

Upcoming

■ **Next Sunday: Holy Images Blessing** — As is our tradition, we will bless icons and other religious items on the First Sunday of the Great



Fast, March 5, also known as the Sunday of Orthodoxy (True Worship) marking the restoration of the icons to the churches on March 11, 843, following the suppression of the Iconoclastic heresy.

We are reminded that Christ, the perfect image [*icon*] of God the Father, calls us to personal victory by restoring within ourselves “the image and likeness of God” in which we were first created (see Genesis 1:26). The icons of our Lord, the Holy Theotokos, and all the saints are images

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

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Mar. 5	[First Sunday of Great Fast/ Blessing of Holy Images] Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Mar. 12	Mother of God School 10 a.m. [Daylight Saving Time]
Mar. 19	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Mar. 26	Mother of God School 10 a.m.

of true humanity, signs of what our eternal calling and vocation really is. They tell us the we are called to be “living icons” and imitators of Christ, bearing the likeness of God as gracious vessels of the Holy Spirit.

■ **Lenten Meatless Meals** — Epiphany Church –Annandale will again sponsor meatless meals on the Fridays during Lent (March 3 to April 7). Takeout orders can be picked up between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dining in begins at 5 p.m. and runs until 7 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy follows at 7:30 p.m.

■ **Food Festival at Patronage** — Mark your calendar for Patronage of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church’s spring food festival on April 8. Watch upcoming bulletins for more details.

*Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner!*

The Jesus Prayer

Liturgy Propers

Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday)

Our Holy Father Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza
St. Phontina, Martyr
February 26, 2017
Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Troparion of the Resurrection — Tone 8 (p. 161)

Kontakion of Cheesefare Sunday — Tone 6 (p. 218)

Prokiemenon of Cheesefare Sunday — Tone 8 (p. 219)

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4

Alleluia of Meatfare Sunday — Tone 6 (p. 219)

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Communion Hymn (p. 78)

Celebrants: Fr. Lee Gross

PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK

Announcements

■ **Today’s Liturgy Intention** — Today’s Divine Liturgy is offered by Andy Haba for the blessed repose of his daughter +Andrea Haba-Gose. May her memory be eternal.

“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

■ **Forgiveness Sunday** — Today in the Byzantine Church is Forgiveness Sunday, the last of the pre-lenten Sundays. We observe it also as the Commemoration of the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise by contemplating our separation from God, our own expulsion from paradise. This Sunday is also known as Cheesefare Sunday, for, by tradition, no dairy products were eaten after sundown today until Pascha.

Today’s services continually resound the theme of our separation from God as recorded in Matthew 6:14-21. We find ourselves cast out of paradise, sitting in darkness and apart from God Who is the source of Life and Light. We are weeping, We desire forgivingness. We seek mercy. And so we must ourselves forgive and be merciful. At the close of today’s Divine Liturgy, we will pray the Rite of Forgiveness in which we ask for forgiveness from one another.

The whole of the Great Fast, as the whole of life, is a movement toward resurrection in paradise. We may enter in only if God forgives us our sins. And God will forgive us only if we forgive others. With forgiveness not only in mind, but in action, we enter the season of the Great Fast.

■ **Today’s Commemorations** — Commemorated on this date is our Holy Father Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza, and the Holy Martyr Phontina. Tradition identifies her as the Samaritan women with whom Jesus spoke at the well.

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 and Norman 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.
- 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

■ **Great Fast Begins** — The Great Fast begins at sundown today. The first full day of the Great Fast is tomorrow, Monday, February 27. At the close of Divine Liturgy today we will pray the Rite of Forgiveness, during which we ask for forgiveness from one another.

The 40-day Great Fast (Lent) for the Byzantine Church symbolizes the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert, while the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is the fulfillment of the promise of manna.

In the Great Fast, we imitate Jesus our Lord, Who fasted for 40 days in the desert following His baptism. The Feast of Pascha was also the time for baptisms, and so the Great Fast was a time of preparation for baptism. Our observance of the Great Fast, therefore, is our renewal of our baptismal fervor.

■ **Abstinence/Fasting Guidelines** — The law of abstinence forbids the use of meat but allows the use of eggs and dairy products. All the faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to abstain. Abstinence is observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays during the season of the Great Fast.

The law of strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use of meat, eggs, and dairy products. All of the adult faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to observe strict abstinence. Strict abstinence is to be observed on the first full day of the Great Fast (February 27) and on Holy and Great Friday (April 14).

Last Week's Liturgy

February 19, 2017

Attendance: 30 Souls

Pastors and administrators, for just cause, may grant to the individual faithful and to individual families dispensations or commutations of abstinence and strict abstinence into other pious practices..

■ **Lenten Services** — There are no Lenten services scheduled for our mission except for Holy and Great Friday on April 14 at 7:30 p.m. Please avail yourself of Lenten services at Epiphany-Annandale (see schedule in bulletin) or St. Gregory of Nyssa in Beltsville (301-953-9323 or stgregorynyssa.net).

■ **Pray for Our Suffering Church** — The Chaldean Diocese of St. Thomas for the Church in Iraq and Syria requests prayers for the Church in Iraq and Syria. Many clergy, religious, and laity have been killed by Islamic radicals.

■ **Bishop's Appeal** — Our Mission Community has once again exceeded its goal of \$6,000. As of last week, the Eparchy received \$6,060 with \$400 due, which brings our total to \$6,460.

■ **January Offerings** — Offerings for the month of January were \$561, \$1,294, \$1,427, \$656, and \$345 for January 1, 8, 17, 22, and 29, respectively.

■ **Food Pantry** — Please 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.