

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

September 25th 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

October 1st and 15th, 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: Christine Szewczyk, 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. 11

Offertory: \$845.00

Tithe.ly: \$442.45

Koachi sales: \$30.00

Refreshments: \$20.00

Memorial Donation

(Albert Russin): \$300.00

Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Sep. 11

Offertory: \$610.00

Tithe.ly: \$130.00

Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: Sep. 11

Offertory: \$352.00

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.

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)

Good advice

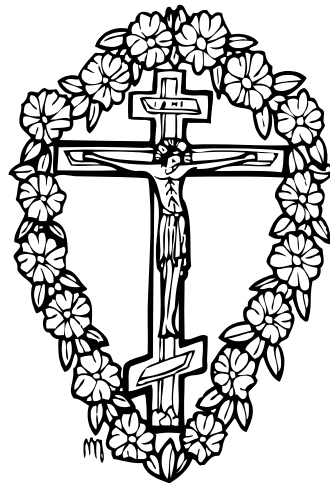
One father came to the priest for advice and immediately began to complain about his growing son, that he is disobedient and does not want to study. The priest asked this father: "And tell me, what methods did you use to incline him to correction?" The exasperated father replied: "But what did I not do? I locked him in the basement, did not let him eat, beat him endlessly, and nothing helped." Then the priest asked: "And tell me how you tried to bend him to pray and do you pray with him?" The father spread his hands and gave a sign that he didn't. Then the priest answered him: "Good man, it follows that until now you have worked on his skin, and not on his soul, so from today I advise you to pray together with him." Soon it became known that the priest's advice was very useful, because this son soon corrected himself and grew up to be a worthy man.

Father, to no longer belong to oneself, to be open to others. All our joys and sorrows are transformed in this humble self-sacrifice of love.

At the end of the mission in one parish, crosses were distributed to parents of families to hang at home. At the end, a poor boy – an orphan – approached and asked for a cross for himself. Those who knew him asked: "Why do you need a cross if you don't have your own home?" "Truly, I have no home of my own, because I am a poor hireling – an orphan; I am alone in this world and I would like to have some friend with me. Maybe Jesus Christ wants to be my friend." The poor boy's request moved everyone present to tears, and he, having received the cross, pressed it to his chest and ran. This example shows us that Jesus is a friend of even the poorest.

Kissing, raising and glorifying the Holy Cross today, we glorify in it not only the tree itself, as a Christian symbol, but as the secret of God's boundless and inexhaustible love. The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross reminds us of the value of our own life cross. If a Christian combines his or her cross with the Savior's cross through spiritual renunciation, then it will become a powerful source of God's power, a guide to the Kingdom of Heaven. It will truly reveal to us the light of God's providence, which will once again bring us closer to God and unite us with Him.

Dear believers! Hope in God... in His love. He will never embarrass us, because the Heavenly Father testified to His faithful love through the suffering of His Son on the cross. He gives us this love through the mouth of the Holy Spirit. "Hope will not put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (Rom. 5:5)



Schedule of Divine Services:

SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

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*

WEDNESDAY, Sep. 21, 2022

Leave-taking (Otdanije) of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The Holy Apostle Codratus of Magnesia

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy followed by recitation of the Holy Rosary*

SUNDAY, Sep. 25, 2022

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Our Venerable Mother Euphrosyna

8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

PATRONAGE CHURCH

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*

SUNDAY, Sep. 25, 2022

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Our Venerable Mother Euphrosyna

11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*

11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Phyllis Skovran as requested by Michael Skovran*

Propers begin on page 253 then page 152

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.

St. Gregory Music Practice. There will be a music practice open to all today, 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 Church Panachida Service: Fr. Serhii will be having a Panachida service for those, from our parish, who are interred at Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Cemetery, Elkridge, MD, after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 9. The cemetery is only a few miles from our church. We hope you can join us! *There will be no Liturgy at the Abingdon Mission on this date. O Lord, our God, who are good and full of love for all mankind: Give rest to our departed servants in the abode of the just, and keep us, here on earth, free from sin, enabling us to lead a truly Christian life to the end of our days.*

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 today, September 18, with the blessing of teachers and students, under the coordination of Loui Villanueva.
- St. Gregory Church: Jacob Szewczyk has graciously accepted the position of ECF coordinator for the coming year. The first session is today, September 18 after liturgy.

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.

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 after Exaltation of the Cross

Dear brothers and sisters!

Today, is the Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross of the Lord. We hear a passage from the Gospel, in which the evangelist Mark conveys to us the words of our Lord: "Whoever wants to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. Because whoever wants to save his soul will lose it, and whoever loses his soul for my sake and the Gospel will save it." (Mk. 8: 35) The words we just heard from Jesus in the Gospel are confirmed by the apostle Paul, speaking about his own life: "I am crucified with Christ" (Gal. 2, 19); "I live, but I live no longer" (Gal. 2, 20)... "Not my 'I', but Christ lives in me." (Gal. 2, 19-20)

The Lord does not say that following Him means living painlessly and carefree, but He affirms the necessity of renouncing oneself and carrying one's cross in order to be called His followers. He tells us to take up our cross, not someone else's, not His cross, but our own! The way of Christ is the only way of life and salvation, all others are human. People learned a lot, gained a lot, overcame, penetrated to distant and hard-to-reach places, but this did not make human life happier, more joyful, more peaceful. That is why the Lord tells us this: "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and destroys his own soul?" (Mk. 8, 36) Let's think about this: no matter what a person achieves, if his soul does not simultaneously grow spiritually in perfection, become nobler, enlightened, everything will be in vain. And now we are well aware of this, looking around us, knowing that even material well-being cannot make people better and happier.

Are we aware of what is happening during the Divine Liturgy we celebrate? Who are we looking for - Christ or ourselves? When we partake of His Body and Blood, do we change into Him? When Holy Communion ends, does Christ live in us, or do we again go in search of our own "I"? After all, it is in the Eucharist that the Lord Jesus comes so that we can directly share His suffering, endured out of love, which saves us all from death and gives us life. Let Jesus touch our souls, embrace us. To be crucified with Him means to give oneself to the infinitely good