

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 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

April 10th 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

April 2nd, 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: 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, 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>) Mar. 20

Offertory: \$1144.00

Lent: \$120.00

Refreshments: \$36.00

For Ukraine: \$741.00

Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Mar. 20

Offertory: \$1045.00

Tith.ly: \$295.00

Easter: \$25.00

Easter Flowers: \$45.00

Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: Mar. 19

Offertory: \$240.00

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)

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic
Fasting Regulations for the Great Fast 2022

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 28 and on Great and Holy Friday, April 15.

because of a lack of prayer and fasting, so our faith becomes weak when we do not strengthen it with prayer and fasting.

Concerning fasting, Blessed Augustine teaches: "If you are asked, why do you fast and torment yourself? Answer as follows: a mad horse, which cannot be tamed with a bridle, is tamed by hunger and thirst. " Blessed Augustine compares a man to a wild horse who does not recognize anyone and does not bow to anyone. Hunger and thirst are sometimes the only things that can tame a passionate person who rebels against God. And rebellion against God is one of the signs of sin. Remember the prodigal son. Extreme need, hunger and humiliation brought him closer to meeting his father. And who knows if he would be converted or not if he was all right? Repentance without fasting according to St. John Chrysostom is impossible. It is as impossible as if "fire burned in the water."

Concerning prayer, the holy fathers give a great many teachings. For example, as Evagrius of Pontus says: "Prayer is the conversation of the mind with God." St. Augustine teaches that God is closer to us than we are to ourselves. Why? Because God is in ourselves. Therefore, prayer is not attracting God to our needs, but our own attraction to Him. Prayer and fasting are the two wings that lift us up to heaven, they are the two mediators that help us to accept everything in life as a gift from God. Therefore, let us strengthen our faith.

When Thomas Aquinas visited the Vatican, he was given an audience with the Pope. The Pope looked at the famous scientist for a long time and said: "Do you think, Master Tomo, that the Church cannot repeat after the Apostle Peter "I do not have silver and gold?" The scholar replied without hesitation, "Unfortunately, we cannot repeat the end of the quote: 'And what I have, I give you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk'" (Acts 3: 6). Even then, Thomas understood that the true success of the Church is not measured by how great and rich our temples are, not by how many people gather for worship and how many donations. The success of the Church is that she leads people to God.

Dear believers! Let us remember what the Apostle Paul says about the Christian's spiritual weapon: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can repel the wiles of the devil. For we must fight not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the authorities, against the rulers of this world of darkness, against the spirits of evil in the heavens. That is why you must put on the full armor of God, so that in the hour of trouble you can resist and, overcoming everything, stand firm. Stand fast, therefore, girding up your loins with righteousness, putting on the armor of righteousness, putting your feet in readiness to preach the gospel of peace. And above all, take the shield of faith, which will be able to extinguish all the hot arrows of the wicked. Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, that is, the Word of God" (Ephesians 6: 10-17).

Schedule of Divine Services:

SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

SUNDAY, Mar. 27, 2022

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast
Memory of Our Holy Father John Climacus
Our Venerable Mother Matrona of Thessalonica
8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

WEDNESDAY, Mar. 30, 2022

Our Venerable Father John Climacus, Author of "The Ladder."
6:00 PM *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts*

SUNDAY Apr. 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast
Memory of Our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt
Our Venerable Father and Confessor Nicetas, Hegumen of Medikion
10:00 AM *Matins*
11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Robert Hametz as requested by Laverne Hametz followed by Panachida*

PATRONAGE CHURCH

SUNDAY, Mar. 27, 2022

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast
Memory of Our Holy Father John Climacus
Our Venerable Mother Matrona of Thessalonica
11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*
11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Rev. Conan Timoney as requested by Sean Albert*

FRIDAY, Apr. 1, 2022

Our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt
6:30 PM *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts in memory of +Rev. Conan Timoney as requested by Sean Albert*

SUNDAY Apr. 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast
Memory of Our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt
Our Venerable Father and Confessor Nicetas, Hegumen of Medikion
8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Rev. Conan Timoney as requested by Sean Albert*

Propers begin on Tone Three, page 135, then page 226

The Fourth Sunday of the Fast: This Sunday is dedicated to the memory of St. John Climacus, abbot of the Mt. Sinai monastery in the seventh century. St. John got his nickname “Climacus” from the title of his most famous work, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, a set of 30 steps to the ascetical life. The work starts from the practical “On the renunciation of the world” and ends with the summit “Concerning the linking together of the supreme trinity among the virtues.” While St. John wrote his work for monastics, it still contains good advice for all Christians. An online copy can be found at <http://www.prudencetrue.com/images/TheLadderofDivineAscent.pdf>

Special Collection for Ukraine: Metropolitan William has authorized a special collection for the relief of the victims of the war in Ukraine be taken up throughout the Metropolia. For the next two Sundays, parishioners are encouraged to remember our brothers and sisters in need. Checks should be made out to your respective parish with the memo “For Ukraine.” A single check from each parish will then be forwarded to the Eparchy after the collection.

Synod on Synodality: In October of 2021, Pope Francis announced a two-year process of listening and dialogue in the Catholic Church. His wish is that the voices of *all* the faithful be heard during this time. We will be holding in each church over the next two weeks.

- **March 27** Patronage Church: Potluck dinner and discussion after liturgy. There will be no liturgy in Abingdon on this day.
- **April 3** St. Gregory of Nyssa: Potluck dinner and discussion after liturgy

This is a very special time for the Church. Please make an effort to attend.

Online Kolachi Sale: St. Gregory will be offering kolachi for sale in time for Pascha. Orders can be made by going to tinyurl.com/StGregoryKolachi or the St. Gregory of Nyssa website. Pickup will be on Saturday April 9, or Monday April 11. Baking will take place this Saturday April 2 starting at 9 AM. Please see Steven Harper after liturgy if you're able to help, or email him at stevenharper@mac.com

Orthodox Scholars Preach: The Orthodox Christian Studies Center is pleased to present the 2022 installment of the Speaker Series: Orthodox Scholars Preach. Every week until Pascha, a different Orthodox Scholar will release a new 10-minute video. This Series provides a platform for Orthodox scholars to reflect on the spiritual themes of each Sunday's liturgical calendar while drawing on their expertise. Last year's and this year's videos can be found on their website <https://shrtm.nu/5XTz>

Food Pantry: Our Lady of Victory Church has sent a very nice letter to Patronage Church expressing their gratitude for our generous donation of 4 huge boxes of food to their food pantry. May God bless you for your generosity.

The Patronage Ethnic Food Festival is fast approaching and we will be needing volunteers for several dates to make this a success. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for as many of the following dates as possible in order to keep this wonderful event alive and well. We are planning to return to a traditional festival for this event!

- Wednesday April 6 at 9 am Kolachi making
- Friday April 8 at 9 am Festival Preparation
- Saturday April 9 Festival. 10 am-2 pm

Anyone who has questions can contact Mary Demyan at mdemya1@verizon.net or 410-591-5654.

4th Sunday of Lent Homily

Dear brothers and sisters!

Once a seven-year-old boy was riding a train with his father. He calmly looked out the window at the field, the forests, the trees that were disappearing before his eyes. But suddenly the train entered the dark tunnel with a noise. The boy was scared; in the dark he could not see if his father was sitting next to him. But he carefully reached out his hand, put it on his father's arm, and calmed down. "What do you want, my son?" his father asked him. "Nothing, Dad, I just wanted to make sure you were still here!" And he held his father's hand until the train left the tunnel. If we find ourselves in a similar situation, let us reach out to our Heavenly Father in prayer and believe that He will lead us out of darkness into light.

Today's Gospel, the fourth Sunday of Lent, tells of Jesus' healing of a young boy from the influence of an evil spirit. By this event, Jesus teaches us that fasting is a time of spiritual struggle against our own sins and the temptations of the evil spirit that wants to rule over us. The father experienced a similar struggle, seeking salvation for his son from the people, from the apostles, and finally coming to Jesus. At the request of the father to heal his son, Jesus said, "O faithless and perverse generation" (Matt. 17:17). He thus pointed out the cause of the son's illness – the sins of infidelity and corruption.

St. Isaac the Syrian says: “He who believes that God is omnipotent is doing the right thing, but that is not all. He who believes that he can ask God for everything truly believes.” In the Gospel of Matthew, the Lord states: “If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Go from here to there, and it will pass away,' and nothing shall be impossible for you” (17:20). We are talking about a miraculous faith. Faith is a priceless gift. Just as the apostles had the gift of healing and power over demons from Christ, but could not take advantage of it