

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

Those who are ill or convalescing: 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 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>) Dec. 11

Offertory: \$1024.50

Tithe.ly: \$325.00

Candles: \$2.00

Christmas: \$150.00

Christmas Flowers: \$135.00

Kolachi sales: \$270.00

Retired Religious: \$20.00

Kolachi sale of 12/10/22: \$1660.00

### Patronage Church:

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

Amounts will appear in next week's bulletin

### Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: Dec. 11

Amounts will appear in next week's bulletin

**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)

### **Prayer for My Son**

Give me a son, Lord, who will be strong enough to know his weakness, brave enough to face his own fear.... Give me a son whose aspirations will be high.... I beg you, lead him not along the beaten and safe paths, but along the paths of difficulties and sudden challenges. Let him feel the pressure of an unimaginable life, its painful spurs. Let him learn to stand firmly on his feet when the storm rages. He will learn to sympathize with the unfortunate who could not resist. Give me a son whose heart will be pure and whose goals will be high. A son who will be able to master himself --before he tries to subjugate others. A son whose spirit will reach into the future without forgetting the past. And when he becomes like me, I beg you, give him a generous hand and a sense of humor, so that he will always be able to preserve his own dignity, but not think too highly of himself.... Then I, his father, will dare to whisper: "I did not live in vain."

Dear believers! Let us witness the presence of the Living God in our lives. Let us be able to see this presence of God in different circumstances and moments of our lives. Let us experience this presence in a special way during the Christmas holidays. Then we will be able to hear these words of Jesus: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me."



Schedule of Divine Services:

**SAINT GREGORY CHURCH**

SUNDAY, Dec. 18, 2022

**Sunday Before Christmas, of the Ancestors**  
**The Holy Martyr Sebastian and His Companions**  
 8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

SATURDAY, Dec. 24, 2022

**Vigil of Christmas**  
**The Holy Great Martyr Eugenia**  
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy for the repose of the souls of +John and +Margaret Furda as requested by Mary Lou Furda*

**PATRONAGE CHURCH**

SUNDAY, Dec. 18, 2022

**Sunday Before Christmas, of the Ancestors**  
**The Holy Martyr Sebastian and His Companions**  
 11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*  
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Joseph Carinci as requested by Ann Marie Elwell and Ryan Elwell*

Propers begin on page 135 then 285

**SATURDAY Dec. 24, 2022 - *Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great:***

**4:30pm** Patronage Church (Arbutus)  
**9:00pm** St. Gregory Church (Beltsville)

**SUNDAY Dec. 25, 2022 - *Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom:***

**9:00am** Patronage Church (Arbutus)  
**11:15am** St. Gregory Church (Beltsville)

**Schedule of Christmas Services 2022**  
**The Feast of the Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord God and**  
**Savior Jesus Christ**

**Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!**

**SATURDAY Dec. 24, 2022** - *Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great:*

**4:30pm** Patronage Church (Arbutus)

**9:00pm** St. Gregory Church (Beltsville)

**SUNDAY Dec. 25, 2022** - *Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom:*

**9:00am** Patronage Church (Arbutus)

**11:15am** St. Gregory Church (Beltsville)

**MONDAY Dec. 26, 2022** - *Synaxis of the Theotokos, Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom:*

**9:00am** Patronage Church (Arbutus)

**11:15am** St. Gregory Church (Beltsville)

**The Vigil of Christmas** is traditionally a day of fast, which is the reason for the foods eaten at the Holy Supper on that day. However, we refrain from fasting on Saturdays, except for Holy Saturday to honor the Old Testament Sabbath and never fast on Sunday because it is the Day of Resurrection. Since Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday this year, the custom is to eat the Holy Supper on Friday, December 23.

**Patronage Church Parish Meeting:** On January 15th, 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!

**Patronage Church Holy Water Font:** We need someone to clean our Holy Water font in preparation for the Feast of Theophany. We will be Blessing Holy Water on Sunday January 8th, during Divine Liturgy. Please let Fr. Serhii know, if you are able to take care of this.

**Patronage Church Bulletin Addition:** Dear Believers, if you know of a great Christian story, we would love to post it in our church bulletin to share with others. If you have a story, please send it to [patronage.church@gmail.com](mailto:patronage.church@gmail.com), or mail it to the church rectory.

**Sunday Before Christmas**

Dear brothers and sisters!

Today we stand on the threshold of a great celebration - the birth of Jesus Christ. Christ came close to us by becoming a man so that we could be close to Him here on earth. Nothing became an obstacle for Jesus: neither the poor Bethlehem cave, nor the human body, nor the persecution of Herod, nor the opposition of the Pharisees. He comes from heaven to us and once again give us His love, the happiness that man & woman had in paradise and lost through the firstborn sin.

So that the birth of Jesus Christ is not in vain, fruitless for us, let us remove from our souls everything that can become an obstacle for His love to come to us. Let us often remind ourselves of His words: "Come, blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom that has been prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you accepted me; naked and you clothed me; sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me."

At the Vespers of this Sunday, the Church reflects on the Nativity of Christ with the following words: "So let us now prepare ourselves in spirit and hurry to meet with clean eyes and good deeds the one who by His miraculous birth wanted to come to His people. He is born in Bethlehem, so that we, deprived of heavenly life, out of His mercy, will be brought back to it." Christians often think of Jesus exclusively as a historical figure of the past, or as someone who will play some important role in the future. Instead, we rarely think of Christ in the present tense - as Emmanuel, "God with us." How much we need "God with us" in these days of confusion, darkness and strife. In the Gospel of John, it is said: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (1:14). Jesus is with us when we fall -- to pick us up. With us in weakness - to give us strength.

One famous surgeon bows his head and prays before each operation. Seeing this once, a surprised journalist asked him: "Do you always pray before an operation?" The doctor replied with a smile: "Always. Because I never know what to expect and when I have to hand the scalpel to the Great Physician and ask Him to continue. Many times, in my practice it was like this, when I was at the edge of my human capabilities, and God took "everything into His own hands".

In order for Christ to be born in our heart, it is necessary to prepare a place for Him there. Therefore, another word that can be used to describe today is the word "Preparation", especially for us New Testament Christians. When we expect a dear guest, we prepare long and carefully for his arrival, and the more important the guest, the bigger and more thorough our preparations.