

# 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](mailto:frsergij@stgregoryofnyssa.net)

Fr. Serhii Cell: (240) 644-2661 / Office: (301) 953-9323

**Deacon: Deacon William (Bill) Szewczyk**

Email: [deacon@stgregoryofnyssa.net](mailto: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](mailto:patronage.church@gmail.com) / Office: (410) 247-4936

**Pastor: Reverend Serhii Deiak**

Email: [frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:kotlar@alum.mit.edu)

**Next Liturgy: Sunday**

September 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:axxearp@yahoo.com)

**Next Liturgy: Saturday**

October 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 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: Kathleen Lynch, Ken Demianchik, Michael Fitzgibbon, 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, Doris Ruszin, Anne Gupman, Joseph and Marie Repasi, 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.

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>) Sep. 4

Offertory: \$1331.50

Tithe.ly: \$50.00

### Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Sep. 4

Sunday Offering: \$1638.00

Tithe.ly: \$180.00

### Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: Sep. 4

Tithe.ly: \$19.00

**St. Gregory 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](mailto:frsergij@stgregoryofnyssa.net) or [frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com](mailto:frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com). *My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.* (Isaiah 56:7)

### **New creatures in Christ**

Queen Victoria once visited a paper factory. The factory manager, not even guessing who was in front of him, showed how everything worked. The Queen went to the waste paper sorting shop, where workers were picking paper waste from the garbage. She asked what they were doing with all that dirty paper, and the manager explained that it would later be used to make high-quality white paper. Only after the queen had left did the manager find out who the distinguished guest was.

After some time, Her Majesty received an elegant package of snow-white paper. Each sheet was watermarked with her image. A note was also attached, stating that the paper was made from dirty waste paper, which the Queen had seen during her last visit.

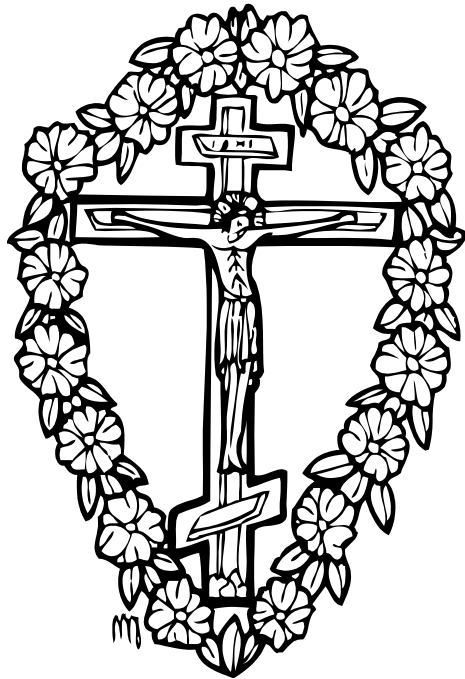
This story shows us how Christ works on us. He takes us, covered in dirt, and remakes us into new creatures. When we receive Jesus into our hearts, we are spiritually as different from our previous state as clean white paper is from the dirty waste from which it is made.

observed all the precepts and rites. But they did not want to accept Jesus. Why? Probably, because they had pride. Pride makes a person cruel, blinds, and becomes the biggest obstacle between a person and God.

St. Augustine once said that pride is the worst of all, because it is able to enter into good deeds and spoil them from within. Let us recall the parable of the tax collector and the Pharisee. When the Pharisee prayed, he said: "Lord, I thank You that I am not like this publican and these sinners." This piety and religiosity of the Pharisees was corrupted by their pride.

Dear believers! You need to live with Christ not once, not somewhere, but here and now. Eternal life is not something that will be on some future day, but it is already here. We can say that it is the desire to live in God and for God. It means working tirelessly on yourself, and least of all looking at the shortcomings of your neighbors.

God, Who became a man, came down from heaven in our need, to draw to Himself all the rejected. He loved us so much that He gave His life for us, so that we would not perish, but live eternal life. We should always remember that God never leaves us. He comes to us and He is the only one who "is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or understand" (Eph. 3:20).



Schedule of Divine Services:

**SAINT GREGORY CHURCH**

SUNDAY, Sep. 11, 2022

**Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
**Postfestive Day of the Birth of the Theotokos**  
**Our Venerable Mother Theodora of Alexandria**  
 8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy followed by Mirovanije*

WEDNESDAY, Sep. 14, 2022

**Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

SUNDAY, Sep. 18, 2022

**Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross**  
**Our Venerable Father Eumenius the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Gortyna**  
 11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Pa Paul Nzounkekang as requested by Francisca Nzounkekang, followed by Mirovanije*

**PATRONAGE CHURCH**

SUNDAY, Sep. 11, 2022

**Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
**Postfestive Day of the Birth of the Theotokos**  
**Our Venerable Mother Theodora of Alexandria**  
 11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy followed by Mirovanije*

WEDNESDAY, Sep. 14, 2022

**Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
 6:30 PM *Divine Liturgy*

SUNDAY, Sep. 18, 2022

**Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross**  
**Our Venerable Father Eumenius the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Gortyna**  
 8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Elizabeth Catherine Chesno as requested by Cathy and George Johnson, followed by Mirovanije*

Propers begin on page 146 then pages 243 and 251

**Exaltation of the Holy Cross:** Forty days after the *Feast of the Transfiguration* we celebrate the day St. Macarius raised the relic of the Holy Cross for all to see after it restored a dying woman to health. The feast is a reminder that the Cross is truly life-giving and the triumph of Life over Death.

Liturgy for the feast will be held on Wednesday, September 14 at 9 AM at St. Gregory Church and 6:30 PM at Patronage Church.

**St. Gregory Music Practice.** There will be a music practice open to all today, September 11 and next Sunday, September 18. It will begin 10 minutes after the close of Liturgy and will run no more than 30 minutes. We will stick to the basics. Our goal is to make it easier for all parishioners to fully participate in the singing.

**Patronage Feast Day Crab Fest!** Saturday, October 1, 2022 Divine Liturgy at 4:00 PM with crab fest immediately following! Price is \$35 for all you can eat and drink (soda, water, beer, & wine will be provided) Teens 13-18 only \$10! Children under 12 (and non-crab eaters) eat free! Please bring a side dish or a dessert. RSVP by September 30th to Dan Karlson at: ds.karlson@gmail.com. More information can be found at the Church's website. More information can be found at the Church's website.

**A Message from God With Us Online:** We have such an exciting new curriculum year coming up! We hope you've marked your calendars with our upcoming events, and registered! (Remember that as always, all of our webinars are offered free of charge to participants, but registration is required!) In particular, please note that on Wednesday, September 21, we are welcoming Bishop Nicholas Samra to launch our 2022-23 curriculum year! Bishop Nicholas has been a great advocate and supporter of God With Us since our beginning, and we are so thrilled to have him join us for Stewards of the Mysteries: The Great Calling of Every Christian. Visit <https://godwithusonline.org/events/stewards-of-the-mysteries/> to register.

**Eastern Christian Formation (ECF) Program for Children:** It is that time of year, again, to begin registering your children for our upcoming ECF Program.

- Patronage Church: Catechetical Sunday is scheduled for September 18th, with the blessing of teachers and students, under the coordination of Loui Villanueva. We are asking for volunteers with tools for Saturday, September 17 from 9am - noon, to help assemble the remaining furniture and to move the kitchen items in preparation of the ECF classroom.

- St. Gregory Church: Jacob Szewczyk has graciously accepted the position of ECF coordinator for the coming year. The first session will be next Sunday, September 18 after liturgy. Please see Jacob or email him at [jacob.n.szewczyk@gmail.com](mailto:jacob.n.szewczyk@gmail.com) for more information.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience (WWME):** A WWME will be held at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Catonsville the weekend of October 7-9. This is a non-residential event. More information can be found at [moments4marriage.org](http://moments4marriage.org).

**Support of the Pastor:** Dear friends, a big thank you to everyone who financially supports Father Serhii, especially to one family who makes monthly assistance for their priest and his family. *Blessed are the merciful because they will receive mercy.*

Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Dear brothers and sisters!

We are preparing for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This last Sunday before the Feast of Commemoration of the Lord's Passion for each of us is specially dedicated to the upcoming Exaltation. The Gospel passage that we read today is part of a long conversation between Jesus and a wealthy Pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin, Nicodemus.

In this part of the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, we see how Jesus points to His divine origin. Since He came from heaven, He therefore has the right to speak about heavenly things. Jesus remembers the bronze snake that Moses hung on a pole (see Num. 21:9).

Let us recall the story of that copper snake. When, during their forty-year journey through the desert, the people of Israel once again complained about God and Moses, the Lord sent snakes among them, which began to bite them. A lot of people died because of it. Then the people repented and turned to Moses with the words: "We have sinned, because we spoke against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to remove the viper from us." The Lord told Moses to make a copper snake and hang it on a pole in the middle of the camp. If someone was bitten by a viper, then, looking at this snake, he or she remained alive.

In the evangelist John we read: "So just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may live eternal life" (John 3:14-15). All mankind is afflicted with a spiritual disease called sin. And there is only one cure for this disease: to turn your gaze to the Son of Man, that is, Jesus, Who dies on the cross. The evangelist John emphasizes that the evil that took over the whole world and took root in the souls of every person somehow got the right to preach to Jesus. Looking at the crucified Jesus, at the cross, we must understand that we see the consequences of sin.

Not all the Pharisees mentioned in the Gospel were bad people. They were quite religious; they