

■ **Theophany Divine Liturgy** — The time and date for Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Theophany and Blessing of the Waters will be announced next week. Theophany is a day of precept (obligation) for Byzantine Catholics.



■ **National Prayer Vigil for Life** — Activities for the National Prayer Vigil for Life in Washington, D.C., include a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on January 26. Later that evening, Night Prayer according to the Byzantine Rite will be prayed from 10-11 in the Crypt Church by our Bishop Kurt Burnette. On January 27, Bishop Kurt will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at Epiphany Church—

Annandale at 10 a.m. The March for Life Rally will take place at noon on the grounds of the Washington Monument (15th Street & Constitution Avenue) followed by the March for Life, which begins at Constitution between 15th and 17th streets. For more information, please visit <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/january-ro-e-events/national-prayer-vigil-for-life-schedule.cfm>.

The sign-up sheet to assist with the setup for the remaining Sundays in December and Christmas Eve is available on the information table. Thank you to all those who continue to provide assistance in setting up and taking down.

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Dec. 18	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Dec. 24	Christmas Vigil Divine Liturgy Our Lady's Chapel, Goshen House 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 25	[No Liturgy at the Mission]
Jan. 1	Our Lady's Chapel, Goshen House 10 a.m.

Last Week's Liturgy

December 4, 2016

Attendance: 28 Souls

Announcements

■ **Today's Liturgy Intention** — Today's Divine Liturgy is offered by Michael Hamas for the blessed repose of his wife, +Theresia Maria. May her memory be eternal. *Vičnaja jej 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 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 in the Byzantine Church is the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (ancestors according to the flesh) of our Lord Jesus Christ. This Sunday falls between December 11-17 and is the second Sunday before the Nativity.

The ancestors of Christ, according to the flesh, remembered on this Sunday are all the great Fathers and Mothers and Prophets of the Old Testament, starting with Adam; Abraham; the Righteous Sarah; Isaac and Jacob, including Holy Prophet Elias and Daniel; and concluding with Holy Prophet Zechariah (Zachary); Joachim and Anna; the Holy Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist; and Mary the Theotokos.

They lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (*Genesis 12:3, 22:18*).

Also commemorated on the date is our Venerable Father Daniel the Stylite, who imitated St. Simeon in the mode of an austere life. He spent 30 years on his pillar, miraculously healing many sick people. He died A.D. 492 at the age of 80.

■ **Mirovanije** — There will be anointing (*mirovanije*) and distribution of blessed bread today in commemoration of the Feast of our Holy Father Nicholas, patron of Byzantine Catholics, this past Tuesday, as well as the Feast of the Immaculate Con-

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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
www.eolmission.org

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.
- Doris Fejka.

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Christine Dennis.
- Peggy Winkelman.
- Laura Hinkle.
- Doran Coady.
- Ann Tracy.
- Travis Waters.
- Bertha Bergan.
- Arlene Kollar.
- 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.

SPECIAL INTENTION

- Elizabeth Basarab.
- Fr. Francis Martin.
- Sally Pekarik.
- Fr. Conan Timoney



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

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ception, which was observed this past Thursday by the Ruthenian-Byzantine Catholic and Roman Catholic Churches.

This feast, however, has been known in the Eastern Churches as the Maternity of St. Ann(a) since the 6th Century. It marks the conception of Mary the Most Holy Theotokos in the womb of St. Ann.

All are welcome to receive anointing and the blessed bread. *Christ is among us! He is and shall be!*

■ **Christmas Fast** — Philip's (or Christmas) Fast began at sundown on November 14, the Feast of St. Philip, and runs 40 days until Christmas Eve.

Fridays remain as days of penance and in the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church in the United States the other fasting prescriptions of the Christmas Fast are left to the ability of the individual.

This fast was introduced to prepare the Church for a worthy celebration of the great and holy days of Christ's birth and Christ's baptism in the Jordan.

■ **Bishop's Appeal Drawing to a Close** — The Bishop's Appeal for the Eparchy of Passaic will conclude at the end of this month. Please access the eparchy's website or see the latest issue of *Eastern Catholic Life* for details and instructions.

Note: Pledges/payments must be sent directly to the Eparchy and checks must be made out to "Eparchy of Passaic." Please see Vince Kovalick with questions. Our goal once again is \$6,000. Also, as last year, if our Mission Community reaches the goal, we will receive a reversion of 40% of donations sent to the chancery office.

■ **Prayerful Thank You** — Tonja Siemucha and family extend their sincere appreciation and gratitude to our Mission Community and clergy for all their prayers, cards, and hugs on the passing of her father, James. May his memory be eternal.

■ **The Darr Mine Disaster and St. Nicholas** — On December 19, 1907, a tremendous explosion shook the Youghiogheny River Valley, killing 239 men and boys at the Darr Mine in Van Meter, Westmoreland County, in Western Pennsylvania.

The death toll would have been far worse had those workers who were Byzantine Catholics been in the mine also. That day (Old Calendar) was the Feast of St. Nicholas and the Byzantine Catholic workers were taking the day without pay to attend the local church. A video about the disaster was produced by WQED-TV, Pittsburgh, and can be accessed at www.wqed.org/tv/watch/onq/darr-mine-disaster.

■ **Food Pantry** — Remember our Mission Community's ministry to the unfortunate of our area through the local Food Pantry program, administered by St. Martin Roman Catholic Church, Gaithersburg, which is always in great need of nonperishable foods, baby food and supplies, and personal hygiene items. Hunger never takes a vacation or holiday.

Upcoming

■ **Christmas Divine Liturgy** — Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Our Lord is to be celebrated with a vigil Divine Liturgy at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 24, in Our Lady's Chapel in the Goshen House. There will be no Liturgy celebrated on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25.