

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) Szweczyk

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 16th, at 10am

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

Let Us Remember in Prayer: The soul of *Rev. Charles H. Brown, MD, JD*, a retired priest of the Eparchy of Passaic who passed away on March 27. Before his retirement, Fr. Charles was pastor of Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church in North Philadelphia.

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. 27

Offertory: \$1426.00

Lent: \$50.00

Easter Flowers: \$200.00

Kolachi sales: \$43.00

Refreshments: \$27.00

Missions: \$75.00

For Ukraine: \$2911.00

Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Mar. 27

Patronage: \$668.00

Tith.ly \$190.00

For Ukraine: \$250.00

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:

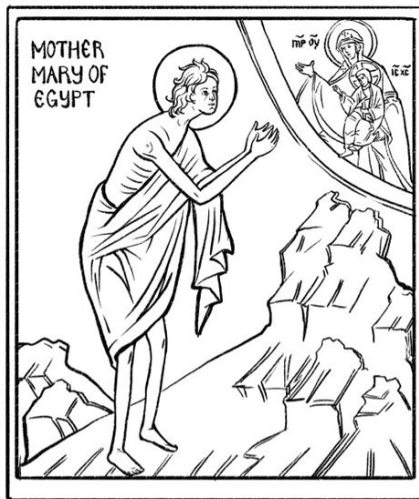
- The law of Strict Abstinence (Fast) forbids the use of meat, eggs, and dairy products.
- *All the adult faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to observe Strict Abstinence.*
- Strict Abstinence is to be observed on the First Day of the Great Fast, Pure Monday, February 28 and on Great and Holy Friday, April 15.

you!" The bear walks, sobbing. Then the wolf stumbles upon the Dragon and hears: "Come here on the first day - I will eat you!" The wolf leaves, mourning his lost life. Then there is the fox, which is to be eaten at two o'clock, and it, too, is doomed to prepare for imminent death. Then the hare encounters the Dragon and hears that he is to appear before the Terrible Dragon for dinner at three o'clock. "Can I not come?" the hare asks. "It is possible," says the Dragon in a terrible voice. "And let's write: the hare will not come."

Poor animals come to the dragon for dinner for one reason: they do not think to just give up. So, we can simply refuse to go to perdition, get off the train that is rushing to its collapse, get out of the burning building, where the door is actually open. This is repentance - a change of path when we turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.

In 1880, a poorly clad young priest appeared in Paris and asked to spend the night with a local priest. He came from distant Turin, raising funds to build a church and support the poor. That poor priest was Father John Don Bosco, who many years later was canonized by the Church. A place in the attic of the house was prepared for him. The priest who received him for the night later said: "If I had known that it was John Don Bosco, I would not have placed him in the attic, but would have given him the best room." This priest knew very well that Christ could come to us as the most needy, but he forgot about it so easily.

So, when everything in life is not perfect, do not be annoyed and do not rush to criticize, condemning others for it, saying that it is unfair, wrong. You should know it, and then show love humble and be patient. Let us use every opportunity to serve Christ in the person of our neighbors and thus gain a blessed eternity for ourselves.



Schedule of Divine Services:

SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

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*

WEDNESDAY, Apr. 6, 2022

Our Holy Father Eutyches, Archbishop of Constantinople
The Death of our Holy Father Methodius, Teacher of the Slavs
 6:00 PM *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts*

SUNDAY, Apr. 10, 2022

Palm (Flowery) Sunday
 8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

PATRONAGE CHURCH

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*

FRIDAY, Apr. 8, 2022

The Holy Apostles Herodian, Agabus, Rufus, Asyncritus, Phlegon and Hermes
 6:30 PM *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts in memory of +Rev. Conan Timoney as requested by Sean Albert*

SUNDAY, Apr. 10, 2022

Palm (Flowery) Sunday
 11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Rev. Conan Timoney as requested by Sean Albert*

Propers begin on Tone Four, page 141, then page 230

The Great Fast: The Forty Day Great Fast ends this Friday. We then enter the short season of *Lazarus Saturday/Palm Sunday* before we begin *Great and Holy Week*. Even if we have fallen short of our initial good intentions for this Lent, we still have time to redouble our efforts to prepare for the celebration of Pascha.

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. This Sunday, April 3, St. Gregory will have a potluck dinner and discussion after liturgy. This is a very special time for the Church. Please make an effort to attend.

The Patronage Slavic Food Festival will be held on Saturday, April 9 from 10 am to 2 pm. We will be having a bake sale as part of the festival and are in need of donations of baked goods for the bake table. Please package your donations for individual sale and price your item. Thank you for your support of 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

Preparation for Palm Sunday: Next Saturday, April 9, we need help at St. Gregory to prepare the church and the palms and pussywillows for Palm Sunday. We plan to begin around 9 AM. Please let Peggy Dillow know if you will be able to help.

Patronage Potluck: Our next parish luncheon will be held on Sunday, April 24 (St. Thomas Sunday) following the liturgy. This will be a potluck lunch, with the parish providing holupki. Please plan to bring a dish and join us for an afternoon of food and fellowship!

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.

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

5th Sunday of Lent

Dear brothers and sisters!

On the fourth Sunday of Lent, we honored the memory of St. John of the Ladder, who left us an important fruit of his spiritual life and spiritual exploits - the doctrine of the spiritual "ladder" – 30 steps – a ladder that unites Heaven and Earth. Every Sunday of Lent is a spiritual step by which the church raises us to the Lord God.

And on the fifth Sunday of Lent, the Church once again transports us to the Judean desert and offers to reflect on the life of one who, through repentance, rose from the depths of sin to the heights of holiness, the Venerable Mary of Egypt.

St. Zosima, reflecting on his ascetic life, saw an angel who reminded him that no man can say of himself that he has reached the heights of holiness, and that there are ascetics who have reached the heights of holiness while hidden from the world. By God's Providence, Elder Zosima meets beyond the Jordan the one who surpassed all his deeds, whose body withered from the hunger and turned black from the scorching sun, but her soul was brighter than light. Although she could neither read nor write, her heart was filled with divine light.

Macarius the Great said of the soul: "There is great depth in the heart, there is death, but there is also sin." Shoots of new life began to appear in Mary's heart. The Mother of God allowed her to enter the temple and worship the Holy Cross. Then, after bathing in the Jordan and partaking of the Holy Sacraments, she embarked on a great repentant fast, which she conducted for 50 years. Our life often resembles the life of a saint. The devil always shows us sin is very attractive; he appears before us in such a bright wrapper. It is not in vain that Ephraim the Syrian said that "the nets of the devil are anointed with honey."

God comforts us today as we mourn our sins and lifts us up when we acknowledge our weakness and depravity. We can deviate from the path that leads to destruction and take another path that leads to the Kingdom of God. We are really free - we have a choice. Nothing compels us to continue on the destructive path we have taken so far.

There is a related children's anecdote. A bear walks through the woods and encounters the Terrible Dragon. "Come here tomorrow at noon!" says the Dragon in a terrible voice. "I'll eat