

■ **Abstinence** — Friday, April 29, is designated by the Byzantine Church as a day of penance. Abstaining from meat or performing an appropriate act of penance is prescribed.

Of Special Note

■ **Today: Directory Photos & Social Hour** — Photos for the Epiphany Parish and Mission Church Directory will be taken during social hour today after Divine Liturgy. If you haven't slotted a time, there are still a number of openings. We will also be taking a group photo immediately at the close of Liturgy. (We will take down and store liturgical items as soon as the group photos are taken.)

As noted in earlier bulletins, a professional photographer will be taking the photos; however she is not affiliated with any company (such as Olan Mills) and there will be no sales pitches/offers involved.

■ **AmazonSmile and Our Seminary** — Consider using AmazonSmile for you next online purchases. When using AmazonSmile you are helping our Byzantine Catholic Seminary to receive a small contribution based on the price of your purchases at no additional cost to you. Items are priced the same as on the regular Amazon site. Log on to <https://smile.amazon.com> and follow the prompts for any purchase you wish to make.

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 Lou and Marie Shanks for the blessed repose of former Mission Community member +Anne Kreiger.

"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 Fifth Sunday of Pascha. It is known as the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman. On this Sunday, which follows Mid-Pentecost, we remember the Samaritan woman who announced that Jesus Christ was truly the Messiah and Savior. Through her encounter with Jesus she came to a deeper awareness of His mission in the world. She drank the living water of faith that only He could give and went on to proclaim Him to her neighbors and friends. Like her, we too, must proclaim our faith in Jesus to everyone we meet.

■ **Who Is the Samaritan Woman?** — Every Fifth Sunday of Pascha we hear the story of Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan Woman at the well. Although we do not hear her name in today's Gospel reading, by tradition she is called Photina and revered by the Byzantine Catholic and Orthodox Churches as a martyr. Her feast day is February 26. Photina is an image (icon) of our baptism. Though the well of Jacob could not quench her thirst, the Lord revealed to her true worship of the Father in spirit and truth. In this week of the Samaritan Woman, we draw of the water of 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.

The sign-up sheet for liturgy setup for May is now available.
Thank you to all those who continue to lend a hand for setup and takedown.

Liturgy Propers

**Fifth Sunday of Pascha
(Sunday of the Samaritan Woman)**

**St. Sabbas, Martyr
April 24, 2016**

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Troparion of the Resurrection — Tone 4 (p. 186)

Troparion of Mid-Pentecost — Tone 8 (p. 186)

Kontakion of the Feast — Tones 8 (p. 187)

Prokiemenon — Tone 3 (p. 188)

New Testament Reading: Acts 11:19-26 & 29-30

Alleluia — Tone 8 (p. 188)

Gospel: John 4:5-42

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]

Last Week's Liturgy

April 17, 2016

Attendance: 23 Souls

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

1 Timothy 6:18-19

Divine Liturgy Schedule

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.
May 15	[Feast of Pentecost] Mother of God School 10 a.m.

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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well of enlightenment and imitate the holy and repentant Photina, the woman enlightened by our Lord.

“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** — Commemorated on this date, April 24, is St. Sabbas, martyr and a Christian officer in the army of the Emperor Aurelian, who suffered death for the Faith in Rome A.D. 272.

■ **Why Is a Christian a Threat?** — (Part 2 — From *On the New Martyrs of the Middle East: An Orthodox Christian View*)

“...Just look at the responses of the martyrs: They sometimes laugh in the face of martyrdom. Sometimes, they sing. Sometimes, they go out preaching. They so very often go out with the name of Jesus on their lips, praying even for those who are killing them. They go out with joy!

So while we feel the pain of their loss and grieve in our hearts for them and their families, and while we pursue all that we can to bring peace to that troubled land, we do not ‘grieve as those who have no hope’ (1 Thess. 4:13). An earthly power may slay the bodies of Christians, but he can have no ultimate power over them, for they have joined their risen Savior in the conquest of death itself.

*Kal-Masīḥ qām!
Ḥaqqan qām!*

Arabic

We grieve the death of the martyrs, but our grief will be swallowed up in rejoicing. We rejoice with them in their victory over temptation, their victory over the cares of this world, their victory over even death, ‘the last enemy’” (1 Cor. 15:26).

■ **Mid Pentecost** — This past Wednesday was 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.