

Of Special Note

■ **Searching for Our “Professors”** — For many years, cantors who received comprehensive cantorial training in Europe were known in this country as “professors.” These men led church singing, taught religion classes, directed plays, and often organized church services when clergy were scarce. Over time, other particularly influential cantors were also called by the title, “Professor.”

In order to better preserve and foster our chant tradition, the Metropolitan Cantor Institute (MCI) has been working with the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh to collect information about these important leaders in our church. The collected information will be used to document the history of our church singing, foster our plain chant and choral singing, and honor our cantor forebears. It will also be shared with the parishes where these cantors served.

For more information, including a list of those cantors for which the MCI is seeking in-

formation, visit <http://mci.archpitt.org/blog/> professors. If you can contribute to this project in any way, please contact Deacon Jeffrey Mierzejewski at plainchanter@gmail.com, or call 412-735-1676. Watch the MCI website and Byzantine Catholic Seminary website (<http://www.bcs.edu/>) for updates.

A sincere thank-you from Fr. Lee:

Once again I must express my gratitude to the members of the Mission for their kindness and thoughtfulness to me at Christmas.

I thank you all, not only for the most generous Christmas gift, but for all you do Sunday after Sunday to make the Divine Liturgy possible. So many of you contribute in so many ways.

May God bless you all, and please know that you are in my daily prayers as we enter the New Year.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Announcements

■ **Today’s Liturgy Intention** — Today’s Divine Liturgy is offered for the blessed repose of +Joseph Kniska by daughter Elizabeth and granddaughter Claire Keyes. *Vičnaja jemu pamjať.*

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

— Revelation 21:4 (NKJV / OSB)

■ **Today’s Commemorations** — Today in the Byzantine Church is the Thirty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost. On this date, January 15, we commemorate our Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes and John, the Hut-Dweller.

Born of wealthy parents in Lower Thebes in Egypt in the reign of the Emperor Decius, St. Paul and a sister together inherited all their parents’ property. But his brother-in-law, an idol-worshipper, plotted to seize Paul’s half of the inheritance. He therefore threatened Paul that he would betray him to the authorities as a Christian if he did not hand over his share of the property. This misfortune, coupled with the examples of self-sacrifice by the Christian martyrs that Paul saw with his own eyes, induced him to give his half of the property to his sister and go off into the desert, where he lived in asceticism until his death. St. Paul lived 113 years and entered peacefully into rest in the Lord A.D. 342.

St. John was born in Constantinople in the early part of the fifth century to rich and eminent parents whose only child he was. Drawn by inclination to the spiritual life, the young John fled with a monk to a monastery in Asia Minor. He spent six years in this monastery in the greatest restraint, prayer, and obedience to the superior. Then the devil attacked him with the temptation to leave the monastery and return to his parents and live with them as a nobleman. He indeed returned to his parents’ home, but he

(Continued on a following page.)

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.

Liturgy Propers

Thirty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Our Venerable Father Paul of Thebes
Our Venerable Father John the “Hut-Dweller”
January 15, 2017

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Troparion of the Resurrection — Tone 2 (p. 130)

Kontakion of the Resurrection — Tone 2 (p. 131)

Prokiemenon — Tone 2 (p. 132)

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16

Alleluia — Tone 2 (p. 132)

Gospel: Luke 18:18-21

Communion Hymn (p. 78)

Celebrants: Fr. Lee Gross & Deacon Elmer Pekarick

[PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Jan. 15	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Jan. 22	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Jan. 29	Our Lady’s Chapel Goshen House 10 a.m.
Feb. 5	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Feb. 12	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Feb. 19	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.
- Doris Fejka.

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Christine Dennis.
- Peggy Winkelmann.
- 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.
- 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 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

(Continued from a previous page.)

dressed as a beggar. He saw his parents, but, not wishing to reveal himself to them as their son, remained as a beggar in their courtyard, living off the crumbs that the servants threw him and enduring much ridicule from all. He lived thus for three years, praying to God that He would save the souls of his father and mother. When he fell ill and felt death approaching, he revealed himself to his parents. They recognized him by a precious Gospel Book they had given him in childhood and that he had kept with him as his sole possession. And so this young man, albeit so rich, saved his soul and those of his parents, overcame the devil, and entered into rest in the Lord in about A.D. 450.

■ **Day of Penance** — As each Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord, each Friday is a commemoration of Holy and Great Friday and is observed with penance. One may abstain from meat or instead offer prayer of charitable works as our penance.

■ **New Year's Resolution** — For 2017 make a resolution to participate in 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

■ **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 Concep-

tion 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 to 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-roe-events/national-prayer-vigil-for-life-schedule.cfm>.

■ **"Tammies" Return** — The Tamburitzans (Tammies) will perform at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The "Tammies," America's longest-running multicultural song and dance company, is a unique ensemble of talented young folk artists from the Pittsburgh area dedicated to the performance and preservation of the music, songs, and dances of Eastern Europe and neighboring folk cultures.

For ticket information, call 240-314-8690. For more information about the Tamburitzans, visit www.thetamburitzans.org/.

Welcome Visitors and Guests

Last Week's Liturgy

January 8, 2017

Attendance: 28 Souls