

Upcoming

■ **Next Sunday: Blessing of Icons** – There will be a blessing of icons and other religious items next Sunday, February 14, the First Sunday of the Great Fast, also known as the Sunday of Orthodoxy. We are reminded that Christ, the perfect image [*icon*] of God the Father, calls us to personal victory by restoring within ourselves “the image and likeness of God” in which we were first created (see Genesis 1:26). The icons of our Lord, the Holy Theotokos, and all the saints are images of true humanity, signs of what our eternal calling and vocation really is. They tell us the we are called to be “living icons” and imitators of Christ, bearing the likeness of God as gracious vessels of the Holy Spirit.

■ **Lenten Dinners** – The first of Epiphany-Annandale’s Lenten dinners is February 12. Take-out begins at 4 p.m. Eat-in dinners begin at 5 p.m. Food service ends at 7 p.m. so that individuals may attend the Liturgy of Pre-sanctified Gifts at 7:30 p.m. No Lenten dinners are served on Holy and Great Friday.

■ **The Tammies Are Back** – Duquense University’s Tamburitizens will perform at these three area venues:

- Annandale, Va. 7 p.m., Saturday, February 13, at the Ernst Theatre/Northern Virginia Community College.
- Rockville, Md.: 2 p.m., Sunday, February 14, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

Last Week’s Liturgy

January 31, 2016

Attendance: 31 Souls

- Shepherdstown, W.Va.: 8 p.m., Saturday, February 20, at the Frank Center Theatre/Shepherd University.

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 and additional financial aid provided by Tamburitizens Scholarship Endowment Funds. For more information, including ticket purchasing information, visit <http://www.duq.edu/life-at-duquesne/tamburitizens>.

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Feb. 14	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Feb. 21	Mother of God School 10 a.m.

Liturgy Propers

Forgiveness (Cheesefare) Sunday

Our Venerable Father Parthenius

Our Venerable Father Luke

February 7, 2016

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 4 (page 141)

Kontakion of Cheesefare Sunday - Tone 6 (page 218)

Prokiemenon of Cheesefare Sunday - Tone 8 (page 219)

EPISTLE: Romans 13:11-14:4

Alleluia of Cheesefare Sunday - Tone 8 (page 218)

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:14-21

Communion Hymn (pages 78-81)

Fr. Lee Gross, Celebrant

Announcements

■ **Today’s Liturgy Intention** – Today’s Divine Liturgy is offered by Andy Haba for the blessed repose of Anthony Spin. May his memory be eternal. *Vičnaja jemu pamjat’.*

“O God of spirits and of all flesh, you trampled death and broke the power of the devil and granted life to Your world. Now grant rest, O Lord, to the soul of your departed servant, Anthony, in a place of light, joy, and peace where there is no pain, sorrow, nor mourning.”

– From the Litany for the Deceased

■ **Today’s Commemorations** – Today is Forgiveness Sunday, the last of the pre-lenten Sundays. We observe it also as the Commemoration of the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise by contemplating our separation from God, our expulsion from paradise. This Sunday is also known as Cheesefare Sunday, for, by tradition, no dairy products were eaten after sundown today until Pascha.

Today’s services continually resound the theme of our separation from God as recorded in Matthew 6:14-21. We find ourselves cast out of paradise, sitting in darkness and apart from God Who is the source of Life and Light. We are weeping, We desire forgiveness. We seek mercy. And so we must ourselves forgive and be merciful. At the close of today’s Divine Liturgy, we will pray the Rite of Forgiveness in which we ask for forgiveness from one another.

The whole of the Great Fast, as the whole of life, is a movement toward resurrection in paradise. We may enter in only if God forgives us our sins. And God will forgive us only if we forgive others. With forgiveness not only in mind, but in action, we enter the season of the Great Fast.

On this date, February 7, the Byzantine Church commemorates our Venerable Father Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsachia during the reign of Constantine, and our Venerable Father Luke, who was in Heliad of Syria.

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.
- Anita Rhinehart.
- Robert Diethrich.
- Lucy Fontenot
- 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

■ **Mirovanije for Feast of the Encounter** — Today is also a post-festive day of the Feast of the Encounter of our Lord with Simeon and Anna. This feast, which was first celebrated in the Christian East, falls yearly on February 2 and brings to a close the 40 days of Christmas-tide. In the West, the feast is known as the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple. It is also referred to as Candlemas, as on this day candles are blessed. This tradition is still carried on in the Roman Church. In commemoration of the feast, there will be anointing (*mirovanije*) and distribution of blessed bread at the close of today's Divine Liturgy. All are welcome to receive anointing and blessed bread. *Christ is among us! He is and shall be!*

■ **The Holy and Great Fast Begins** — The Great Fast (Lent) for the Byzantine Church begins today at sundown. Its 40 days symbolize the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert, while the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is the fulfillment of the promise of manna. In the Great Fast, we imitate Jesus our Lord, Who fasted for 40 days in the desert following His baptism. The Feast of Pascha was also the time for baptisms, and 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.

■ **Abstinence/Fasting** — The law of abstinence forbids the use of meat but allows the use of eggs and dairy products. All the faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to abstain. Abstinence is observed



on all Wednesdays and Fridays during the season of the Great Fast.

The law of strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use of meat, eggs, and dairy products. All of the adult faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to observe strict abstinence. Strict abstinence is to be observed on the first full day of the Great Fast (February 8) and on Holy and Great Friday (March 25). Pastors and administrators, for just cause, may grant to the individual faithful and to individual families dispensations or commutations of abstinence and strict abstinence into other pious practices..

■ **Lenten Services** — There are no Lenten services scheduled for our mission except for Holy and Great Friday on March 25 at 7:30 p.m. Please avail yourself of Lenten services at Epiphany-Annandale (see schedule in bulletin) or St. Gregory of Nyssa in Beltsville (call 301-953-9323).

■ **Orders for Kolbassi** — Tonja Siemucha will be taking orders today and next Sunday only for kolbassi. The kolbassi, from a Pennsylvania butcher shop, will come in 2-pound, vacuum-sealed packages at a cost of \$5-\$7 per pound (depending on how large our group order is). Payment will need to be made at the time of delivery. The delivery date is yet to be determined but will be at least one week before Easter. If you have questions, please see Tonja.

■ **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.