

(Continued from a previous page.)

The March for Life Rally will take place at noon on the grounds of the Washington Monument (15th Street & Constitution Avenue) followed by the March for Life, which begins at Constitution between 15th and 17th streets.

For more information, please visit <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/national-prayer-vigil-for-life-schedule.cfm>.

■ **“Tammies” Return** – The Tamburitzans (Tammies) will perform at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The “Tammies,” America’s longest-running multicultural song and dance company, is a unique ensemble of talented young folk artists from the Pittsburgh area dedicated to the performance and preservation of the music, songs, and dances of Eastern Europe and neighboring folk cultures.

For ticket information, call 240-314-8690. For more information about the Tamburitzans, visit www.thetamburitzans.org/.

■ **What’s Your Question?** – Fr. Dr. Vasyl Chepelsky, is Administrator of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, Lansford, Pa., and St. Mary Church, Nesquehoning, Pa. Fr. Vasyl holds a doctorate in Moral Theology and is a professor of Theology at DeSales University, Allentown, Pa. If you have a question on theology, spirituality, the sacraments, morality, Church history, or the lives of the saints,

The sign-up sheet to assist with the setup for the **Sundays in January** is now available on the information table. Thank you to all those who continue to provide assistance in setting up and taking down.

you may contact Fr. Vasyl and he will answer it or direct it to one of the priests of our epar- chy expert in that topic.

You can submit your question by e-mail: stjohnpastor@ptd.net or on the wall of or by private message through Facebook: *SaintJohnthe-BaptistByzantineCatholicChurch*.

A sincere thank-you from Fr. Lee:

Once again I must express my gratitude to the members of the Mission for their kindness and thoughtfulness to me at Christmas.

I thank you all, not only for the most generous Christmas gift, but for all you do Sunday after Sunday to make the Divine Liturgy possible. So many of you contribute in so many ways.

May God bless you all, and please know that you are in my daily prayers as we enter the New Year.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Jan. 1	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Jan. 5	Theophany Vigil Divine Liturgy Mother of God School 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Jan. 15	Mother of God School 10 a.m.

Announcements

■ **Today’s Liturgy Intention** – Today’s Divine Liturgy is offered for the living and deceased members of our Mission Community.

■ **Today’s Commemorations** – Today in the Byzantine Church is the Sunday before Theophany (Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan). On this date, January 1, we annually commemorate the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord and the Feast of our Holy Father Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea.

“When eight days were completed for His circumcision, He was named Jesus, the name given Him by the angel before He was conceived in the womb”

– Luke 2:21

■ **Mirovaniye** – There will be anointing with blessed oil (*mirovaniye*) and distribution of blessed bread. All are welcome to receive anointing and blessed bread. *Christ is born! Glorify Him!*

■ **Feasts of Christmas and Theophany** – There is no fasting or abstinence from Christmas Day, December 25, through January 4. There also is no fasting or abstinence on Friday, January 6, as this is the Feast of Our Lord’s Baptism in the Jordan (Theophany).

■ **Christmas Greeting** – Instead of “Merry Christmas,” Byzantine Catholics and Orthodox say: “Christ is born!” with the response of: “Glorify Him!”

In Church Slavonic and Greek (transliterated), it is, respectively: “Christos Raždajetsja! / Slavite Jeho!” and “Christos Gennatai! / Doxasete!”

■ **Christmas Feast Begins** – In celebration of the birth of our Lord, from Christmas Day, December 25, through January 4 there is no fasting or abstinence.

■ **New Year Blessings** – May God bless our clergy – Bishop Kurt, Fr. Lee, Fr. John, Deacon Elmer, and Deacon Peter – with peace, health, and happiness during this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church



Montgomery County Mission

Mother of God Community School
20501 Goshen Road
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879
301-482-0282
www.eolmission.org

Our community...

was established in October 1996 to meet the spiritual needs of Byzantine Catholics living in northern Montgomery County, southern Frederick County, and adjoining areas.

We celebrate our faith...

in a diverse community. We welcome all, regardless of ethnic or religious background who are committed to develop a deeper understanding of the Christian faith expressed in the Byzantine tradition and spirituality, and who wish to pray and work towards the full communion of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches as sister Churches of the One Universal Church of Jesus Christ.

We continually resolve...

to gather in His Name, share the truth of our Faith, and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to everyone.

Please Remember

"Is anyone among you sick? ...the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up."

James 5:14-15 NKJV/OSB

OUR MISSION COMMUNITY

- Ron Pytel.
- Maggie and Robert Karam.
- Lou Shanks.
- Rosemary Chisarick.
- Doris Fejka.

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Christine Dennis.
- Peggy Winkelmann.
- Laura Hinkle.
- Doran Coady.
- Ann Tracy.
- Travis Waters.
- Bertha Bergan.
- Arlene Kollar.
- Jamee Kruse.
- Joseph and Nancy Dillmann.
- Paul and Mary Ellen Sorensen.
- Tony Tworkoski.
- Norman Dennis.
- Linda Oros.
- Jenelle Wagner.
- Mike DiMarino.
- Robert Kreger.
- Robert Diethrich.
- Lucy Fontenot
- Patricia and Peter Minihane.
- Brother Joseph Comber, CFX.

SPECIAL INTENTION

- Elizabeth Basarab.
- Fr. Francis Martin.
- Sally Pekarik.
- Fr. Conan Timoney



Pray for Our Community

"Return, we beseech You, O God of hosts; Look down from heaven and see, and visit this vine and the vineyard which

Your right hand has planted, and the branch that You made strong for Yourself."

Psalms 80:14-15 NKJV/OSB



Food Pantry

Our community places a food collection basket near the information table as you enter the gymnasium. Don't forget those who are less fortunate. Nonperishable food items, diapers, baby food, and personal care items are always in demand. The Food Pantry Program, administered by St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church in Gaithersburg, supports the working poor of our area.



"...for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to Me. ...Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

Matthew 25:35-36, 40 NKJV/OSB

■ **New Year's Resolution** – Make a New Year's resolution to remember our Mission Community's ministry to the unfortunate of our area through the local Food Pantry program, administered by St. Martin Roman Catholic Church, Gaithersburg, which is always in great need of nonperishable foods, baby food and supplies, and personal hygiene items. Hunger never takes a vacation or holiday.

Upcoming

■ **Theophany Divine Liturgy** – Vigil Divine Liturgy and Blessing (Blessing) of the Waters for the Feast of the Theophany (Baptism) of Our Lord is set for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 5, in the Mother of God School. This feast is a day of obligation for Byzantine Catholics.

Blessed water will be distributed at the close of the liturgy. If you would like to take blessed water home with you, please bring a secure, sealable container.

The feasts of the Nativity of Jesus Christ and Theophany are the celebration of a single, most profound event—the coming of the Light



of the World among us. In these glorious feasts we remember Jesus was sent by the Father through Mary the Godbearer (Theotokos), to bring "a people in darkness" into the light of salvation. In this revelation, the birth and public appearance of the Messiah is the sign, the expression, and the proclamation that God's love for His people is boundless, total, and infinitely tender.

As we arrive at the celebration of "God-with-us" in these feasts, may we re-immers ourselves in the warm and saving light of Jesus Christ. Filled with His radiance once again, we will be better able to perceive that God's image does indeed shine brightly and beautifully within ourselves and that He is ever present in our family, neighbors, and in the people of our Church, no matter what darkness may surround us.

■ **National Prayer Vigil for Life** – Activities for the National Prayer Vigil for Life in Washington, D.C., include a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on January 26. Later that evening, Night Prayer according to the Byzantine Rite will be prayed from 10 to 11 in the Crypt Church by our Bishop Kurt Burnette.

On January 27, Bishop Kurt will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at Epiphany Church—Annandale at 10 a.m.

(Continued on a following page.)

Last Week's Liturgy

December 24, 2016

Attendance: 37 Souls