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■ **Online: God With Us Seminars** – Interested in learning more about your faith as expressed through the Byzantine/Eastern Christian tradition? Join us for live webinars, all offered free of charge. Webinars open 30 minutes ahead of time for questions and pre-class discussion. Detailed information and registration instructions can be found at <http://easterncatholic.org/>

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 the remainder of **September** is available on the information table.

*Thank you!*

## Divine Liturgy Schedule

- Sept. 15...**    **Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross**  
Mother of God School  
10 a.m.
- Sept. 22...**    **15th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Mother of God School  
10 a.m.
- Sept. 29...**    **16th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Mother of God School  
10 a.m.

God is our refuge and strength,  
A very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we won't be afraid,  
though the earth changes,  
though the mountains are shaken  
into the heart of the seas;  
Though the waters of it roar  
and are troubled,  
Though the mountains tremble  
with their swelling...

**From Psalm 41**

## Liturgy Propers

### Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Nativity of the Theotokos

September 8, 2019

[Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom]

Troparion of the Resurrection – Tone 4 (p. 141)

Troparion of the Nativity of the Theotokos – Tone 4 (p. 243)

Kontakion of the Nativity of the Theotokos – Tone 4 (p. 243)

Prokeimenon of the Sunday Before

the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Tone 6 (p. 248)

#### EPISTLES:

**Galatians 6:11–18 or Philippians 2:5–11**

Alleluia of the Sunday Before

the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Tone 1 (p. 249)

#### GOSPELS:

**John 3:13–17 or Luke 10:38–42 & 11:27–28**

Magnification and Irmos (p. 245)

Communion Hymn (pp. 78 & 246)

[PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]

CELEBRANT: FR. LEE GROSS



Christ is among us!

(Christos posred'i nas!)

He is and shall be!

(Jest'i budet!)

## Announcements

■ **Today's Liturgy Intention** – Today's Divine Liturgy is offered by Lou Shanks for the living and deceased members of the Xaverian Brothers of the Novitiate Class of 1958. *Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na v'iki!*

*“How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of Adam take refuge in the shadow of your wings.”*

– Psalm 36:8

■ **Today's Commemorations** – Today is the Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. It is also the Feast of the Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, which is celebrated on September 8 each year and commemorates the birth of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament; however, information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the *Book of James* or *Protevangelion*.

According to the story found in this book, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shep-

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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](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.

### OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- 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."*



Psalms 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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herds and their flocks. As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

The icon of the Nativity of the Theotokos presents to us the central figures of Saints Joachim and Anna, Mary's parents, and the Mother of our Lord as an infant. St. Anna is in the middle of the icon with her right hand extended toward her daughter. Likewise, Saint Joachim, Mary's father, is gazing upon the young child with his right hand extended toward her. Anna is surrounded by attendants who have assisted with the birth.

The icon and the feast also acknowledge a transition from barrenness to life. It is but another foreshadowing of what would be offered through Christ, the transformation from death to eternal life.

This is the first of the Great Feasts of the Byzantine Church liturgical year that begins on September 1 each year.

■ **Mirovaniye** — In commemoration of the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, there will be anointing (*mirovaniye*) and distribution of blessed bread at today's Divine Liturgy. All are welcome to receive anointing and the blessed bread.

*Christ is among us! He is and shall be!*

■ **Elevation of the Holy Cross** — The Elevation of the Holy Cross, which is celebrated on September 14, is one of the Great Feasts of the Eastern Church. This feast is also referred to as the Exaltation of the Cross and commemorates two events: the finding of the Cross by the Empress Helen (the mother of St. Constantine the Great) on Golgotha in A.D. 326, the place where Christ was crucified and the recovery of the Cross on which He was crucified from the Persians.

This feast day is one of the two, that by tradition, is a day of strict fast (no meat or dairy).

■ **St. Mamas, Patron of Animals** — On September 2, the Byzantine Church commemorated St. Mamas the Great Martyr. He is considered by the Eastern Church as the Patron of Animals, just as St. Francis of Assisi is so designated in the Western Church. The story of his life and martyrdom, can be found at [www.newbyzantines.net/byzathculture/stmamas.html](http://www.newbyzantines.net/byzathculture/stmamas.html)

■ **Today: Slavic-American Festival** — The annual Slavic-American Festival sponsored by Epiphany Church-Annandale begins at 12 noon today following Divine Liturgy. Visit [www.slavicamericanfestival.com/](http://www.slavicamericanfestival.com/) for details.

■ **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 nonperishable foods, baby food and supplies, and personal hygiene items. Hunger never takes a vacation or holiday.