

# 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**

December 18th 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**

December 17th, at 10am

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

**Let Us Remember in Prayer:** The soul of *+Father Edward Semko*, 79, a retired priest of the Eparchy of Passaic, fell asleep in the Lord in on Sunday, November 27, 2022. Prior to his retirement, he was pastor of St Elias Byzantine Catholic Church, Carteret, NJ.

The people of Ukraine, that peace may be soon restored to their land.

Those who are ill or convalescing: Howard Guba, Wayne Roach, Lector Joseph and Marie Repasi, John Sekura, Charity Sweeney, Madeline Bender, Richard Cooley, 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, 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>) Nov. 27

Amounts will appear in next week's bulletin

### Patronage Church:

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

Offertory: \$730.00

Tithe.ly: \$170.00

### Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: Nov. 27

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)

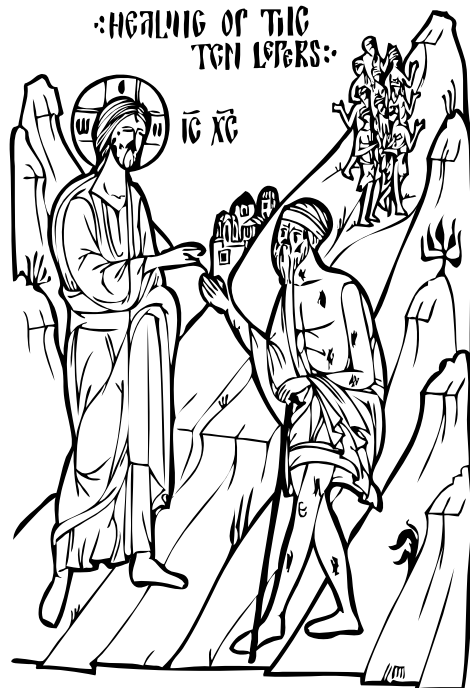
### **God's secret**

Have you ever wondered about the power of a pumpkin seed? It pushes its way out of the ground and grows until it is two hundred thousand times its own weight! And did you think about how it builds up a hard skin and colors everything in a rich orange, yellow or green color; how does it form juicy pulp and form new grains, each of which will have the same ability?!

If you can't understand the simple process of growing pumpkins, why are you asking to explain God's mystery of creation?! (William Jennings Bryan)

complex events of our present with different eyes. It is very important not to stop seeing in others - a person similar to yourself. Do not close yourself to someone else's grief, pain or suffering. Learn to be thankful for everything that has long been taken for granted in our lives. One priest once said that "whoever has lost a sense of gratitude has deprived himself of a sense of deeper reality and has made his life poorer. Such a person has less joy from things, events and people. In principle, gratitude is the most realistic position in life: it helps to know life more fully and strengthens the sense of responsibility. To be grateful does not mean to perceive phenomena as self-evident, but to trace them all the way to the origin, that is, to God." (Pete van Breemen)

Dear believers! Faith and healing go hand in hand again in today's gospel story. Here "faith" means not just some old belief, some general religious outlook on life. This is not just some abstract truth, it is carried out in a very concrete case, here and now. This alternation of faith and gratitude is exactly what it means to be a Christian - whether in the 1st or in the 21st century.



Schedule of Divine Services:

**SAINT GREGORY CHURCH**

SUNDAY, Dec. 4, 2022

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**The Holy Great Martyr Barbara**  
**Our Venerable Father John of Damascus**  
 8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Paul and +Helen Macko Michalco as requested by Rebecca Michalco*

THURSDAY, Dec. 8, 2022

**Feast of the Maternity of the Holy Anna**  
 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, Dec. 11, 2022

**Sunday of the Forefathers**  
**Our Venerable Father Daniel the Stylite**  
 11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy for the health Hlinka Family as requested by Karabinos family, followed by Mirovanije*

**PATRONAGE CHURCH**

SUNDAY, Dec. 4, 2022

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost**  
 11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy for the health of Vasil and Anna Hlinka as requested by Karabinos family*

TUESDAY, Dec. 6, 2022

**Our Holy Father Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the Wonderworker**  
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy for the health of Hlinka Family (Miroslav, Anna, Angelika, Gabriella) as requested by Helen Sikoriak*

SUNDAY, Dec. 11, 2022

**Sunday of the Forefathers**  
 8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Priest Conan (3 years), followed by Mirovanije*

Propers begin on page 125

**Phillip's Fast/Christmas Lent:** We continue our preparation for the *Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord* by observing Phillip's Fast. While there is no obligation to fast during this time, as during Great Lent, this is still considered a penitential time in the Metropolia of Pittsburgh. The faithful are asked to observe the fast in the best way possible.

**Patronage Church St Nicholas Dinner** will be held today, December 4 after liturgy. Please stay for the meal and fellowship

**St. Gregory St. Nicholas Potluck** will be December 11 after liturgy. St. Gregory will provide the main course, so please sign up in the hall for a side dish or dessert.

**St. Nicholas Project- Patronage:** Thank you for your generous donations for the sponsored family at Sarah's Hope, a homeless shelter located in Reistertown that is coordinated by St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore! Over three boxes of winter clothes, children's books, toys and a microwave were donated for our sponsored family that are in the transition of moving to a permanent housing. Your donated gifts are truly making a difference for this family and will bring joy to them this Christmas and assist them in their move to a new home! Once again, thank you for your generosity, and may God Bless you!

**Patronage Christmas Cards:** On the bulletin board, in the Narthex, is a list of parishioners we would like to send some holiday cheer to. Some of these parishioners are either homebound or they sometimes have a difficult time getting to Patronage Church for Liturgy. You are welcome to take a copy of the list home and write out your Christmas cards, with your personal message, to as many on the list as you can. Please drop off your Christmas cards no later than Sunday, December 18th, and place them in the marked basket in the Narthex. We will gather all of the cards that have been written out to these parishioners, and package them up in a large envelope filled with holiday cheer. If you are unable to obtain a list of these parishioners' names at church, please email the church and a list will be emailed back to you. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Kotula at [d.kotula@comcast.net](mailto:d.kotula@comcast.net). Let's make this Christmas a little merrier for those in our parish we do not want to forget about! God Bless all of your efforts for this project!

**Initial Report from the Food Festival:** A total of \$11336.83 was deposited from the recent Festival. Subtracting the initial bank and expenses of \$6260.46 our net profit is \$5076.37. Thank you to everyone for their hard work to make this possible.

**Our Daily Bread Casseroles:** We are collecting Casseroles for Our Daily Bread in Baltimore on Sunday, Dec 11th. Please mark your casserole with "Name of Casserole, Date Made and

Patronage Church on it". Recipes, pans and labels are located next to the stack of empty casserole pans in the basement at Patronage for you to pickup to take home to make your casserole. Our Daily Bread also accepts premade store bought, frozen Mac & Cheese trays (such as Stouffer's Macaroni & Cheese) if you are in a rush to make something. For questions, please email Mike Skovran or Lisa Guba.

Again, thank you again for donating your time, supplies and talent to help those in need at Catholic Charities "Our Daily Bread Mission". Over 15 Casseroles were collected in October for Our Daily Bread. We appreciate everyone's assistance and especially kudos to Mike & Karen Kakalec for dropping off the casserole to Our Daily Bread.

26th Sunday after Pentecost

Dear brothers and sisters!

The healing of ten lepers by Jesus illuminates an important theme of spiritual life - gratitude, being able to thank God and neighbors for every good thing.

A very poor but capable boy studied in one town. His poor mother gave her last money to give her son a proper education. The time has come and the young man successfully graduated from the high school. Relatives of students were present during the presentation of certificates in the high school. Among them was the poorly dressed mother of this young man. A solemn moment had come: this young man was awarded a "Gold Medal" for his special success in studies. After accepting this award, he excitedly said that he would like to see this medal on the chest of the one to whom it rightfully belonged. After that, he left the stage, approached his mother, kissed her and attached a medal to her old clothes. Everyone present was pleasantly surprised, and many of them simply could not hold back tears, seeing the happiness of the poor mother.

Gratitude is not just a feeling, satisfaction with a received gift, but a manifestation of our faith, which testifies to the understanding of how great is the love of Jesus for us and our love for God. "Nothing is so pleasing to God as a grateful soul," said Saint Ivan Zolotousty.

It is impossible to take from one person and pass on to another one's way of experiencing the connection of faith, love, trust with God. A person must come to this on his own. Only a personal encounter with Christ, like that of the Samaritan, gives rise to faith, love, trust, gratitude, and makes one feel the power of God's grace. Healing of the soul assures a person of bodily healing.

One boy was very poor, went to high school barefoot and ragged. And the rich man bothered him, because his heart was cold towards God, religion and his neighbors. One day he said to a poor boy, "If God loves you, why doesn't He tell someone to give you better clothes?" The boy thought for a moment and said, "I think that maybe God is speaking to more than one person, but they don't pay attention to it..."

In the context of complex world realities, this Sunday's Gospel text invites us to look at the