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The “Tammies,” America’s longest-running, multi-cultural song and dance company, is a unique ensemble of talented young folk artists dedicated to the performance and preservation of the music, songs, and dances of Eastern Europe and neighboring folk cultures.

The performers are full-time students who receive substantial scholarship awards from Duquesne University, with additional financial aid provided by Tamburitzans Scholarship Endowment Funds.

For more information, including ticket purchasing information, visit <http://www.duq.edu/life-at-duquesne/tamburitzans>.

Liturgy Propers

Sunday Before Theophany

Holy Prophet Malachi

St. Gordius, Martyr

January 3, 2016

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 7 (page 158)

Troparion of the Prefeast - Tone 4 (page 309)

Kontakion of the Prefeast - Tone 4 (page 310)

Prokiemenon - Tone 6 (page 311)

EPISTLE:

2 Timothy 4:5-8

Alleluia - Tone 8 (page 311)

GOSPEL:

Mark 1:1-8

Communion Hymn (page 305)

Fr. Lee Gross, Celebrant

[PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]

The feast of Christ’s Birth has passed;
It shone more brightly than the sun.
The day of His Epiphany is coming;
That day will be even more radiant.

There the shepherds gave glory
with the angels,
Worshipping God made man.

Here John’s right hand
will touch the Master
As he cries out in fear:
“Sanctify both me and the waters,
O Only Merciful One!”

Matins of the First Day of the Prefest of Epiphany



JANUARY DIVINE LITURGIES

The sign-up sheet for liturgy setup during January is available on the information table.

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

Last Week’s Liturgy

December 27, 2015

Attendance: 22 Souls

Announcements

■ **Today’s Liturgy Intention** – Today’s Divine Liturgy is offered for the good intentions of our Mission Community. *Christos Razdajetsja! Slavite Jeho!*”

“I am the living Bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this Bread will live forever; and the Bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”
– Matthew 18:20 (NAB)

■ **Today’s Commemorations** – Today in the Byzantine Church is the Sunday Before Theophany. 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-immers 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.

On this date, January 3, the Byzantine Church commemorates St. Malachi, prophet, 400 B.C.our , and St. Gordius, martyr, who suffered death A.D. 320 during the reign of Emperor Lincinius.

The Holy Prophet Malachi lived 400 years before the Birth of Christ, at the time of the return of the Jews from the Babylonian Captivity. Malachi was the

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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.

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.
- Andrea Haba.
- Linda Oros.
- Johanna Klema.
- Mike DiMarino.
- Robert Kreger.
- Noah Kent.
- Anita Rhinehart.
- Robert Diethrich.
- Lucy Fontenot
- Peter Minihane.
- Dee Kissell.
- Brother Joseph Comber, CFX.

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."

Psalm 80:14-15 NKJV/OSB



Food Pantry

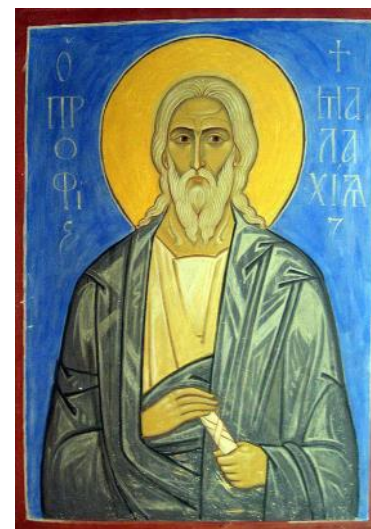
Our community places a food collection basket near the information table as you enter the gymnasium. Don't forget those who are less fortunate. Nonperishable food items, diapers, baby food, and personal care items are always in demand. The Food Pantry Program, administered by St. Martin of Tours Roman 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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last of the Old Testament prophets, therefore the holy Fathers call him "the seal of the prophets."

Manifesting himself an image of spiritual goodness and piety, he astounded the nation and

was called Malachi, *i.e.*, an angel. His prophetic book is included in the Canon of the Old Testament. In it he upbraids the Jews, foretelling the coming of Jesus Christ and His Forerunner, and also the Last Judgment (Mal 3:1-5; 4:1-6).

■ **Fast and Feast** — In celebration of the Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, there is no fasting from December 25 through January 4. By tradition, the Vigil of Theophany, January 5, is a day of strict abstinence from meat and dairy products. Friday, January 8, is a day of simple abstinence (no meat) or performance of an act of penance.

■ **Theophany Liturgy** — The Feast of Theophany liturgy and blessing (hallowing) of water will be at 7:30 p.m. on the feast day itself, January 6, and not on the eve. This liturgy fulfills the Theophany holy day obligation. Please bring your own sealable container if you wish to take home some blessed water.

■ **Food Pantry: More Than Food** — In addition to canned and dry foods, the Food Pan-

try 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.

Upcoming

■ **The Tammies Are Back** — During February 2016, Duquense University's Tamburitzans will perform at these three area venues:

- Annandale, Virginia: 7 p.m., Saturday, February 13, at the Ernst Theatre/Northern Virginia Community College.
- Rockville, Maryland: 2 p.m., Sunday, February 14, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
- Shepherdstown, West Virginia: 8 p.m., Saturday, February 20, at the Frank Center Theatre/Shepherd University.

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Divine Liturgy Schedule

Jan. 3	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Jan. 6	(Theophany & Blessing of Water) Mother of God School 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 10	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Jan. 17	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Jan. 24*	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Jan. 31	Mother of God School 10 a.m.

- Social Hour tentatively scheduled.