

Of Special Note

■ **Kolbassi Orders** — Tonja Siemucha is taking orders today and next Sunday for kolbassi. Order sheets are available on the information table. The delivery date is yet to be determined but will be at least one week before Easter. If you have questions, please see Tonja.

■ **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.

The sign-up sheet to assist with the setup for the **Remaining 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. 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.
Mar. 26	Mother of God School 10 a.m.



God, cleanse me
of my sins and
have mercy on me.

Боже вчисти грѣхи моѧ
и помилуй мѧ.

Liturgy Propers

**First Sunday of Great Lent
(Sunday of Orthodoxy)**

**St. Conon, Martyr
March 5, 2017**

Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Typica and Beatitudes

[in place of Sunday Antiphons]

Troparion of the Resurrection — Tone 1 (p. 125)

Troparion of the Holy Images — Tone 2 (p. 220)

Kontakion of the Holy Images — Tone 8 (p. 220)

Prokiemenon — Tone 4 (p. 221)

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26 & 32-12:2

Alleluia — Tone 4 (p. 221)

Gospel: John 1:43-51

"In You, O Woman Full of Grace (p. 102)

[in place of "It is truly proper..."]

Communion Hymn (p. 78)

Celebrants: Fr. Lee Gross & Deacon Elmer Pekarik

PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]

Announcements

■ **Today's Liturgy Intention** — Today's Divine Liturgy is offered by Elizabeth and Claire Keyes for the blessed repose of +Chester and +Stella Lapeer. May their memories 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 servants in a place of light, joy, and peace where there is no pain, sorrow, nor mourning."

— From the Litany for the Deceased

■ **First Sunday of the Great Fast** — Today is the First Sunday of the Great Fast, also referred to as the Sunday of Orthodoxy (True Worship). Originally, the First Sunday of the Great Fast was dedicated to the memory of the Holy Prophets of the Old Covenant. Therefore, in today's Gospel, Philip tells Nathaniel: "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets" (John 1:45).

On March 11, 843, the Empress Theodora made a solemn profession to celebrate the victory of the true faith of icons. This became an annual feast shortly afterward and displaced the memory of the prophets. Through this commemoration, we are reminded that Christ, the perfect image (*ikon*) 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 of true humanity — signs of what our eternal calling and vocation really is. They tell us that we are called to be "living icons" and imitators of Christ bearing the likeness of God as gracious vessels of the Holy Spirit.

■ **Today's Commemorations** — On this date, March 5, the Byzantine Church commemorates St. Conon, Martyr, a poor Christian gardener of Nazareth in Galilee, who in Pamphylia (Asia Minor), or on the Island of Cyprus, was martyred A.D. 475 by Gov-

(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.

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

(Continued from a previous page.)

ernor Pomplius. With nails driven through his ankles, he was forced to run before a chariot until he fell dying and was crushed under its wheels.

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

■ **The Great Fast Has Begun** — The Great Fast began at sundown last Sunday. 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 dur-

ing 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). 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.

■ **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.

Welcome to our visitors and guests.

Last Week's Liturgy

February 26, 2017

Attendance: 25 Souls