

Your birth, O Christ, our God  
 has shed upon the world  
 the light of knowledge;  
 for through it, those who worshiped  
 the stars have learned from a star  
 to worship You, the Sun of Justice,  
 and to recognize You  
 as the Orient from on High.  
 Glory be to You, O Lord

Roždestvo Tvoje Christe Bože naš,  
 vozsjia mirovi sv'it razuma:  
 V'ne bo zvi'zdam služaščii,  
 zv'izdo'ju učachusja,  
 Tebi klañatisja Solncu pravdy,  
 i Tebe v'iditi so vysoty Vostoka:  
 Hospodi Slava Tebi.

TROPARION OF CHRISTMAS

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The March for Life Rally will take place at noon on the grounds of the Washington Monument (15th Street & Constitution Avenue) followed by the March for Life, which begins at Constitution between 15th and 17th streets.

For more information, please visit <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/national-prayer-vigil-for-life-schedule.cfm>.

■ **"Tammies" Return** – The Tamburitzans (Tammies) will perform at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The "Tammies," America's longest-running multicultural song and dance company, is a unique ensemble of talented young folk artists from the Pittsburgh area dedicated to the performance and preservation of the music, songs, and dances of Eastern Europe and neighboring folk cultures.

For ticket information, call 240-314-8690. For more information about the Tamburitzans, visit [www.thetamburitzans.org/](http://www.thetamburitzans.org/).

The sign-up sheet to assist with the setup for the **Sundays in January** is now available on the information table. Thank you to all those who continue to provide assistance in setting up and taking down.

### Divine Liturgy Schedule

Jan. 1	Our Lady's Chapel, Goshen House 10 a.m.
Jan. 5	<b>Theophany Vigil Divine Liturgy</b> Mother of God School 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	Mother of God School 7:30 p.m.

### Last Week's Liturgy

**December 18, 2016**  
 Attendance: 25 Souls



Christos Raždajetsa!  
 Slavite Jeho!

### Announcements

■ **Today's Liturgy Intention** – Today's Vigil Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity is offered for the living and deceased members of our Mission Community. (This liturgy fulfills Christmas and Sunday obligations. There will be no liturgy at the Gaithersburg Mission tomorrow, December 25.)

■ **Today's Commemorations** – Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ in the Flesh.

On this date, December 24, the Byzantine Church commemorates SS, Eugenia, Venerable Martry, and her two slaves, Protus and Hyacinth, by whom she was converted to Christianity. She was put to death in prison at Rome on Christmas Day A.D. 257 in the reign of Valerian, Emperor.

■ **Mirovanije** – In celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, there will be anointing with blessed oil (*mirovanije*) and distribution of blessed

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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 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

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

### OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- 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.
- Norman Dennis.
- Linda Oros.
- Jenelle Wagner.
- Mike DiMarino.
- Robert Kreger.
- Robert Diethrich.
- Lucy Fontenot
- Patricia and Peter Minihane.
- Brother Joseph Comber, CFX.

### SPECIAL INTENTION

- Elizabeth Basarab.
- Fr. Francis Martin.
- Sally Pekarik.
- Fr. Conan Timoney



## 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

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bread. All are welcome to receive anointing and blessed bread. *Christ is born! Glorify Him!*

■ **Christmas Greeting** – Instead of "Merry Christmas," Byzantine Catholics and Orthodox say: "Christ is born!" with the response of: "Glorify Him!"

In Church Slavonic and Greek (transliterated), it is, respectively: "Christos Razdajetsja! / Slavite Jeho!" and "Christos Gennatai! / Doxasete!"

■ **Christmas Feast Begins** – In celebration of the birth of our Lord, from Christmas Day, December 25, through January 4 there is no fasting or abstinence. .

■ **Christmas Blessings** – May God bless our clergy – Bishop Kurt, Fr. Lee, Fr. John, Deacon Elmer, and Deacon Peter – with peace, health, and happiness during this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

■ **Food Pantry** – Remember 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, which is always in great need of nonperishable foods, baby food and supplies, and personal hygiene items. Hunger never takes a vacation or holiday.

## Upcoming

■ **Theophany Divine Liturgy** – Vigil Divine Liturgy and Hallowing (Blessing) of the Waters for the Feast of the Theophany (Baptism) of Our Lord is set for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 5, in the Mother of God School. This feast is a day of obligation for Byzantine Catholics.

Blessed water will be distributed at the close of the liturgy. If you would like to take blessed water home with you, please bring a secure, sealable container.

The feasts of the Nativity of Jesus Christ and Theophany are the celebration of a single, most profound event – the coming of the Light of the World among us. In these glorious feasts we remember Jesus was sent by the Father through Mary the Godbearer (Theotokos), to bring "a people in darkness" into the light of salvation. In this revelation, the birth and public appearance of the Messiah is the sign, the expression, and the proclamation that God's love for His people is boundless, total, and infinitely tender.

As we arrive at the celebration of "God-with-us" in these feasts, may we re-immense ourselves in the warm and saving light of Jesus Christ. Filled with His radiance once again, we will be better able to perceive that God's image does indeed shine brightly and beautifully within ourselves and that He is ever present in our family, neighbors, and in the people of our Church, no matter what darkness may surround us.

■ **National Prayer Vigil for Life** – Activities for the National Prayer Vigil for Life in Washington, D.C., include a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on January 26. Later that evening, Night Prayer according to the Byzantine Rite will be prayed from 10 to 11 in the Crypt Church by our Bishop Kurt Burnette.

On January 27, Bishop Kurt will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at Epiphany Church-Annandale at 10 a.m.

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