

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: stgregorybyzcatch

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

March 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: Thomas Petrick, Father Joseph Borodach, Rosemarie Pipta, 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>) Feb. 19

Offertory: \$713.00

Tithe.ly: \$39.30

Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Feb. 19

Offertory: \$2150.00

Tithe.ly: \$305.00

Lent offering: \$60.00

Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship:

Feb. 19

Offertory: \$215.000

Tithe.ly: \$19.00

Initial Offering: \$8.00

Lent Offering: \$25.00

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.

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)

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic Fasting Regulations for the Great Fast 2023

Abstinence:

- The law of Abstinence forbids the use of meat, permitting the use of eggs and dairy products.
- All the faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to abstain.
- Abstinence is to be observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays during the Holy Season of the Great Fast.

Strict Abstinence:

- The law of Strict Abstinence (Fast) forbids the use of meat, eggs, and dairy products.
- All the adult faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to observe Strict Abstinence.
- Strict Abstinence is to be observed on the First Day of the Great Fast, Pure Monday, February 20 and on Great and Holy Friday, April 7.

Jesus' dialogue with Nathaniel and Nathaniel's profession of faith we read that Jesus answered him, "You shall see greater things than these. Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

This reference is to the vision that was received by Jacob in the Book of Genesis. In this part of the story of the Patriarchs, Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, was trying to escape the wrath of his brother, Esau, from whom he had swindled the blessing of their father, Isaac some time after Esau gave him this. Jacob was fleeing for his life to see his uncle Laban in Haran, when he stopped late at Mount Moriah, pitched his tent, and went to sleep. While he was sleeping, a vision came to him in his dream of a ladder going from the top of Mount Moriah to the heavens, and on this stairway or ladder there were hosts of the angelic powers moving up and down. Jacob was absolutely awestruck by this.

He also saw a vision of the Lord either above or beside the stairway, and God said to him: "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants... Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I did not know it." And he was afraid. When he awoke, Jacob took the stone that he had used as a pillow, anointed it with oil, saying "the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house."

Why is this vision important and what does it have to do with the Gospel reading today? This vision at Bethel, which is what Jacob named that spot meaning "the house of God" is the vision of a new temple which will be built on Mount. There the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob gave a vision to Jacob about a new temple that would be established which would bring heaven and earth together, with angelic powers ascending and descending on the mountain of God.

This new Temple would at first be Solomon's temple, but later on it would be Jesus Christ Himself who in His human and divine natures would bring heaven and earth. With Jesus the Royal High Priest who ascended into glory, earthly worship ascends to the heavens, and heavenly worship condescends to dwell in our midst.

Third and finally, we have the Cherubic Hymn that we sing at the Great Entrance. This Cherubic Hymn is what we sing speaking of our representative and mystical participation with the cherubim and seraphim in the heavenly worship of God. We are now like those angels ascending and descending on Jacob's Ladder – the Incarnate Son of God who unites heaven and earth.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, in the Divine Liturgy, we have been brought to the Mountain of God, to His Holy Hill...we have stood before the Gates of Heaven. During this time of the Great Fast, may we strive to ascend worthily up this holy mountain, with clean hands and a pure heart. The King of Glory, the Mountain of God, the Lord of Hosts, the God of Jacob at Bethel is now going to be present with us in Jesus Christ, under the appearances of the Holy Gifts of Bread and Wine. May we be one with the angels and saints present with us in the holy icons in giving Him the glory that He is due!

Schedule of Divine Services:
SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

SUNDAY, Feb. 26, 2023

First Sunday of the Great Fast
Sunday of Orthodoxy
Memory of the Holy Prophets
Our Holy Father Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza.
The Holy Great Martyr, Photina the Samaritan
8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Anna Wroblewski and her family*

WEDNESDAY, Mar. 1, 2023

The Venerable Martyr Eudoxia
Our Holy Father David, Enlightener of Wales
6:00 PM *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts*

SATURDAY, Mar. 4, 2023

Second All Souls Saturday
Our Venerable Father Gerasimus of the Jordan
4:00 PM *Parastas*

SUNDAY, Mar. 5, 2023

Second Sunday of the Great Fast
The Holy Martyr Conon
11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*
11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy*

PATRONAGE CHURCH

SUNDAY, Feb. 26, 2023

First Sunday of the Great Fast
Sunday of Orthodoxy
Memory of the Holy Prophets
Our Holy Father Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza.
The Holy Great Martyr, Photina the Samaritan
11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*
11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +John Onufrak as requested by Viktor Haburchak*

FRIDAY, Mar. 3, 2023

The Holy Martyr Eutropius and His Companions, Cleonicus and Basiliscus
6:30 PM *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts followed by Panachida*

SUNDAY, Mar. 5, 2023

Second Sunday of the Great Fast
The Holy Martyr Conon
8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

Propers for today: Tone 5, page 146; Of the Holy Icons, page 220
Epistle. Hebrews 11:24-26.32-12:2; Gospel, John 1:43-51

St. Gregory Pysanky Workshop: After a three-year hiatus, our annual Pysanky Workshop is back! Please join us on Sunday, March 12th after the Divine Liturgy for fellowship and to practice this ancient art of egg dyeing. All are welcome, regardless of skill level. Please sign up on the sheet in the hall so that we have enough supplies for everyone. Old clothes are recommended, and children should be accompanied by an adult. Brunch items or snacks that can be shared are welcome. If you have any questions, please call or email Christine Kelleher at (202-390-4310, czkelleher@gmail.com) or Betty and Dale Purich (301-989-4093, dpurich@comcast.net).

Patronage Church Pot Luck: Please join us after Liturgy today, February 26th, for a pot-luck luncheon and to watch the first of a series of videos on the Apocrypha in Scriptures. After the video, we will be discussing our upcoming parish festival, repair ideas for our social hall kitchen and bathrooms, and those interested in joining our parish and financial council. Please bring a dish and any proposals or ideas you may have to share.

The Patronage Food Festival is fast approaching. Please mark your calendars with the following dates to plan to come help prepare for this event! Friday, March 3 at 9 am for cabbage preparation; Saturday, March 4 at 9 am for holupki making and envelope stuffing; Wednesday, March 29 at 9 am for kolachi baking; Friday, March 31 at 9 am for festival prep; and Saturday, April 1 from 10 am- 2pm for the festival. We will also need volunteers for clean-up after the festival. Drivers may be needed for pick-up of kielbasa in Johnstown and pirohi/pascha in the Hazelton area as well. Please contact Mary Demyan at 410-591-5654(text preferred) or mdemya1@verizon.net if you are available to help. Thank you for helping to make the Patronage Food Festival a success!

St. Gregory is looking for a volunteer to be in charge of changing the candles in church. Please see Fr. Serhii or Deacon Bill if you're interested.

All-Occasion Cards For Sale: Sister Seraphim Olsafsky, OSBM, from the Sisters of St. Basil, has turned some of her paintings into all-occasion cards and are being sold in a package of ten. 4 Birthday (2 of 2 designs), 2 Wellness, 2 Congratulations, and 2 Sympathy. Inside each card is an inspirational message and a verse from the Bible. *Vicnaja Pamjat!* is on the back of the sympathy card, and *Mnobaja L'ita! Blabaja L'ita!* is on the back of the wellness card. The cost is \$14.50 + shipping & handling. Each card is 4 1/4" X 5 1/2". The order form can be found at <https://sistersofstbasil.org/greeting-cards/>. Please consider purchasing some of these beautiful cards to benefit the Sisters of St. Basil.

St. Louis and St. Francis Pastorate is sponsoring separate retreats for men and women at the Bon Secours in Marriottsville. The women's retreat is March 23–26 and the men's is April 20–

23. For information on the women's retreat contact Joan Doyle (301-442-4675) or Polly Stavrou (410-212-4329). For the men's retreat contact Loui Villanueva (villanuevaluxmundi@yahoo.com).

"Making the City a Church" Lecture Series: The Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA, is pleased to announce its 23rd annual academic lecture to be presented by Fr. John Baldovin, S.J., at 7pm on May 10, 2023. This live-streamed lecture, entitled, "Making the City a Church: Liturgical Processions in Constantinople from the Sixth to Tenth Centuries," is to study the mobile character of ancient Constantinopolitan Christian worship and the processions of Byzantine stations liturgy. This will shed light on the liturgy itself, popular piety, and the relation of liturgy to the surrounding culture. All are welcome to attend this lecture virtually via the Seminary website (www.bcs.edu). The lecture can also be accessed live or at a later time from archives on the B.C.S. YouTube channel. For more information, please contact Fr. Ivan Chirovsky 412-321-8383, x36, or by email: development@bcs.edu.

For The Life Of The World: God With Us Online's next class begins February 27. It is a series of lectures by Fr. David Anderson on the sacraments and Orthodoxy. To register, visit their website <https://godwithusonline.org/events/for-the-life-of-the-world/>.

Homily for Sunday of Orthodoxy

Today is the First Sunday of the Great fast which is traditionally referred to as the Sunday of Orthodoxy. This is the Sunday where we commemorate the restoration of the Holy Icons in the Byzantine churches after a 117-year period of iconoclasm, where images that were hidden away were processed in the streets and restored to the churches. This restoration was a clear profession of faith in Jesus Christ and the new plan of salvation whereby it was clearly affirmed that orthodox faith and worship included the veneration of the images of Christ, the Theotokos, the angels and the saints. In our churches, then, the realms of heaven and earth are brought together, united in Christ who sits at the right hand of the Father.

Three points in our liturgy today should remind us that that the Church is an earthly icon of the heavenly realms. First, at the beginning of the liturgy, the priest or the deacon performed the Great Incensation around the whole church. The altar area of the sanctuary, the whole iconostasis and all of the icons around the nave and then the faithful were all incensed.

This act of incensing is meant to point to three things: First, it signifies the holy fragrance of a floral Paradise renewed – a New Eden. Second, it signifies the holy prayers and petitions of the Church being entrusted to God through Christ, and all the saints and angels. Third, it signifies the visual sense of clouds at a high elevation – the peak of the Mountain of the Lord. Here the spiritual heights of the church and the clouds of incense give us a sense of the holiness of God and Christ enthroned in the glorious heavens.

Second, we have the reading of today's Gospel from Saint John the Theologian. At the end of