

Our Mission Community

■ **Thank you, Annamarie** — A prayerful thank you goes to Annamarie Kaczmarek for bundling the palms and willows for today's Palm Sunday commemoration. In addition, a thank you is extended to her for her beautiful flower arrangements that grace our tetrapod and icon stands throughout the year.

■ **Mark Your Calendar** — Please mark your calendar for Sunday, April 24, when we will be taking photos for the upcoming Epiphany of Our Lord Parish anniversary directory.

Photos will be taken directly after Divine Liturgy that day. (Note that we will be having **social hour** on that day also.) A sign-up sheet is available on the information table. You can also sponsor an ad in the directory, which will help defray printing costs.

Also note that although a professional

photographer will be taking the photos, she is not affiliated with any company (such as Olan Mills) and there will be no sales pitches/offers involved. If you have questions, please see Marie Shanks.

■ **Food Pantry: More Than Food** — In addition to canned and dry foods, the Food Pantry Program takes manufacturers' coupons and sealed personal toiletries. The number of households seeking assistance from the program continues to rise. Please support our mission's ministry to the area's working poor.

The sign-up sheet for liturgy setup for April is now available.

Thank you to all those who continue to lend a hand for setup and takedown.

Welcome visitors and guests.

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Mar. 20	Mother of God School 10 a.m. [Blessing of Palms and Willows]
Mar. 25	Mother of God School 7:30 p.m. Holy and Great Friday & Feast of the Annunciation
Mar. 25	Mother of God School 10 a.m. Feast of the Resurrection (Pascha) & Blessing of Easter Foods
Apr. 3	Mother of God School 10 a.m.

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!*

■ **Today's Commemorations** — Today is the commemoration of the Journey of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, known more commonly as Palm Sunday, although the Slavs traditionally refer to it as Flowery Sunday. Palms and pussy willows will be blessed and distributed at the beginning of today's Divine Liturgy.

In John's account of the Gospel, the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem is reduced to the essentials, within the chronological framework of what had happened during the past few days: the anointing of Jesus' feet by Mary; the hypocritical reaction of Judas, who witnessed the scene; the resolve of the priests to have Jesus "removed"; the procession of the palms; the incomprehension of the disciples who would grasp only later the significance of the event; and the concourse of the people emotionally stirred up by the resurrection of Lazarus. All this was to bring the hostility of the religious leaders to a head. In their minds, Jesus was already condemned.

In addition to the blessing of palms and willows in commemoration of our Lord's journey into Jerusalem, we will have anointing (*mirovanije*) and distribution of blessed bread. All are welcome to receive blessed palms/willows, anointing, and blessed bread.

■ **Holy and Great Week** — In this upcoming week, the most solemn of the Church Year, we re-live the mystery of God's merciful loving-kindness, when He suffered death and burial for our salvation, and is risen for our hope of eternal life. During Holy Week, we do not only observe what happened in history, but

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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

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 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

Palm (Flowery Sunday)

Our Lord's Journey into Jerusalem

March 20, 2016

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Opening Hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy" (p. 56)

Antiphons for Palm Sunday (p. 235)

Entrance Hymn for Palm Sunday (p. 237)

Troparion of Lazarus — Tone 1 (p. 236)

Troparion of Palm Sunday — Tone 4 (p. 237)

Kontakion of Palm Sunday — Tone 6 (p. 238)

Prokiemenon — Tone 4 (p. 239)

EPISTLE: Phillipians 4:4-9

Alleluia—Tone 1 (p. 239)

GOSPEL: John 12:1-18

Exaltation and Irmos (p. 239)

[in place of "It is truly proper..."]

Communion Hymn (and page 241)

Fr. Lee Gross, Celebrant

[PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]

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

- Ron Pytel.
- Maggie and Robert Karam.
- Lou Shanks.
- Rosemary Chisarick

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Peggy Winkelmann.
- Laura Hinkle.
- Doran Coady.
- Ann Tracy.
- Travis Waters.
- Bertha Bergan.
- Arlene Kollar.
- David Chisarick.
- Jamee Kruse.
- Joseph and Nancy Dillmann.
- Paul and Mary Ellen Sorensen.
- Tony Tworkoski.
- Norman Dennis.
- Linda Oros.
- Jenelle Wagner.
- Mike DiMarino.
- Robert Kreger.
- Anita Rhinehart.
- Robert Diethrich.
- Lucy Fontenot
- Patricia and Peter Minihane.
- Brother Joseph Comber, CFX.
- Beth Brackett.
- Lisa De Rosa.

SPECIAL INTENTION

- Elizabeth Basarab.
- Fr. Francis Martin.



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

(Continued from a previous page.)

through our acts of repentance, our prayers and fasting, our processions and veneration, we take an active part in what is happening now through divine remembrance. We die in Christ and rise in the fullness of life.

■ **The Season of Bright Sadness** – "The Lenten season is meant to kindle a 'bright sadness' within our hearts. Its aim is precisely the remembrance of Christ, a longing for a relationship with God that has been lost. Lent offers the time and place for recovery of this relationship. The darkness of Lent allows the flame of the Holy Spirit to burn within our hearts until we are led to the brilliance of the Resurrection." – Fr. Alexander Schmemmann (+1983)

■ **Holy and Great Friday/Annunciation** – During certain years the Feast of the Annunciation (Incarnation), which is commemorated on March 25, coincides with Holy and Great Friday. Unlike the Roman Church, which transfers the Annunciation to a later date, the Byzantine Church commemorates both.

Services, which begin on Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Mother of God School, will be a combination of Great Vespers for Holy and Great Friday and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation. At the close of Divine Liturgy, there will be the traditional procession and veneration of the burial shroud. Special books have been prepared by the eparchy so that everyone can fully participate.

Last Week's Liturgy

March 13, 2016

Attendance: 30 Souls

■ **Lenten Services** – There are no Lenten services scheduled for our mission other than Holy and Great Friday on March 25 at 7:30 p.m. Please avail yourself of services at Epiphany-Annandale (see schedule in bulletin) or St. Gregory of Nyssa in Beltsville. Call 301-953-9323) or visit <http://stgregoryofnyssa.net/>.

■ **Hosanna!** – We sing "Hosanna" several times during every Divine Liturgy and especially on this day, Palm Sunday. But what does the word mean?

In a liturgical context, it refers to a cry expressing an appeal for divine help. For Jews, the word is applied specifically to the Hoshana Service, a cycle of prayers from which a selection is sung each morning during Sukkot, the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles. The complete cycle is sung on the seventh day of the festival, called Hoshana Rabbah (Great Hosanna).

"Hosanna" was the shout of praise or adoration made in recognition of the Messiahship of Jesus on his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" It is used in the same way in Christian worship, especially on Palm Sunday, which commemorates that event.

Upcoming

Feast of the Resurrection – Divine Liturgy in celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord (Pascha) will be prayed at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 27, with the Blessing of the Paschal Foods to immediately follow. You are also welcome to bring flowers to put before the icon stands.

*Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner!*

The Jesus Prayer