

■ **The True Santa Claus** — Annually on December 6, the Byzantine Church commemorates its patron, our Holy Father, St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia.

So, just who is St. Nicholas? To uncover the real story behind “Santa Claus,” go to [www.stnicholascenter.org/](http://www.stnicholascenter.org/) to find out more.

■ **Catholic Apologetics** — Credible Catholic is an on-line Catholic apologetics (apologetics is the reasoned defense of the Faith) program designed to help you or your family members. If you have a middle school, high school, or college age son or daughter who is facing doubts and you do not feel up to the challenge of the defense of the Faith, please send them to [www.crediblecatholic.com](http://www.crediblecatholic.com).

*Come O Jesus, Our Savior.  
Redeem and Save Us.*

| <i>Divine Liturgy Schedule</i> |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Dec. 9...</b>               | <b>29th Sunday after Pentecost</b><br>Mother of God School<br>10 a.m.                          |
| <b>Dec. 16...</b>              | <b>Sunday of the Forefathers</b><br>Mother of God School<br>10 a.m.                            |
| <b>Dec. 23...</b>              | <b>Sunday Before Christmas/<br/>Sunday of the Ancestors</b><br>Mother of God School<br>10 a.m. |

O good Saint Nicholas, patron of children, sailors, and the helpless, watch over those who pray to Jesus, your Lord and theirs, as well as those who humble themselves before you. Bring us all in reverence to the Holy Child of Bethlehem, where true joy and peace are found. Amen



| <i>Liturgy Propers</i>                                     |
|--|
| <b>28th Sunday After Pentecost</b>                         |
| The Holy Prophet Habakkuk<br>December 2, 2018              |
| Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom                             |
| Troparion – Tone 3 (p. 135)                                |
| Kontakion – Tone 3 (p. 136)                                |
| Prokeimenon – Tone 3 (p. 137)                              |
| EPISTLE: Colossians 1:12–18                                |
| Alleluia – Tone 3 (p. 137)                                 |
| GOSPEL: Luke 18:18–27                                      |
| Communion Hymns (p. 78–81)                                 |
| <small>[PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]</small> |
| <b>CELEBRANT: FR. LEE GROSS</b>                            |

## 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.*

■ **Today’s Commemorations** — Today is the Twenty-Eighth Sunday after Pentecost. On this date, December 2, the Byzantine Church commemorates the Holy Prophet Habakkuk.

Habakkuk, one of the minor prophets inasmuch as his book of Holy Scripture is short, lived during the late seventh century before the Birth of Christ. In addition to his book, he is mentioned in the Book of Daniel, where the account of his miraculous journey to bring food to the Holy Prophet Daniel during his captivity in the lion’s den appears.

St. Habakkuk observed the rise of the Babylonians and was well aware of the imminent threat they posed to the Kingdom of Judah and to the blessed city of Jerusalem. Moreover, as a Prophet of God, he fully perceived that the conquest of Judah would be God’s punishment for Judah’s gross infidelities, that is, for her dabbling in paganism and superstition, and for the avariciousness and concomitant injustices that had become rife in Judean society.

Yet, the Holy Prophet was puzzled, and he expressed his several concerns to God, which he transmits to us in a dialogue between himself and God. In the end the Holy Prophet grasps God’s wishes and His objectives and was therefore pleased with God’s response to his questions; although it meant a period of suffering, still, in the end, it meant Godly purification and redemption. St. Habakkuk sings God’s praises, ending his short book with the words: *“Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds’ [deer] feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.”*

*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](http://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 and Rich Fejka.
- Raymond Klimkosky.

### OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Mary Neimiller
- Yazmine Nickerson.
- 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.
- Deacon Peter Turko.



## 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

■ **The Prophet Nahum** — On December 1 each year the Byzantine Church commemorates the Holy Prophet Nahum. Born of the tribe of Simeon, this far-seeing holy man spent most of his life in the Elkosh region of Galilee.

Nahum lived about 200 years after the Prophet Jonah delivered his eleventh-hour warnings to the morally corrupt city of Ninevah, the capital of the Assyrian Empire. Jonah's mission had been successful (albeit interrupted by an incident in which he was swallowed by a whale), and the people of Ninevah had repented just in time to avert wholesale destruction.

However, the populace of the great city had slowly forgotten Jonah's message during the next two centuries ...and now the God of the Israelites once again demanded that a prophet go forth to warn the Ninevites of the great danger they faced. That prophet would be Nahum, and he would deliver a stern warning about the earthquake, flood, and fire that the city could expect if its residents did not immediately give up their idolatrous and immoral ways.

Sadly, the citizens of the doomed city did not listen to Nahum. As a result, Ninevah was devastated, and even its geographical location has vanished from the map without a trace.

■ **Philip's Fast** — Philip's Fast (or the Christmas Fast) began at sundown on November 14, the Feast of St. Philip, and runs 40 days until According to tradition, it was customary to observe a strict fast (no meat or dairy) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and a lesser fast on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Ruthenian Metropolia has identified this period as a penitential season. The fast may be observed voluntarily, partially, or in its entirety. However, Friday's during this period

remain as days of penance. Abstaining from meat or performing an appropriate act of penance is prescribed.

■ **Continue to Remember in Prayer** — *"They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword...."* (Hebrews 11:37a)

Please lift up in prayer all those who are persecuted and deprived of liberty, everywhere in the world, even in our own country.

Please especially remember the peoples of Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Niger — the whole Middle East and Africa — who are literal martyrs for Christ. Also the people of Ukraine.

They are all our brothers and sisters, for all are one in Christ.

■ **Bishop's Annual Appeal 2018** — Please return the pledge card with your check made out to the Eparchy of Passaic, 445 Lackawanna Ave., Woodland Park, NJ 07424. You can also pledge online. Go to [www.eparchyofpassaic.com](http://www.eparchyofpassaic.com). Our goal for this year is once again \$6,000. If you have questions or did not receive the mailing from the Chancery Office, please see Vince Kovalick.

Every year since our community began participating in the appeal, we have either met or exceeded our goal. Any monies over our goal are returned for religious education.

## Evangelization

■ **Food Pantry** — 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, is always in great need of non-perishable foods, baby food and supplies, and personal hygiene items. Hunger never takes a vacation or holiday.