

■ **Abstinence** — Friday, April 22, is designated by the Byzantine Church as a day of penance. Abstaining from meat or performing an appropriate act of penance is prescribed.

Upcoming

■ **Sign up for Your Photo Now: Parish Anniversary Directory** — Please mark your calendar for next Sunday, April 24, when we will be taking photos for the upcoming Epiphany of Our Lord Parish anniversary directory.

Photos will be taken following Divine Liturgy. (Note 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, 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. We are also looking for “special events” type photos such as St. Nicholas Day celebrations and first Solemn Communion. Questions, please see Marie Shanks.

■ **Ascension Day Liturgy** — Divine Liturgy for Ascension Day will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Mother of God School on Thursday, May 5.

Christ is risen! + Indeed, He is risen!
Christos voskrese! + Voistinnu voskrese!
Christos anesti! + Alithos anesti!
Christus surrexit! + Vere surrexit!

Announcements

■ **Today’s Liturgy Intention** — Today’s Divine Liturgy is offered by Joni and Vince Kovalick for +Joseph and +Elizabeth Zelloe, Joni’s parents.

“When You descended to death, O Immortal Life, You destroyed Hades by the brilliance of Your Divinity; and when You raised the dead from the depths of the earth, all the heavenly powers cried out” O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to you.”

— Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 2)

■ **Today’s Commemorations** — Today is the Fourth Sunday of Pascha. It is known as the Sunday of The Paralytic. On this Sunday, we remember the cure of the paralyzed man that happened at the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem. In Hebrew, Bethesda means “House of Mercy.” Jesus reveals Himself as the Merciful Savior who frees the man from his lifelong ailment. We share in the joy of this at our baptism when the same Savior washes us free from sin and makes us whole through His grace. Thus His life-giving death and glorious resurrection free us from the crippling effects of sin and recreate us in the image and likeness of God.

“Today all things are filled with light—earth and heaven and the world beneath. Let all creation celebrate the resurrection of Christ, In Him is the firm foundation of all things.”

— Excerpt from the Third Ode of Pascha Matins

■ **Also Commemorated Today** — On this date, April 17, the Byzantine Church commemorates our Venerable Father Simeon of Persia, who was martyred in Mesopotamia by beheading under the Persian monarch Sapor II, in the reign Constantinus and Constans, Emperors; and the Venerable Acacius, Bishop of Melite, A.D. 381, in the reign of the Emper-

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Last Week’s Liturgy

April 10, 2016

Attendance: 21 Souls

*Of everything you give Me,
I will faithfully return a tenth part to you.*

1 Timothy 6:18-19

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Apr. 24	Mother of God School 10 a.m. [Social Hour & taking of photos for Epiphany Parish & Mission Directory]
May 1	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
May 5	Feast of the Ascension Mother of God School 7:30 p.m. Day of Obligation
May 8	Mother of God School 10 a.m.

Liturgy Propers

**Fourth Sunday of Pascha
(Sunday of the Paralytic)**

Our Venerable Father Simeon of Persia

Venerable Acacius

St. Agapitus

April 17, 2016

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Troparion of the Resurrection — Tone 3 (p. 181)

Kontakion of the Paralytic — Tone 3 (p. 181)

Kontakion of the Resurrection — Tone 8 (p. 182)

Prokiemenon — Tone 1 (p. 182)

New Testament Reading: Acts 9:32-42

Alleluia — Tone 5 (p. 182)

Gospel: John 5:1-15

Magnification and Irmos (p. 167)

[in place of “It is truly proper...”]

Paschal “Our Father” (p. 167)

Communion Hymn (p. 168-169)

Fr. Lee Gross, Celebrant

[PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]

*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.
- 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."

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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or Theodosius the Great. Also commemorated is St. Agapitus, Pope of Rome, who died in Constantinople A.D. 536 in the reign of Justinian, Emperor. His body was taken to Rome and interred in the Basilica of St. Peter.

■ **Why Is a Christian a Threat?** — (From *On the New Martyrs of the Middle East: An Orthodox Christian View*)

"Christianity is the only faith in the world whose seminal, defining event is the death and resurrection of the God whom we worship. And we believe that we can be joined to His death and therefore also His resurrection. We can join Him in the conquest of death itself. And if death itself can be conquered, that means that no king, no emperor, no premier, no president and no caliph can claim ultimate power over us."



Icon of the 21 Coptic Martyrs of Libya

*Khristos aftonf!
Khen oumethmi aftonf!*

COPTIC

■ **Paschal Greeting** — From now until the Feast of the Ascension, we greet each other with the Paschal proclamation: *"Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!"*

In Old Church Slavonic, it is transliterated as *"Christos Voskrese! Voistinnu Voskrese!"* In Greek, it is transliterated as *"Christos anesti! Alithos anesti!"*

■ **Mid Pentecost** — This coming Wednesday is Mid-Pentecost, the midpoint of the 50 days between the Feasts of Pascha and Pentecost.

In the Divine Liturgy Gospel passage, we read that "in the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the Temple, and taught" (John 7:14). The feast in question is the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles, which commemorates the Israelites wandering in the desert for 40 years, when they lived under tents and tabernacles.

"Tabernacles" served as the middle link between the Jewish Passover, which recalls God's deliverance of His people from the Egyptian pharaoh, and the Jewish Pentecost, which remembers Old Israel's entry into the "promised land" of Mount Sinai.

The risen Christ is the link for New Israel as it celebrates the New Passover (Pascha, the Resurrection) and the New Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and apostles.

When Jesus had preached in the temple, he had just healed the Paralytic Man and was about to give sight to the Blind Man. The apolytikion of Mid-Pentecost announces the "waters of true worship," which Christ will give us to drink, just as He gave the Samaritan Woman to drink. Thus, Mid-Pentecost reveals to the world that Christ will heal all of its infirmities, both physical and spiritual.