

■ **Lenten Dinners** — Lenten dinners sponsored by Epiphany–Annandale Parish will be served during the Friday’s of Lent. 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.

■ **Willows Needed** — On Palm Sunday it is the tradition of Slavic Byzantine and Orthodox Churches to bless both palms and pussy willows. If you can provide willows, please let Lou Shanks know. Willows need to be delivered to the mission on March 13.

■ **Palm and Willows Bundles** — We also need individuals to bundle the palms and willows for distribution to the faithful on March 20, Palm Sunday.

If you need to properly dispose of last year’s palms and willows, bring them to liturgy on March 20 securely wrapped in newspaper. Please do not dispose of blessed palms and willows in the household refuse.

■ **Kielbassa Orders** — The kielbasa orders will be available on Palm Sunday.

Divine Liturgy Schedule	
Mar. 13	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
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

Upcoming

Patronage Food Festival — Patronage of the Mother of God Church, Baltimore, will hold its Food Festival on Saturday, March 19, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the church. Get there early!

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.

The sign-up sheet for liturgy setup for March, including Holy and Great Friday and Easter Sunday, is available. Thank you to all those who continue to lend a hand for setup and takedown.

Liturgy Propers	
Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast (Sunday of Our Holy Father John Climacus)	
42 Martyrs of Ammorium March 6, 2016	
Liturgy of St. Basil the Great	
Typica and Beatitudes (beginning page 16)	
[in place of Sunday Antiphons]	
Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 8 (page 161)	
Troparion of St. John Climacus —Tone 4 (page 226)	
Kontakion of St. John Climacus—Tone 4 (page 226)	
Prokiemenon—Tone 8 (page 162)	
EPISTLE: Hebrews 6:13-20	
Alleluia —Tone 8 (page 163)	
GOSPEL: Mark 9:17-31	
“In You, O Woman Full of Grace (p.102)	
[in place of “It is truly proper...”]	
Communion Hymn (and page 232)	
Fr. Lee Gross, Celebrant	
[PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]	

Announcements

■ **Today’s Liturgy Intention** — Today’s Divine Liturgy is offered by Lou and Marie Shanks for the blessed repose of Lou’s parents, +Alma and +Thomas. May their memory be eternal. *Vičnaja pam-jať.*

“O God of sprits 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 servants 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 the Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast and is dedicated to the memory of our Holy Father John Climacus, or St. John of the Ladder (c. 570/579-649), who became a monk at Sinai when he was 16 and remained a hermit for many years. Many monks wanted him as their spiritual father, and St. Gregory the Great requested his prayers.

To fulfill the wish of Abbot John of Raithu, St. John wrote *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* (also called *The Ladder to Paradise*) to describe the way to apatheia, or passionlessness. Based on Jacob’s dream, the book uses aphorisms (terse sayings expressing a general truth, principle, or astute observation) and anecdotes to illustrate the vices to be overcome and the virtues to be cultivated as one ascends the ladder to perfection.

St. John was 70 or 75 when he became abbot of St. Catherine's on Sinai. He resigned the post after four years and died, as he had lived, a hermit.

On this date, March 6, the Byzantine Church commemorates the 42 Martyrs at Ammorium in Asia Minor. The Passion-bearers Constantine, Aetius, Theophilus, Theodore, Melissenus, Callistus, Basoes, and 35 others with them were prominent officers and notables of the Byzantine city of Ammorium, one of Byzantium’s largest and most important cities at 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.
- 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

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time. They were seized following the capture and systematic destruction of the city in A.D. 838 by the Abbasid caliph Al-Mu'tasim, then taken as hostages to Samarra (today in Iraq) and executed there seven years later for refusing to convert to Islam.

The Holy and Great Fast

■ **40 Days** — The 40 days of the Great Fast (Lent) for the Byzantine Church 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 pi-

ous practices.

■ **Liturgy of St. Basil the Great** — It is the norm in countries evangelized from Constantinople, or that came under its influence for any considerable period, to pray the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom as the normal liturgy of the Byzantine Church throughout the year.

However, the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is also used — 10 times a year, including the five Sundays of the Great Fast.

The Liturgy as it is currently celebrated in the Byzantine Rite is very similar to the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom — the primary differences being the prayers said by the priest. In addition, in the Byzantine-Ruthenian Church, the Sunday Antiphons are replaced by the Typica and Beatitudes and "It is truly proper..." is replaced by "In You, O Woman, Full of Grace." In general, the prayers of St. Basil are more penitential, and therefore lend themselves to the Church's liturgical preparation for important holy days.

The elements of both the St. John Chrysostom and St. Basil the Great liturgies are provided in the green liturgy books.

■ **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 services at Epiphany-Annandale (see schedule in bulletin) or St. Gregory of Nyssa in Beltsville (call 301-953-9323).

Last Week's Liturgy

February 28, 2014

Attendance: 29 Souls