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gled out for persecution, and given the simple choice – convert, submit, or die. In the lands controlled by the Islamic State, the Arabic letter ʾ is the modern day version of the Star of David that Jews were forced to wear in Nazi Germany and the lands it conquered.

Let God arise,
let His enemies be scattered;
let those who hate Him
flee from before His face.
As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish;
as wax melts before the fire.

Psalms 68:1 & 68:21

■ **Any 2016 Graduates?** – If you or someone in your family will be graduating from high school, college, etc., this coming May or June, please notify Marie Shanks or Rick Neimiller so that the individuals can be included in an upcoming bulletin and remembered at Divine Liturgy.

■ **AmazonSmile and Our Seminary** – Consider using AmazonSmile for your 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! + Voístinnu 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 +Mary Borodich.

"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 Sixth and final Sunday of Pascha. It is known as the Sunday of the Man Born Blind. It is also the Sunday before the Feast of the Ascension.

Today, let us offer thanks for the gift of spiritual sight given to us so that we might see and know the meaning of life through the victory of Christ the Messiah. Each Sunday from Pascha to Pentecost is an experience of the mystery of the victory of Christ. Each week has its sacramental, paschal theme. There is water involved in every one of the Gospels: the pool of the paralytic, the well of the Samaritan woman, the anointing and washing of the eyes of the blind man.

All of this is for us. It tells us of our experience of the risen Christ and witnesses to our own washing and anointing, our own dying and rising with Him. Jesus anointed the eyes of the blind man, and he was enlightened, professing Jesus to be Lord. He is an image of our baptism, when we are enlightened out of darkness by the anointing of the chrism of the Holy Spirit. We remember the salvation of the Man Born Blind and our own enlightenment as we close 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.

Last Week's Liturgy

April 24, 2016

Attendance: 31 Souls

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

1 Timothy 6:18-19

Divine Liturgy Schedule

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.

Liturgy Propers

Sixth Sunday of Pascha
(Sunday of the Man Born Blind)
The Holy Prophet Jeremiah
May 1, 2016

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Troparion of the Resurrection — Tone 5 (p. 189)
Kontakion of the Feast — Tones 4 (p. 189)
Kontakion of the Resurrection — Tone 8 (p. 189)
Prokiemenon — Tone 8 (p. 190)

New Testament Reading: Acts 16:16-34
Alleluia — Tone 8 (p. 190)

Gospel: John 9:1-38
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]

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."

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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feast of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

"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, May 1, is St. Jeremiah, the second of the Great Prophets, who was of the Tribe of Levi. Tradition holds that age 55 he was stoned to death at Taphnes, Egypt, 590 B.C. by Jews who shared his captivity.



■ **Days of Penance** — Every Sunday is an "Antipasch," a Return to Pasch, a weekly Easter. Every Friday is a weekly Holy and Great Friday. During the Great Fast, Fridays are days of fasting from meat. Now that the Great Fast is complete, Fridays resume as Days of Penance, that is, we abstain from meat or we do an equivalent penitential act or an act of charity.

■ **Feast of the Ascension** — Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord will be prayed this Thursday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mother of God School. This feast is a day of precept (obligation) for the Byzantine Church. Note that many Roman Catholic dioceses have transferred the feast to the following Sunday. The Byzantine Catholic and Orthodox Churches, however, retain the traditional observance of 40 days following Pascha.

In Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox theology, the Ascension of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ is interpreted as the culmination of the Mystery of the Incarnation, in that it not only marked the completion of Jesus' physical presence among his apostles, but consummated the union of God and man when Jesus ascended in his glorified human body to sit at the right hand of God the Father. The Ascension and the Transfiguration both figure prominently in the Eastern Christian doctrine of theosis (<http://orthodoxwiki.org/Theosis>). The bodily Ascension into heaven is also understood as the final token of Christ's two natures: divine and human.

Of Special Note

■ **Why Does ܢ Mean?** — Since the rise of the so-called "Islamic State" (IS), many gruesome stories have surfaced depicting the barbarity of this terrorist organization. Its horrific acts of violence have received international attention and condemnation. Unfortunately, the plight of one minority being set upon in particular, but not exclusively, by the Islamic State are Christians (Catholic, Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, and Protestants) of all ages.

They are being rounded up, raped, robbed, and murdered by these and other jihadists across much of the Middle East just because of their faith. Typically, when IS jihadists conquer an area, they target Christian minorities by labeling their homes with the Arabic letter ܢ (pronounced "nun"), shorthand for the Arabic word Nasrani, which means Nazarene—a believer in Jesus of Nazareth and, therefore, a Christian.

Once marked in this fashion, they are sin-

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