

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

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 7th, 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: Michael and Carol Slovinsky, James DeWolfe, 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>) Dec. 18

Offertory: \$2119.00

Christmas: \$550.00

Christmas flowers: \$50.00

Kolachi sales: \$60.00

Retired Religious: \$50.00

Patronage Church:

Stewardship: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>) Dec. 18

Offertory: \$1663.00

Tithe.ly: \$255.35

Hagerstown Mission:

Stewardship: Dec. 11

Offertory: \$241.00

Tithe.ly: \$19.00

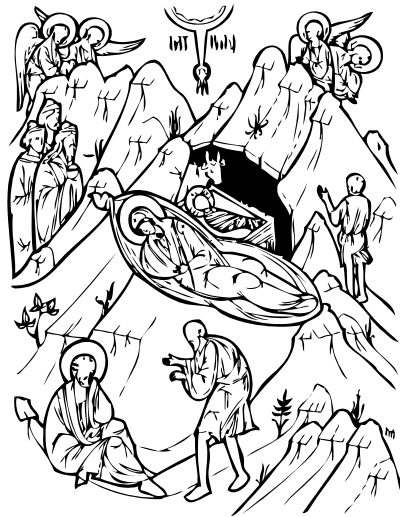
St. Gregory Lector Signup: A signup sheet for lectors for Sunday's Divine Liturgies is on the table in the back of the hall. Please consider signing up for this important service. If you have never chanted the Epistle, the cantors will be happy to work with you to make you feel comfortable.

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 or frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com. *My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.* (Isaiah 56:7)

O Christ, what shall We offer you for your coming on earth in our humanity for our sake?
Every creature that has its its being from you gives thanks to you:
The angels offer hymns of praise, the heavens give a star;
The Magi present their gifts and the shepherds, their wonder;
The earth provides a cave and the desert a manger.
As for us, we offer a Virgin Mother. God who are from all eternity, have mercy on us.
(Stichera of Vespers for Christmas Eve)

those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. See! Your King comes to you, humble and welcoming. Just as the angels in the sky invited the shepherds in the field to come worship the new born King in his humble state, we hear the church bells and hasten to our churches to adore the new born child in his mother's arms. The flesh and blood that He took from His mother, He gives to us in our Holy Communion this Christmas Day.

My prayer for each of you, my dear friends, is this: that you find Christ in your heart and make him your King in the throne of your soul. That He give to you this Christmas a renewed Faith in His particular love for you. That He renew your Hope in His plan for you and renew your Hope in your heavenly reward. And that He reignite in your heart the Divine Love which conquers hate and darkness. May your New Year be a year of light, joy, and peace—peace in your heart, peace in your family, peace with your friends, and peace in the world. Come to us, oh Prince of Peace!



Schedule of Divine Services:

SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

The Feast of the Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ
 SATURDAY Dec. 24, 2022 9:00 PM *Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great*
 SUNDAY Dec. 25, 2022 11:00 AM *Christmas Carols*
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Mirovanije*

MONDAY, Dec. 26, 2022
Synaxis of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Memory of the Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed; of David the King; and James, the Brother of God
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Anna Wroblewski*

SATURDAY, Dec. 31, 2022
Leave-taking of Christmas
Saturday after Christmas
Our Venerable Mother Melany of Rome
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy (Slavonic and English) for peace in the world and in our families, followed by Prayer of Supplication to the Most Holy Theotokos*

SUNDAY, Jan. 1, 2023
Sunday Before Theophany
Circumcision of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ
Our Holy Father Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia
 8:45 AM *Hymns from Matins*
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy followed by Mirovanije*

PATRONAGE CHURCH

The Feast of the Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ
 SATURDAY Dec. 24, 2022 4:30 PM *Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great*
 SUNDAY Dec. 25, 2022 8:45 AM *Christmas Carols*
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Mirovanije*

MONDAY, Dec. 26, 2022
Synaxis of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Memory of the Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed; of David the King; and James, the Brother of God
 9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy*

SUNDAY, Jan. 1, 2023
Sunday Before Theophany
Circumcision of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ
Our Holy Father Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia
 11:00 AM *Hymns from Matins*
 11:15 AM *Divine Liturgy in memory of +Father Conan (Father's Birthday) as requested by Rich and Lisa Guba, followed by Mirovanije*

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

The Feast of Christmas: Now that we have completed the time of Phillip’s Fast and arrived at the *Feast of the Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ*, the time of penance has ended as we celebrate this great mystery. Since this is considered a feast of *Pascha*, there is no fasting from today until the Vigil of Theophany, January 5.

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.

St. Gregory Offertory Envelopes for 2023 may be found in the church hall. Please take them home with you.

Thank You to all who have cleaned and prepared our temples for the celebration of this great feast.

Christmas Message The Year of Our Lord 2022

Bishop Kurt Burnette

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

My dear friends,
This year at Christmas, a major part of our brothers and sisters in the Byzantine Catholic Church, or as we are called in Europe, the Greek Catholic Church, are living in a country at war with enemy missiles and war jets and the new horror--deadly drones flying overhead. Under these skies, they are taking time, as we are, to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. We call

Him the Prince of Peace because the most high God Himself, speaking through his prophet Isaiah told us, He will be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

On Christmas Day, one hundred and fifty eight years ago, war was raging here in the United States. Henry Longfellow was seated by the bed of his severely wounded son Charles, and did not know if his son would live. Hearing the bells from the churches, Longfellow wrote his painful poem asking, how can we sing “Peace on earth, good will to men!”, and how can we call Jesus “The Prince of Peace”? After all, the United States was almost entirely Christian, many of the settlers came expressly to practice their Christian faith without interference. Yet in a war entirely of their own making, six hundred thousand Americans died at the hands of each other. Longfellow writes, “and in despair I bowed my head; ‘There is no peace on earth,’ I said; ‘For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men!’” Yet he says in the last verse that in the persistent peal of the bells, more loud and deep, he heard the words, “God is not dead; nor doth he sleep! The Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men!”

A century and a half later, the Christmas bells draw us back to our churches, where we renew our Faith and our Hope by the grace of almighty God. We come together, and in the singing, surrounded by beautiful icons—windows into heaven, our prayers for peace rise up with the incense to the throne of God. We confess our own sins and ask for mercy, and ask God to touch the hearts of others who are most in need of His mercy.

We renew our Faith that tells us these truths: we are each made in the image and likeness of God. We each share by our very creation in God’s beauty, in His justice, in His power to create, in His power to love, and in His power to forgive. God is the master of history, not the men who seem powerful in this world. And at the end, God will judge the living and the dead, each one according to his or her works. The Last Word belongs to God.

We renew our Hope because Jesus Christ conquered death and conquered sin and evil. Our Christian Hope is about the present and the future. Speaking again through His prophet Isaiah, God says, though your sins are as scarlet, I will make you as white as snow. Jesus said, I go ahead of you to prepare a place for you; my Father’s house has many mansions. At every Divine Liturgy, we profess openly our Hope: I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. So be it.

Finally, as we are drawn to church by the bells of Christmas, we ask God to renew our Charity, our Christian Love. As God loved us, even in our sins, He took on our flesh and was born of a woman. We ask for the grace to love each other, sinners as we are, and even pray for our enemies as Jesus taught us. The Prince of Peace told us, if you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Even the nonbelievers do that. I tell you, love your enemies and pray for