

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

February 13th, 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

February 19th, at 10am

In Memory of: William Cooley, Requested by: Richard Cooley

CONFESSION: Fr. Serhii is available 20 minutes before or immediately after Divine Liturgy.

Let Us Remember in Prayer: Those who are ill or convalescing: 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, Andy Turian, Doris Ruszin, Anne Gupman, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Anna Martin, Marge Dulina, Georgianna Kostak, Betty Rankin, Sandra Suseck, and especially those who are afflicted with Covid-19.

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>) Jan. 30

Offertory: \$1369.00

Tithe.ly: \$550.00

Theophany: \$75.00

First Offering: \$5.00

Kolachi sales: \$210.00

Refreshments: \$5.00

ECL: \$12.00

Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Jan. 30

Offertory: \$533.00

Tithe.ly: \$1086.99

Hagerstown Mission: Stewardship: Jan. 22, Offertory: \$133.00

Abingdon Mission: Stewardship: Jan. 30, Offertory: \$215.00

Covid Reminder: Masks are required indoors for all people over the age of two in both Prince Georges and Baltimore Counties until further notice.

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. We hope you will become an active part of our parish community. 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)

My parish is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am.

It will be holy, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work. It will be prayerful, if I pray.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring others into worship, if I invite and bring them in.

It will be a place of loyalty and love,
of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity, and mercy,
if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to
the task of being all the things that I want my parish to be.

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

Dear brothers and sisters!

The Sunday of the publican and the Pharisee prepares us for a special time in the church year - Lent. Two men came to the temple: a publican - a tax collector, a sinful man, as they would say now, corrupt, who was hated by colleagues for his position; and the Pharisee, a member of a religious-political party that united people who were very concerned about piety.

The Pharisee, turning to God, thanked Him for not being like other people, that is, not like those who did not belong to his party. Then the Pharisee began to list his virtues: that he prayed and fasted, and thanked God that he was not like the publican standing next to him.

And the publican, not daring to look up to heaven, beating himself on the chest, said to the Lord, "God, be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:14). Addressing the disciples, the Lord says that the publican came out of the temple more justified than the Pharisee.

This wonderful parable helps us understand what is good before God in the realm of our inner, inner spiritual life. It doesn't matter to God which political party we belong to, or how righteous we think we are, because God's judgment is not a human judgment, and God's evaluation of our lives is not our own evaluation. The outward piety of the Pharisee, which he scrupulously adhered to, considering himself a man worthy of God's indulgence, proved to be wrong.

From the realization of his sinfulness in his soul comes a coup. The tax collector has deep humility, not being able to raise his eyes to heaven. And this inner revolution, the realization of his sinfulness, this desire for God, was so precious! In the eyes of God this sinful man was distinguished from the "righteous" one standing next to him, as the Pharisee called himself.

In ancient Greece, even under Socrates, it was customary for a person who had done something wrong to himself to hear not only reproaches about his transgression, but also many other "compliments" that did not apply to his actions. In this way, those present assumed that when a person committed such an act, he could do not only that, but many other bad deeds, both in word and deed.

One master asked his servant, "Why do you sigh so often and pray with tears, because you say you are saved. And if so, then you should be happy!" "Yes, sir," replied the servant, "but when we go hunting, which bird do we run after the most, the living, the wounded, or the dead?" "Of course, the living one" said the gentleman. "That's how it is with me," the servant explained. "I came to life for God through God's mercy, but Satan sometimes manages to hurt my soul, he persecutes me with temptations to catch sin in his nets. So I sigh and pray that the Lord will save me from Satan's persecution. He who is dead in sins is not persecuted by Satan, because he already belongs to him." ...

Schedule of Divine Services:

SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

SUNDAY, Feb. 6, 2022

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Postfestive Day of the Encounter
Our Venerable Father Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna
The Holy Martyr Silvanus, Bishop of Emessa, and Companion
10:00 AM *Matins*
11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy*

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 9, 2022

Leave-taking (Otdanije) of the Encounter
The Holy Martyr Nicephor
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy followed by recitation of the Holy Rosary*

SUNDAY, Feb. 13, 2022

Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Our Venerable Father Martinian
8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

PATRONAGE CHURCH

SUNDAY, Feb. 6, 2022

8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*
In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney, Requested by: Sean Albert

TUESDAY, Feb. 8, 2022

Post-festive Day of the Meeting
The Holy Great Martyr Theodore
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*
In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney, Requested by: Sean Albert

FRIDAY, Feb. 11, 2022

The Holy Martyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste
Divine Liturgy (Private time)
In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney, Requested by: Sean Albert

SUNDAY, Feb. 13, 2022

Sunday of the Prodigal Son
11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*
11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy*
In Memory of: Paul Ruszin, Requested by: Daniel Dinko

Propers begin on Tone Four, page 141, then pages 321 and 215

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Today we begin our journey toward Pascha with the first of the four Sundays preparing us for the Great Fast. From now until Great and Holy Saturday the propers for the services are taken from the book known as the *Triodion*, literally, “The Three Odes” which are chanted at daily Matins instead of the usual nine. Our liturgical texts are great sources for meditation during the Fast. A copy of the complete *Triodion* may be found online at <http://shrtnu.com/7D3J>. The Melkite Eparchy of Newton has also published a guide to the *Triodion* at <https://shrtnu.com/R5Tu>. The week following the *Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee* is a fast-free week. We abstain from fasting this week so that we might enter into the Fast humble like the Publican and not prideful like the Pharisee.

Hramoty/All Souls: The first of our five *All Soul Saturdays* is February 19. If you have additions to your family’s *bramoty*, please submit them by the deadline, February 13 for St. Gregory Church and February 6 for Patronage Church.

Parish Histories: This week we received a request from a researcher who is compiling a history of the Byzantine churches in the United States for information about our two churches. If anyone has anything related to the founding and history of St. Gregory and/or Patronage churches, please send them along to Deacon Bill at deacon@stgregoryofnyssa.net.

GCU Matching Funds: As a result our recently successful Slavic Food Festival in November, the GCU Matching Funds Program awarded a matching fund contribution check for \$5000 to Patronage Church. Many thanks to the GCU!

Tax Statements: A sign-up sheet is available for those who wish a charitable tax statement for the year 2021. For those people in the missions who wish to receive a statement, please send an email to frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com with the subject “Tax Statement.”

Patronage Freezer Sale: The following are available for purchase:

1. Frozen Pirohi – cost is \$7/dozen or a bag of 4 dozen/\$25.00
 2. Frozen Kolachi - \$15 each (nut, raspberry, apricot, or poppy seed) – supply is limited
- Please see Mary Demyan -mdemya1@verizon.net- if you are interested in purchasing any of the above items.

Catechetical Resources: God With Us On Line has resources for at home catechetical enrichment. Just go to <https://godwithusonline.org/catechetical-resources/ruthenian/> and click on the appropriate Sunday.

Greek Catholic Union (GCU) 2022 Art & Photo Contest: The theme is, “My favorite vacation spot!” The contest runs from January 1st – April 4th, 2022. For more information, visit GCUusa.com. You can also contact Chris Chamberlain at 724-495-3400, x3810 or events@GCUusa.com. Entries should be mailed to: GCU Art Contest, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009. There is a limit of one entry per member, and all contestants must have been a GCU member for one year.

1. If you are 12 or younger, enter your artwork! Submission must be original on paper or art board (maximum size 12’X18”). Include a short description of your art, name, age, address, phone number, and email address on the back of your submission.
2. If you are 13 and up (age divisions are: 13-21 and age 22 and older) enter your photo! Include a short description, name, age, address, phone number, and email address with your submission. Photos that include identifiable people require a model release. The model release form is available for download at GCUusa.com/events.

Image & Likeness: On Wednesday, February 23, God With Us Online will present a one night presentation on St. John of Damascus and the Holy Icons. The Rev. Nathan Symeon Adams will be the speaker.

Important Upcoming Dates

Feb. 19, 2022	First All Souls Saturday
Feb. 20, 2022	Meatfare
Feb. 27, 2022	Cheesefare
Feb. 28, 2022	First Day of the Great Fast
Mar. 12, 2022	Second All Souls Saturday
Mar. 19, 2022	Third All Souls Saturday
Mar. 25, 2022	Feast of the Annunciation

... True prayer is not possible without humility, as the Apostle Peter writes: "God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble." Without humility, prayer becomes self-praise, and faith becomes self-justification. Although the Pharisee tried to live righteously, his proud heart was closed to God. Instead, the sinful publican had an open heart for God's mercy, which brought him salvation. The publican's prayer became a meeting, a conversation with the Lord, a search for his love, and he received it.

Reverend Isaac the Syrian says: "The beginning of human salvation is the recognition of man as a sinner."

Reverend Isaac of Syria says: "If you want to find a ladder to heaven, look for it first of all in yourself."

Elder Silouan of Athos says similarly: "Humility is the eradication of all passions."

Dear believers! When we pray, let us experience it as an encounter and a conversation with Jesus. Let us open our hearts to Him and say what we really feel - anxiety or joy. Then the love of Jesus will fill us, and a sense of self-worth will come to life in our souls.