

■ **The Great Fast** — The Great Fast (Lent in the Western Church) for the Byzantine Church symbolizes the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert, while the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (celebrated on lenten Wednesdays and Fridays) is the fulfillment of the promise of manna.

In the Great Fast, we also imitate Jesus our Lord, Who fasted for 40 days in the desert following His baptism. Because the Feast of Pascha was also the time for baptisms, 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.

During the Great Fast, all Wednesdays and Fridays are days of fasting from meat and meat products. Holy and Great Friday is also a day of fasting from meat and dairy products.

Fasting/abstinence requirements may be

mitigated for reasons of health and/or age. Please contact Fr. John at Epiphany Parish Office if you have questions or concerns.

■ **Lenten Services** — There are no Lenten services scheduled for our mission except Solemn Vespers for Holy and Great Friday. Please avail yourself of services at Epiphany-Annandale (see schedule in bulletin) or St. Gregory of Nyssa in Beltsville (call 301-953-9323). Also note that Epiphany-Annandale serves meatless meals on the Fridays of the Great Fast from 4-7 p.m., prior to the praying of Presanctified Liturgy. No meals are served on Holy and Great Friday.

### Divine Liturgy Schedule

- Mar. 31...**     **4th Sunday of the Great Fast**  
Mother of God School  
10 a.m.
- Apr. 7...**     **5th Sunday of the Great Fast**  
Mother of God School  
10 a.m.
- Apr. 14...**    **Palm Sunday**  
Blessing of Palms & Willows

In the Liturgy we pray “for those who serve and have served in this holy church.” For now, we still need men and women to help with liturgy setup and takedown.

The signup sheet for **April** (Including Great Friday and Pascha) is available on the information table.

*Thank you!*

### Announcements

■ **Today’s Liturgy Intention** — Today’s Divine Liturgy is offered for the good intentions of the members of our Mission Community. *Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever! Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na v’iki!*

■ **Today’s Commemoration** — Today in the Byzantine Church is the Third Sunday of the Great Fast and is dedicated to the veneration of the life-giving Cross of our Lord.

The Kingdom of God comes only through the Cross and through suffering. Life follows death; resurrection follows Golgotha. Saint Paul teaches that, in the worldly sense, the Cross is a sign of foolishness, signifying death and sorrow. The faithful, however, look in faith and hope beyond the suffering brought about by the Cross, discerning the loving victory that it truly proclaims.

At Sunday matins we sing: “Behold! Through the Cross joy has come to all the world!” The Cross is a sign of victory and the landmark of paradise. It is inseparable from the Resurrection. For this reason we sing on this Sunday: “We bow to Your Cross, O Lord, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection.”



Not only is the Cross a sign of victory for Christ, “the leader to salvation made perfect through suffering” (*Hebrews 2:10*), but for us as well.

And as we approach Pascha, it stands as a reminder to us to take up our crosses and worthily follow Christ in His suffering, and ultimately, in His eternal victory as well (*Matthew 10:38*)

■ **On This Date** — On this date, we commemorate our Venerable Father Zachary and James, Confessor; our Holy Father Artemius, Bishop of Thessalonica; and St. Artemon, Martyr-presbyter of Laodicea.

## 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.

### Liturgy Propers

#### Third Sunday of the Great Fast Veneration of the Holy Cross March 24, 2019

Venerable Father Zachary & James, Confessor  
Our Holy Father Artemius, Bishop of Thessalonica  
St. Artemon, Martyr-presbyter of Laodicea  
Troparion of the Resurrection — Tone 3 (p. 135)  
Troparion of the Cross — Tone 1 (p. 223)  
Troparion of the Prefeast — Tone 4 (p. 324)  
Kontakion of the Cross — Tone 7 (p. 224)  
“We Bow to Your Cross...” (p. 32)

Prokiemenon of the Cross — Tone 6 (p. 224)

**Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6**

Alleluia of the Holy Cross — Tone 8 (p. 225)

**Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1**

Magnification [“In You O Woman...”] (p. 98/102)

Communion Hymn: Psalm 4:7 (p. 225)

[PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]

CELEBRANT: FR. SERGIU DEIAK

## 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

- Ann Radko.
- Delores Moldowan.
- Mary Neimiller.
- Yazmine Nickerson.
- 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

## We pray for Your peace and Your mercy...

in the midst of the great suffering that people are now inflicting on each other. Accept the prayers of Your Church, so that by Your goodness peace may return to all peoples. Hear us and have mercy on us.

*Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,  
Lord have mercy.*

Lord our God, remember and have mercy on our brothers and sisters who are involved in every civil conflict. Remove from their midst all hostility, confusion, and hatred. Lead everyone along the path of reconciliation and peace, we pray You, hear us and have mercy on us.

*Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,  
Lord have mercy.*

Let all believers turn aside from violence and do what makes for peace. By the strength of your mighty arm save your people and Your Holy Church from all evil oppression; hear the supplications of all who call to You in sorrow and affliction, day and night. Merciful God, let their lives not be lost, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

*Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,  
Lord have mercy.*

Amen.

[Text excerpted from "In Communion," the website of the Orthodox Peace Fellowship. Visit [www.incommunion.org](http://www.incommunion.org).]

■ **Also Today** – Today is the Prefestive of the Feast of the Annunciation to the Mother of God (also referred to as the Incarnation in the Latin Church), during which the Church commemorates not only the divine initiative, whereby God in His loving kindness took flesh from a Virgin, it commemorates also the hu-

man response, whereby Mary, the Theotokos (God-bearer), 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.

■ **Welcome, Fr. Sergei!** – Our prayerful thank you to Fr. Sergij Deiak, who is praying the Divine Liturgy with us today so that Fr. Lee may fulfill his obligation at Mount St. Mary.

Fr. Sergij is Parochial Vicar at St. Gregory of Nyssa Church in Beltsville. He and his wife, Pani Liubov, have two children, a son Mykhailo and a daughter Sofia. We pray for them peace, health, and happiness for many blessed years. *Mnohaja l'ita!*

■ **Bishop's Appeal Exceeded... Again** – Every year since our community has participated in the Bishop's Annual Appeal, we have either met or exceeded our goal. Our final total for the 2018 appeal came in at \$6,160. Our goal was \$6,000. Monies over our goal will be returned in June and earmarked for religious education. May God bless all of our contributors for their continuing generosity and dedication to His Byzantine Catholic Church.