

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

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

January 21st, 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: Laverne Hametz, Michael and Carol Slovinsky, James DeWolfe, Howard Guba, Lector Joseph and Marie Repasi, John Sekura, Charity Sweeney, 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>) Jan. 1

Offertory: \$1291.00

Tithe.ly: \$627.38

Epiphany: \$158.00

Candle box: \$560.00

First Offering: \$22.00

Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Jan. 1

Offertory: \$677.00

Tithe.ly: \$170.00

Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: Jan. 1

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)

Rush forward!

One Olympic champion in running was asked about the secret of success. His answer has a profound meaning in the life of every Christian:

“The only way to win a competition is to forget the previous victories that filled you with false pride and the previous defeats that enveloped you in unnecessary fear. Every competition is a new beginning. The main thing is to rush forward to the finish line. Forget about past achievements and defeats. Rush to the goal. Rush forward!” Lloyd John Ogilvie

(John 1:26). And at the baptism, the sky opened and the Heavenly Father Himself, in the presence of many people and John the Baptist, testified that Jesus Christ is His beloved Son. The Prophet and Forerunner John testifies about Jesus Christ, pointing Him out to the disciples: "Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). Similar words are announced by the prophet Isaiah, testifying about the Messiah as follows: "He took upon Himself our infirmities and bore our diseases... He was covered with sores for our sins and tormented for our iniquities; the punishment of our world was upon Him, and with His wounds we are healed" (Is. 53:4-5).

Today, Christ comes into the world for His earthly public service.... At the age of thirty, the Savior accepts baptism. Why did this happen? This happened because precisely at the age of thirty, according to Jewish customs and laws, a person was given the right and opportunity to present his teachings, to teach. Until that time, Christ lived in Nazareth, "growing and strengthening in spirit, gaining wisdom..." (Lk. 2:40).

When in Noah's time, after the global flood, a dove announced the receding of water, so today the appearance of a dove was a sign that the spiritual flood was ending. The Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a bird, which is pure, loving humanity, humble, because the Holy Spirit is the source of purity, the teacher of humility and submission. Therefore, all icon painters use the form of a dove when depicting the Holy Spirit in their icons.

Dear believers! I congratulate everyone on this great holiday of the Epiphany, and I wish that each of us, through the gift of sanctification that the Savior gives us, and through the knowledge of the truth, which is achieved thanks to the appearance of God to the world, will receive God's blessing in this life and reach a blessed life in eternity!



Schedule of Divine Services:

SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

SUNDAY, Jan. 8, 2023

Sunday After Theophany

Our Venerable Father George the Chozebite

Our Venerable Mother Dominica

Our Holy Father and Confessor Emilian

11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*

11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of Marvin Hipsley as requested by Ellie Hipsley followed by Mirovanije*

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 11, 2023

Postfestive Day of Theophany

Our Venerable Father Theodosius, Founder of the Common Life

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy for peace in the world and in our families, followed by Prayer of Supplication to the Most Holy Theotokos*

SUNDAY, Jan. 15, 2023

Thirty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

Our Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes and John the Hut-dweller

Repose of the Blessed Bishop-Martyr Tit Liviu Chinezu

8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

PATRONAGE CHURCH

SUNDAY, Jan. 8, 2023

Sunday After Theophany

Our Venerable Father George the Chozebite

Our Venerable Mother Dominica

Our Holy Father and Confessor Emilian

8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +James Helms as requested by Rich and Lisa Guba, followed by Mirovanije and the Great Sanctification of the Water*

SUNDAY, Jan. 15, 2023

Thirty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

Our Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes and John the Hut-dweller

Repose of the Blessed Bishop-Martyr Tit Liviu Chinezu

11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*

11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy*

Propers begin on Page 152 followed by Page 317

Jordan Water: The water that was blessed for the *Feast of Theophany* is available to take home. Use when you're sick, or when you wish to bless things around your house. Please do not pour last year's Jordan Water down the drain, it is consecrated. Either continue to use it, or pour it on the ground, where it won't be walked upon.

All Souls Saturday: The first of the five *All Souls Saturdays* of this year will be February 11. If you have any changes to make to your family's *Hramoty* please let us know by Sunday February 5, so your loved ones can be remembered.

Patronage Church Parish Meeting: On January 15, we will be having our first parish meeting of the year along with a pot-luck luncheon. One of the items we would like to discuss is the much needed renovation of our social hall kitchen and bathrooms. If you have any other ideas you would like to suggest for our parish, we would love to also hear them. Please mark your calendars, and we hope everyone can attend!

St. Gregory Church Parish Meeting: On January 22, we will be having our first parish meeting of the year along with a pot-luck luncheon. If you have any other ideas you would like to suggest for our parish, we would love to also hear them. Please mark your calendars, and we hope everyone can attend!

Dear believers! As the mission of Patronage Church in Abingdon is closed from the beginning of this year, we will celebrate the last Divine Liturgy on Sunday 29th January at 3.00pm. We invite everyone who wishes to participate in the Divine Liturgy in the chapel of St. Francis. (St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church (Stone Chapel), 1450 Abingdon Road Abingdon, MD 21009). May the Merciful Lord grant many years of life to all those who supported the activity of our Byzantine Divine Liturgies in Abingdon!

Patronage Church: We are looking for a volunteer to take 3 bags of donated food, located in our cry room, to a local food pantry as soon as possible. If you can help out, please let Fr. Serhii know. Thank you!

Patronage Church: We are working on updating our parish records, and would like every family to complete a Parish Census 2023 form. This form can either be found on the shelf in the Narthex, next to the bulletins, or on our parish website. Please return your Parish Census 2023 form no later than Sunday, January 29th. You can either put your completed form in the collection basket, email it to our church (patronage.church@gmail.com), or mail it to the rectory. Thank you for your help!

Lifting The Veil: The next offering of God With Us Online, a series of lectures on a mystical understanding of the Divine Liturgy presented by the Rev. Thomas Moses will begin on January 11. To register visit their website <https://godwithusonline.org/events/lifting-the-veil/>

Poustinia: An Evening of Encounter and Hospitality In the Light of the Byzantine East. Theosis, the Young Adult Ministry of the Eparchy of Passaic is sponsoring an event on January 28 at our church in Hillsborough, NJ. More information can be found on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/21674963434405/?ref=newsfeed>

Sermon on Epiphany

Dear brothers and sisters! Today is dedicated to one of the important events of our church -- the appearance of One God in three persons to humanity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Fathers of the Church, in particular St. Gregory the Theologian, explain this as follows: "first God gives His Revelation to man, and only then reveals Himself to the world, coming into this world, combining in Himself two natures - human and divine, being at the same time the Son of God and Man."

The testimony of the Heavenly Father about Jesus Christ as his Son means the equality of the deity, the reflection of the perfection of the Heavenly Father, our Creator, a clear image of His being, His essence. St. John Chrysostom describes the testimony of the Father as follows: "This is my Son, together with me he sent the Holy Spirit upon himself and at the same time he received the Spirit he sent; he was born before the ages, not made.... This is my Son by nature, and not by grace, my Son and eternal, like me, and not younger, not the one who received existence later. My Son is consubstantial with Me, as light from light, as life from life, as truth from truth, as strength from strength, as God from God. I gave birth, He will be born; there is nothing mediocre between Me and Him.... The name of birth is human, and the eternal birth is mysterious" (St. John Chrysostom, speech on the words "This is My Beloved Son").

About the Son of God, this is sung on the morning of the Epiphany: "All-luminous Word, You are sent by the Father to drive away the evil darkness of the night; and You come to eradicate the sins of people, and to give birth to bright sons [and daughters] by Your baptism in the streams of the Jordan, O Blessed One" (Matins of the Epiphany, irmos of the 4th Ode).

St. John Chrysostom asks the question: why is Epiphany the day Jesus was baptized, and not the day he was born? And he answers that the day of the Epiphany, on which he was baptized and sanctified the essence of the waters, is real. On the feast of the Epiphany, Christ became known to everyone, because when He was born, people did not recognize Him (St. John Chrysostom, "The Word on the Day of the Epiphany", p. 2). John the Baptist himself confirmed that after the birth, people did not know the Savior: "He stands among you Whom you do not know"