

■ **Last Call: Pascha Meats** – If you are interested in ordering paschal meats from a butcher shop in Punxsutawney, Pa., please see Tonja Siemucha today for more information and pricing. Delivery will be on Palm Sunday.

■ **Exhibit of Holy Sepulchre** – The “Tomb of Christ” exhibit at the National Geographic Museum details the restorations recently completed to the edicule, which contains and protects the empty tomb of Jesus Christ, at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.

Visitors to the museum are shown stunning 3-D and virtual reality views of the Jerusalem and the church in iterations throughout time and what it looks like today following the restorations. The exhibit runs to August 15, 2018. For more information, go to www.nationalgeographic.org/dc/exhibitions/tomb-of-christ.

■ **Daily E-Mail Prayers** – Eastern Christian Publications, supplier of our Sunday bulletin covers, is now offering its daily e-mail prayer service for Morning and Evening Prayer, The Hours (1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th), and Daily Vespers

Divine Liturgy Schedule

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Feb. 18... | 1st Sunday of Great Lent/
Blessing of Icons
Mother of God School
10 a.m. |
| Feb. 25... | 2nd Sunday of Great Lent
Mother of God School
10 a.m. |
| Mar. 4... | 3rd Sunday of Great Lent/
Veneration of the Holy Cross
Mother of God School
10 a.m. |

(not Sundays or feast days) for free. Go to <http://ecpubs.com/byzantine-daily-office-bdo/> to sign up. This subscription includes all the changeable parts you need according to the our liturgical calendar in various PDF files viewable on any portable device.

■ **January Offerings** – Monetary offerings for the month of January were \$1,705, \$650, \$550, and \$520 for January 7, 14, 21, and 28, respectively. God bless you for your generosity.



Liturgy Propers

1st Sunday of Great Lent/Sunday of Orthodoxy

Pope Leo the Great

February 18, 2018

Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Typica and Beatitudes

Troparion of the Resurrection — Tone 4 (p. 141)

Troparion of the Holy Images — Tone 2 (p. 220)

Kontakion of the Holy Images — Tone 8 (p. 220)

Prokiemenon — Tone 4 (p. 221)

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26 & 32:12-2

Alleluia — Tone 4 (p. 221)

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Magnification [In You O Woman...]

Communion Hymns:

(For Sunday) Psalm 148:1 (p. 78)

(For the Righteous Ones) Psalm 32:1 (p. 213)

CELEBRANT: FR. LEE GROSS

[PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]

Announcements

■ **Today's Liturgy Intention** – Today's Divine Liturgy is offered by Louis and Marie Shanks for the blessed repose of +Charles and +Mary Oros, Marie's parents. Eternal memory. *Vičnaja pamjat'*.

“O God of spirits and of all flesh, you trampled death and broke the power of the devil and granted life to Your world. Now grant rest, O Lord, to the soul of your departed servants in a place of light, joy, and peace where there is no pain, sorrow, nor mourning.”

– From the Litany for the Deceased

■ **First Sunday of the Great Fast** – Today is the First Sunday of the Great Fast, also referred to as the Sunday of Orthodoxy (True Worship). Originally, this Sunday was dedicated to the memory of the Holy Prophets of the Old Covenant. Therefore, in today's Gospel, Philip tells Nathaniel: “We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets” (*John 1:45*).

On March 11, 843, the Empress Theodora made a solemn profession to celebrate the victory of the true faith of icons. This became an annual feast shortly afterward and displaced the Memory of the Prophets. Through this commemoration, we are reminded that Christ, the perfect image (*ikon*) of God the Father, calls us to personal victory by restoring within ourselves “the image and likeness of God: in which we were first created” (see *Genesis 1:26*).

The icons of our Lord, the Holy Theotokos, and all the saints are images of true humanity – signs of what our eternal calling and vocation really is. They tell us that we are called to be “living icons” and imitators of Christ bearing the likeness of God as gracious vessels of the Holy Spirit.

■ **Also Commemorated** – On this date, February 18, we commemorate Leo I, a Roman aristocrat who was Pope of Rome from 440 to 461. He is the first Pope to whom the title “the Great” has been attached, being known as Leo the Great. Although a

(Continued on a following page.)

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 for 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.
- Lou Shanks.
- Rosemary Chisarick.
- Doris Fejka.
- Raymond Klimkosky.

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Paula and Tom Tate & Family.
- 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.
- Linda Oros.
- Mike DiMarino.
- Robert Kreger.
- Robert Diethrich.
- Lucy Fontenot
- Patricia Minihane.
- Brother Joseph Comber, CFX.

SPECIAL INTENTION

- Elizabeth Basarab.
- Sally Pekarik.
- Fr. Conan Timoney.
- Fr. Lee Gross.



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

(Continued from a previous page.)

leading figure in the centralization of the organization of the Roman Catholic Church, Leo the Great is recognized as a saint by the Eastern Orthodox Churches.

■ **The Blessing of Holy Images** – We will bless icons and other religious items today, the First Sunday of the Great Fast, also known as the Sunday of Orthodoxy (True Worship), marking the restoration of the icons to the churches on March 11, 843, following the suppression of the Iconoclastic heresy.

■ **The Great Fast Has Begun** – The Great Fast began at sundown last Sunday. The 40-day Great Fast (Lent) for the Byzantine Church symbolizes the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert, while the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is the fulfillment of the promise of manna.

In the Great Fast, we imitate Jesus our Lord, Who fasted for 40 days in the desert following His baptism. The Feast of Pascha was also the time for baptisms, and so the Great Fast was a time of preparation for baptism. Our observance of the Great Fast, therefore, is our renewal of our baptismal fervor.

■ **Abstinence/Fasting Guidelines** – The law of abstinence forbids the use of meat but allows the use of eggs and dairy products. All the faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to abstain. Abstinence is observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays during the season of the Great Fast.

The law of strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use of meat, eggs, and dairy products. All of the adult faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to observe strict abstinence. Strict abstinence is to be observed

on the first full day of the Great Fast (February 12) and on Holy and Great Friday (March 30).

Pastors and administrators, for just cause, may grant to the individual faithful and to individual families dispensations or commutations of abstinence and strict abstinence into other pious practices.

■ **All Souls Saturdays** – If you would like to have a deceased individual or individuals remembered during the five All Souls Saturdays observed by the Byzantine Church during the liturgical year, please list their names and place them in the All Souls envelope found in your envelop packet, along with the requested donation, and place it in the collection basket. The envelopes will be forwarded to Epiphany-Annandale. You may specify particular names or just a family name (e.g., the deceased members of the Smith Family). The second All Souls Saturday for 2018 is February 24.

■ **Pray for Our Suffering Church** – Many Christian clergy, religious, and laity have been killed by Islamic radicals. Please pray for all those afflicted by these barbaric acts and for the conversion and forgiveness of the perpetrators. *Lord have mercy! Hospodi pomiluj! Lord have mercy!*

In the Liturgy we pray "for those who serve and have served in this holy church." Until the happy day when we have our own temple (Grant it, O Lord!), we will need men and women to help with setup and takedown.

Signup sheets for the **month of March** are available on the information table.

Thank you!