

(Continued from a preceding page.)

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.

■ **Christmas Liturgy** – Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Our Lord will be prayed with a vigil Divine Liturgy at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 24, in Our Lady’s Chapel in the Goshen House. There will be no Divine Liturgy served at Epiphany Mission on Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25.

Note that the Vigil of Christmas (December 24) is observed as a day of simple abstinence (no meat or meat products). One may also fast from dairy products. The period from Christmas Day through January 3 is free from fasting and abstinence.

Evangelization

■ **Food Pantry** – Our Mission Community’s ministry to the unfortunate of our area through the local Food Pantry program, ad-

ministered by St. Martin Roman Catholic Church, Gaithersburg, is always in great need of nonperishable foods, baby food and supplies, and personal hygiene items. Hunger never takes a vacation or holiday.

■ **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.



Divine Liturgy Schedule	
Dec. 16...	Sunday of the Forefathers Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Dec. 23...	Sunday Before Christmas/ Sunday of the Ancestors Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Dec. 24...	Vigil of Christmas Our Lady’s Chapel/Goshen House 5:30 p.m. (Day of Precept/Obligation)
Dec. 30...	Sunday After Christmas Our Lady’s Chapel/Goshen House 10 a.m.

Liturgy Propers

29th Sunday After Pentecost
Our Venerable Father Patapius of Thebes
December 9, 2018
Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Troparion – Tone 4 (p. 141)
Kontakion – Tone 4 (p. 141)
Prokeimenon – Tone 4 (p. 142)
EPISTLE: Colossians 3:12–16
Alleluia – Tone 4 (p. 142)
GOSPEL: Luke 17:12–19
Communion Hymns (p. 78–81)

[PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]

CELEBRANT: FR. LEE GROSS

Announcements

■ **Today’s Liturgy Intention** – Today’s Divine Liturgy is offered Mike Hamas for the blessed repose of his wife, Theresia Maria. *Vičnaja jej pamjať.*

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

– Revelation 21:4 (NKJV / OSB)

■ **Today’s Commemorations** – Today is the Twenty-Ninth Sunday after Pentecost. On this date, December 9, the Byzantine Church commemorates our Venerable Father Patapius of Thebes.

St. Patapius was born at Thebes into a pious Christian family. Reaching the age of maturity, he scorned the vanities of the world and so went into the Egyptian desert where he became known for his ascetic deeds. Though he wished to dwell in silence, people began to come to him for advice. He went eventually to Constantinople, where he obtained a cell at the city wall, near the Church of St. Mary of Blachernae. But here, too, he quickly became known. The sick began to throng about, and he having been vouchsafed the gift of healing, began to help all the needy.

After a life adorned with virtue and miracles, St Patapius fell asleep in the Lord and was buried in the church of St John the Baptist.

■ **Mirovanije** – This past week the Byzantine Church celebrated two solemn holy days: the Feast of the Wonderworker St. Nicholas of Myra on December 6 and the Feast of the Conception of St. Anna, known as the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in the Roman Church, yesterday, December 8.

In commemoration of these two feasts there will be anointing (*mirovanije*) and distribution of blessed bread at the close of Divine Liturgy. All are welcome to be anointed and receive the blessed bread. *Christ is among us! He is and shall be!*

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 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

■ **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.

■ **The Holy Supper: Christmas in the Carpatho-Rusyn Tradition** – The Carpatho-Rusyn people maintain a wide variety of customs associated with all the holidays of the year, but few of them are as elaborate or as eagerly awaited as those associated with the Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ.

The entire drama of events associated with Christmas is made present in the Rusyn home by the observance of the Christmas Eve Holy Supper (*Svjatyy Večer/Velija*). The custom of the Holy Supper is observed wherever Rusyns live, but variations in customs and foods served at the meal are found from region to region, village to village, even among different families. These variations not only testify to the richness of the Rusyn culture, but in the unity of a tradition kept by all Rusyns.

To find out more about observing the Christmas Eve Holy Supper, go to www.wirnowski.com/Carp/Nat_HolyNight.html

A prayerful welcome to our visitors and guests.

■ **St. Nicholas and the Darr Mine Explosion** – On December 19, 1907, a tremendous explosion shook the Youghiogheny River Valley, killing 239 men and boys at the Darr Mine in Van Meter, Westmoreland County, Western Pennsylvania.

The death toll would have been far worse had those workers who were Byzantine Catholics been in the mine also. That day (Old Calendar) was the Feast of St. Nicholas and the Byzantine Catholic workers were taking the day without pay to attend the local church.

A video about the disaster was produced by WQED-TV, Pittsburgh, and can be accessed at <https://www.wqed.org/tv/watch/experience/darrmine-disaster-0>

■ **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. 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.

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