.00

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)

Zacchaeus receives Jesus in his home

The Lord, who had already welcomed Zacchaeus into His heart, is now ready to be received into his home. He said: "Zacchaeus, come down immediately, because I have to be in your house today." Zacchaeus thought it was incredible luck to see Christ. Imagining it to be a wonderful and indescribable good fortune to see Christ pass by, Zacchaeus suddenly found himself worthy to receive Him into his home. Grace is poured out and faith begins to work through love. Christ, who already lived in the heart of Zacchaeus, is welcomed in his house. Zacchaeus says to Christ: "Lord, I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I wronged someone, I will return fourfold." It is the same as if he had said: "The reason I keep half of my property is not to have it for myself, but to have something to give to people." There you are, Zacchaeus. This is what it really means to receive Jesus, welcoming Him into your heart. Christ was already there. He was in the heart of Zacchaeus and spoke through him. The apostle says that this means: "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith" (Eph 3:17) (Aurelius Augustinus, Sermon 174.5).

home. And as a sign of love for Jesus, he decides to give half of his possessions to the poor and apologizes to all those who have been wronged.

The behavior of Zacchaeus with such sincere words of repentance "Lord, I give half of my possessions to the poor, and when I have defrauded someone, I will return fourfold" (Lk. 19, 8), indicates that Zacchaeus allowed Jesus to visit not only his material residence. Jesus entered the house of Zacchaeus' soul forever. Note that Jesus does not make any demands on Zacchaeus, nor does He require faith or other signs of readiness from him. Zacchaeus heard the voice of the Savior's love and opened his soul to Him. He allowed his soul to be healed of sins, and to be filled with God's warmth and love, so that he no longer felt dependent on earthly things, which he had acquired unjustly.

With His words: "Today salvation has come to this house, because he is also a son of Abraham" (Lk. 19, 9), Jesus confirmed the sincere conversion of Zacchaeus, the fact that his soul from then on really became the house of God, because it was filled with the spirit of God's warmth and love.

Perhaps someone among us has found himself or herself somewhere far from God in a spiritual sense. The Lord is close to everyone. He wants to come into the home of each of us. Let us only open the door of our soul to Him, as Zacchaeus once did, and believe that the Lord will change our life, change our heart. May the Lord remake us as He remade Zacchaeus in Jericho after His visit to Zacchaeus' home, so that peace and tranquility may reign in our hearts.

Dear believers! He or she who until now has been untruthful and has amassed wealth, like publicans, must be content with his or her own possessions and fear to appropriate someone else's. Whoever has led a life of laziness should know the duty to work where God's Providence has placed him or her, and with honest work glorify God, who gives us health and strength for work. Because as St. Basil the Great said: "The one who lives without God will not have a happy life."



Schedule of Divine Services:

SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

SUNDAY, Jan. 22, 2023

Thirty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday of Zaccheus

The Holy Apostle Timothy

The Holy Venerable-Martyr Anastasius the Persian

11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*

11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Charity Sweeney as requested by Victor Haburchak*

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 25, 2023

Our Holy Father Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople

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, Jan. 29, 2023

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Translation of the Relics of the Holy Bishop and Martyr Ignatius of Antioch

8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

PATRONAGE CHURCH

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Sunday of Zaccheus

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8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Lynne Glair as requested by Eileen Nawara*

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Propers begin on Page 161

Sunday of Zaccheus: This week marks the end of our usual Sundays after Pentecost. Next week, on the *Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee*, we begin our preparation for the Great Fast and Pascha. The propers for all services will be taken from the *Triodion*, a book that will be used until Holy and Great Saturday.

All Souls Saturday: The first of the five *All Souls Saturdays* of this year will be February 11. If you have any changes to make to your family's *Hramoty* please let us know by Sunday February 5, so your loved ones can be remembered.

St. Gregory Church Parish Meeting: On January 22, we will be having our first parish meeting of the year along with a pot-luck luncheon. If you have any other ideas you would like to suggest for our parish, we would love to also hear them. Please mark your calendars, and we hope everyone can attend!

Patronage Church ECF: We will resume our ECF meetings on The Sunday of Zacchaeus, January 22, 2023. Class will begin after the 9:00 Divine Liturgy. Parents and parishioners are always welcome to attend. For questions about the ECF program, please contact Loui Villanueva at villanuevaluxmundi@yahoo.com.

Dear believers! As the mission of Patronage Church in Abingdon is closed from the beginning of this year, we will celebrate the last Divine Liturgy on Sunday 29th January at 3.00pm. We invite everyone who wishes to participate in the Divine Liturgy in the chapel of St. Francis. (St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church (Stone Chapel), 1450 Abingdon Road Abingdon, MD 21009). May the Merciful Lord grant many years of life to all those who supported the activity of our Byzantine Divine Liturgies in Abingdon!

Ancient Faith Radio is a website with many useful resources for those wishing to deepen their understanding of our faith in the current age using modern methods such as podcasts, blogs, and ebooks. It can be found at <https://www.ancientfaith.com>.

Patronage Church: We are working on updating our parish records, and would like every family to complete a Parish Census 2023 form. This form can either be found on the shelf in the Narthex, next to the bulletins, or on our parish website. Please return your Parish Census 2023 form no later than Sunday, January 29th. You can either put your completed form in the collection basket, email it to our church (patronage.church@gmail.com), or mail it to the rectory. Thank you for your help!

Poustinia: An Evening of Encounter and Hospitality In the Light of the Byzantine East. Theosis, the Young Adult Ministry of the Eparchy of Passaic is sponsoring an event on January 28 at our church in Hillsborough, NJ. More information can be found on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/216749634344405/?ref=newsfeed>

Sunday of Zacchaeus Homily

Dear brothers and sisters!

The Holy Church gradually begins to prepare us for the period of Great Lent. This is the period when our souls are reborn through sincere repentance, when we pay more attention to ourselves, to our inner world, to our "I"... the time when we cleanse our soul from the sins that have accumulated in us. We will soon enter the time when we will limit ourselves from eating and drinking, all kinds of fun, and give up our sinful habits. Instead, we will make efforts to do good deeds of mercy, to worry more about the spiritual.

And in order for our fasting to be not just a diet or a list of certain prohibitions that limit our freedom, but to be really useful for us, the Church established a preparatory period. Through Gospel examples, she shows what we should strive for and what we should avoid in our lives. Zacchaeus Sunday is a spiritual bridge that connects two important moments in the redemption of the human race: Christmas and Lent, the sacrament of the birth of the Son of God and His death on the cross and resurrection.

This event when Zacchaeus met Jesus moved and surprised the whole city. Almost all the inhabitants of Jericho came out to meet the Lord. With a large crowd of people, the Lord walked through the streets of the city. Zacchaeus, a publican, also lived in this city. He was a man who held a high position in the society of that time... a rich man who collected taxes for the Roman Empire. Zacchaeus often abused this, his power and position for his own purposes, for which he had a bad reputation among the people.

Zacchaeus was a man of power, a man of wealth, a man who lived by the laws of this world. And the laws of our world are cruel, they do not allow a person to develop, do not give freedom, do not allow one to be oneself. And only the Lord gives us all this. He not only gives, but also wants us to become ourselves: never to put on a mask, never to play someone else's role, but always to be ourselves.

And now a miracle happens in the life of Zacchaeus! The miracle of the meeting of his soul with the Lord. Because of the sermon delivered in the house of Zacchaeus, from communication with the Lord, the publican understands the depth of his moral fall and radically changes his life, saying: "Lord! Half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have wronged anyone, I will repay fourfold" (Luke 19.8).

Evangelist Luke notes that Zacchaeus was a tax collector and a rich man. But at the same time, a lot of simplicity and sincerity appeared in his soul. Therefore, he gladly welcomes Christ into his