

■ **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.

■ **Last Weeks for Bishop’s Annual Appeal 2018** – If you haven’t done so, 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.

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.

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



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 in the Byzantine Church is the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On this Sunday between December 11 and 17, Eastern Catholic Churches remember all the Ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, in addition to the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father; Enoch; Melchisedech; Abraham, the friend of God; Isaac, the fruit of the Promise; Jacob; and the 12 Patriarchs.

Remembered also are those who lived under the Law: Moses; Aaron; Joshua; Samuel; David; the Prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezechiel; the 12 Minor Prophets; Elias; Eliseus; Zachariah; John the Baptist; and finally, the Holy Theotokos and Virgin Mary.

Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity who bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam, to realize the promise made to Abraham, to change the Law of fear into the Law of Love, and to give resurrection and life to mankind.

This feast, a preparation for Jesus’ Nativity, places before us the sentiments of anticipation and hope for His coming among us.

On this date, December 16, the Byzantine Church commemorates the Holy Prophet Haggai (Aggeus), the tenth of the Twelve Minor Prophets, who is believed to have been born during the exile in Babylon and lived to see the second temple 516 B.C.

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.

Liturgy Propers

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

The Holy Prophet Haggai
December 16, 2018

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Troparion – Tone 5 (p. 146)

Troparion of the Ancestors – Tone 2 (p. 281)

Kontakion of the Thrice-Blessed Youths – Tone 6 (p. 281)

Prokeimenon – Tone 4 (p. 282)

EPISTLE: Colossians 3:4–11

Alleluia – Tone 4 (p. 282)

GOSPEL: Luke 14:16–24

Communion Hymns (p. 78–81 & p. 283)

[PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]

CELEBRANT: FR. LEE GROSS

Divine Liturgy Schedule

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.

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.

■ **Christmas Greetings** – Our Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic greeting to one another from Christmas Day through Christmastide is "Christ is born!" The response is "Glorify Him!"

In Slavonic (transliterated), it is "Christos razhdajetsa!" And the response, "Slavite Jeho!"

Liturgically, the Christmas season for the Eastern Churches runs 40 days (mirroring the 40 days following Pascha) from the Feast of the Nativity to the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple on February 2.

■ **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 (*Svjatyj 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

■ **Feast of Theophany** – Each year on January 6, the Byzantine Church commemorates the baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River. This feast is often called "Epiphany" or "Theophany," which means the Holy Manifestation of the Divinity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. One of the oldest feasts of the Eastern Church, it has been traced back to the beginning of the second century. The Western Church accepted this Great Feast from the Eastern Church in the third century. Part of the tradition of the Eastern Church is to bless water (Great Sanctification of Water). Theophany, in 2019, falls on the first Sunday of January.

■ **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>