

PLEASE TAKE NOTE...

During the remainder of the Great Fast and for Pascha, several Mission members will be out of town because of family matters. In order to have religious services on Palm Sunday, Holy and Great Friday, and Pascha, it is imperative that we have individuals be responsible for one of more of the following duties:

- ⇒ Provide pussy willows to be delivered by Sunday, March 18.
- ⇒ Bundle pussy willows and palms to be delivered on Sunday, March 25 (Palm Sunday).
- ⇒ Set up for March 25 (Palm Sunday).
- ⇒ Cantor for March 25 (Palm Sunday).
- ⇒ Set up for Holy and Great Vespers (7:30 p.m./Friday, March 30).
- ⇒ Cantor for Holy and Great Vespers (7:30 p.m./Friday, March 30).
- ⇒ Serve at the altar for Holy and Great Vespers (7:30 p.m./Friday, March 30).
- ⇒ Set up for Pascha Liturgy and Basket Blessing on Sunday, April 1. (We may be able to set up after Vespers on March 30.)
- ⇒ Cantor for Pascha Divine Liturgy on Sunday April 1.
- ⇒ Serve at the altar for Pascha Divine Liturgy on Sunday April 1.

Please note that you will not be left "out in the cold." We will provide instructions/music for the various services in advance. For more information, please see Marie Shanks or Rick Neimiller today after Liturgy. Without individuals to step in, having services at the Mission may become very problematic. Thank you!

Divine Liturgy Schedule

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Mar. 11... | 4th Sunday of Great Lent
Mother of God School
10 a.m. |
| Mar. 18... | 5th Sunday of Great Lent
Mother of God School
10 a.m. |
| Mar. 25... | Palm (Flowery Sunday)
Mother of God School
10 a.m. |

*“Receive us all into Your kingdom,
declaring us to be
children of the light
and children of the day.”*

The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Liturgy Propers

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast
Memory of St. John Climacus
St. Sophronius
March 11, 2018

Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Troparion of the Resurrection — Tone 7 (p. 156)
Troparion of St. John Climacus — Tone 1 (p. 226)
Kontakion of St. John Climacus — Tone 4 (p. 226)
Prokiemenon (p. 226)

EPISTLES:

Hebrews 6:13-20 (for the Fourth Sunday)
Ephesians 5:8b-19 (for St. John Climacus)
Alleluia (p. 227)

GOSPELS:

Mark 9:14-31 (for the Fourth Sunday)
Matthew 4:25-5:12 (for St. John Climacus)
Magnification ["In You O Woman..."] (p. 102)

COMMUNION HYMNS:

Psalm 148:1 (p. 78) (for Sunday)
Psalm 111:6,7 (p. 227) (for a Venerable)

CELEBRANT: FR. LEE GROSS

[PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]

Last Week's Liturgy

March 4, 2018
21 Souls

Announcements

■ **Today's Liturgy Intention** — Today's Divine Liturgy is offered by Lou and Marie Shanks for the blessed repose of +Toni Baumgartner. Eternal memory. *Vičnaja jej 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 servant, Toni, in a place of light, joy, and peace where there is no pain, sorrow, nor mourning.”

— From the Litany for the Deceased

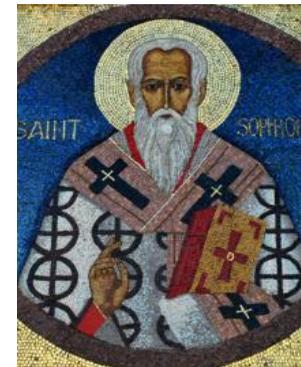
■ **Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast** — Today is the Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast. On this day we commemorate St. John Climacus, author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. In this work, St. John outlines the steps essential in attaining communion with God, steps which remind us that the way to the Kingdom constantly challenges us to engage in spiritual warfare.

We know with certainty that Christianity is not for weaklings and cowards. The end of the Great Fast is drawing near and we recall Christ's awesome words that encourage us to persevere until the end: He who endures to the end will be saved (*Matthew 24:13*).

■ **Also Commemorated** — On this date, March 11, we commemorate our Holy Father Sophronius, who was born in Damascus, Syria, c. 560 and died in Alexandria, Egypt, c. 639.

St. Sophronius travelled about the Near East with the mystic John Moschus, when Moschus was collecting material for his famous ascetical work called "The Spiritual Meadow." Around the year 580 he and John Moschus entered the St. Sabas monastery in Egypt, then

(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

- Andy Yost.
- Mary Neimiller.
- 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 and Doris 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.)

he continued his journey in faith at St. Theodosius (Palestine). He spent 10 years in Alexandria under Patriarch St. John the Almsgiver.

After making pilgrimages to monasteries and hermits in Egypt and another to Rome (where John Moschus died about 620), reading philosophy and the Scriptures, and practicing austerities, Sophronius was elected patriarch of Jerusalem in 634.

During his episcopacy he contended with two dangers to the Christian faith: one was heresy, the other the seemingly relentless advance of the Saracens. The heresy, finally condemned in 649 by the Lateran Council, is called Monothelitism – the denial that Jesus had two wills, one human and the other divine.

■ **The Great Fast** – 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).

■ **Lenten Services** – There are no Lenten services scheduled for our mission except for Holy and Great Friday on March 30 at 7:30 p.m. Please avail yourself of Lenten services at Epiphany-Annandale (see schedule in bulletin) or St. Gregory of Nyssa in Beltsville (301-953-9323 or stgregorynyssa.net).

Note also that Epiphany-Annandale will have meatless meals during the Fridays of Great Fast, except for Holy and Great Friday. Please see additional information in the Annandale section of the bulletin.

■ **Slavic Food Festival** – Fr. Conan Timoney and his parishioners at Patronage of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church near Baltimore once again extend an invitation to their Slavic Food Festival, which will take place Saturday, March 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ **A "Great" Fast Activity for Our Younger Members** – If you are looking for an activity our child can do as part of their observance of the Great Fast, consider having them participate in the Food Pantry Program by clipping manufacturer coupons from the newspaper each week, putting them in an envelope, and placing the envelope in the weekly food basket. Note that coupons need to be manufacturer coupons and not store coupons.

■ **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.