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doing so, by God's gift we regain the inner freedom of the children of God, which was forfeited by the sin of our first parents.

Another word we hear on Holy Friday is long-suffering, which might perhaps be translated as "enduring patience" or "steadfast endurance." Our Lord, to an unimaginable degree, not only suffered for our faults, but did so without complaint, in obedience to the will of his Father, and out of love for us. On Holy Friday, before each Gospel reading, we sing Glory to your Passion, O Lord! and after each, we sing: Glory to your long-suffering, O Lord!

■ **Fasting During Holy Week** – During Holy and Great Week the Byzantine Church prescribes a fast from meat on Holy Wednesday, a strict fast from meat and dairy on Holy Friday, and by tradition, a fasting from meat on Holy Saturday. In celebration of the Resurrection, from Pascha through April 7 (Bright Week) there is no fasting.

■ **Pascha/Blessing of Easter Foods** – Divine Liturgy for the Resurrection of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 1. Easter foods will be blessed at the end of Divine Liturgy.

■ **Prayerful Thank You!** – Thank you to our willow providers, Andy Haba and Tom Klimkosky. And thank you to Lisabeth McLaurin for bundling the willows and palms and to Michon Kretschmaier for delivering the Pascha meat orders.

■ **February Offerings** – Monetary offerings were \$1,809 and \$827 for February 11 and 25, respectively. There were no services at the Mission on February 4 and 18.

Liturgy Propers

PALM SUNDAY
(The Journey of Our Lord, God, and Savior
Jesus Christ into Jerusalem)
Annunciation of the Mother of God
and Ever-Virgin Mary
March 25, 2018
Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

— PLEASE REFER TO PROVIDED MUSIC SHEETS —

EPISTLES:

Philippians 4:4-9

Hebrews 2:11-18

GOSPELS:

John 12:1-18

Luke 1:24-38

Last Week's Liturgy

March 18, 2018
17 Souls

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Mar. 25... Palm (Flowery) Sunday
Blessing of Palms and
Willows
Mother of God School
10 a.m.

Mar. 30... Holy and Great Vespers
with Procession of Burial
Shroud
Mother of God School
7:30 p.m.

April 1... HOLY PASCHA
Blessing of Easter Foods
Mother of God School
10 a.m.

Announcements

■ **Today's Liturgy Intention** – Today's Divine Liturgy is offered for the good intentions of the members of our Mission Community. *Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na v'iki!*

■ **Palm Sunday/Feast of the Annunciation** – This year we witness a not so common liturgical event. We celebrate both Palm Sunday and the Solemn Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos on the same day.

In the tradition of the Western Churches (Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, and Western Rite Orthodoxy), the feast is moved, if necessary, to prevent it from falling on Palm Sunday or during Holy Week or Easter Week.

However, in the tradition of the Eastern Churches (Eastern Orthodox, Oriental, and Eastern Catholic), the Feast of the Annunciation is never moved under any circumstance.

In this feast (also referred to as the Incarnation), the Church commemorates not only the divine initiative, whereby God in His loving kindness took flesh from a Virgin; it commemorates also the human response, whereby Mary the Theotokos freely accepted the vocation set before her.

God always respects human liberty; and so, when He elected to become man, He desired to do so with the willing agreement of her whom He chose as His mother. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to Your word" (*Luke 1:38*).

Mary's answer to the angel was not a foregone conclusion. She could have refused. She was not a passive instrument but an active participant, with a free and positive part to play in God's scheme of salvation. The Church shows honor to her not just because God chose her but also because she herself chose God.

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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

- Jeff Sesok
- Ron Pytel.
- Lou Shanks.
- Rosemary Chisarick.
- Doris Fejka.
- Raymond Klimkosky.

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- 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."

Psalm 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

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Today is also the commemoration of the Journey of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, known more commonly as Palm Sunday, although the Slavs traditionally refer to it as Flowery Sunday. (Palms and pussy willows will be blessed and distributed at the beginning of today's Divine Liturgy.)

In John's account of the Gospel, the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem is reduced to the essentials, within the chronological framework of what had happened during the past few days: the anointing of Jesus' feet by Mary; the hypocritical reaction of Judas, who witnessed the scene; the resolve of the priests to have Jesus "removed"; the procession of the palms; the incomprehension of the disciples who would grasp only later the significance of the event; and the concourse of the people emotionally stirred up by the resurrection of Lazarus. All this was to bring the hostility of the religious leaders to a head. In their minds, Jesus was already condemned.

■ **Mirovanije** — In addition to the blessing of palms and willows in commemoration of our Lord's journey into Jerusalem, we will have anointing (*mirovanije*) and distribution of blessed bread. All are welcome to receive blessed palms/willows, anointing, and blessed bread.

■ **Vespers for Holy and Great Friday** — There are no Holy Week services scheduled for our mission except for Holy and Great Friday on March 5 at 7:30 p.m. Please avail yourself of services at Epiphany-Annandale (see schedule in bulletin) or St. Gregory of Nyssa in Beltsville (301-953-9323 or stgregorynyssa.net). Because the Mother of God Community will not be hav-

ing their Saturday Easter Vigil Mass, we will be able to prepare our space for Sunday Pascha Liturgy and Easter basket blessing following our Great Friday Vespers. Please consider remaining for a few minutes to help us make that conversion. Also, you are welcome to bring flowers for Friday evening and/ or Sunday morning services.

■ **Reliving the Mystery: Holy and Great Week** — During this upcoming week, the most solemn of the Church Year, we relive the mystery of God's merciful loving-kindness, when He suffered death and burial for our salvation, and is risen for our hope of eternal life. During Holy Week, we do not only observe what happened in history, but through our acts of repentance, our prayers and fasting, and our processions and veneration, we take an active part in what is happening now through divine remembrance. We die in Christ and rise in the fullness of life.

■ **The Passion of the Lord** — By the word "passion," we refer to all the sufferings and humiliations our Lord underwent on Holy and Great Friday. In our time, "passion" generally has a positive sense: it refers to some strong emotional drive or energy. But in the early Church, and even today among Christian theologians and spiritual writers, this word is much more complicated.

To the Church Fathers, the "passions" were precisely what one suffered — and not only physically. A desire is passionate precisely to the extent that it drives us and renders us unable to control our lives. It is in this sense that we as Christians are urged to master our passions, rather than letting them master us. In

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