

■ **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).

Of Special Note

- **Lenten Meatless Meals** — Epiphany Church-Annandale is sponsoring meatless meals on the Fridays during Lent. 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 food festival next Saturday, April 8, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Food Pantry — 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, is always in great need of nonperishable foods, baby food and supplies, and personal hygiene items. Hunger never takes a vacation or holiday.

If you need to properly dispose of last year’s palms and willows, please bring them to liturgy on either April 9 or 14 (Holy and Great Friday) securely wrapped in newspaper.

The sign-up sheet to assist with the setup for the Sundays in April and for Holy and Great Friday 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	
Apr. 9	Palm (Flowery) Sunday Mother of God School 10 a.m. Blessing of Palms & Willows
Apr. 14	Solemn Vespers for Holy and Great Friday Mother of God School 7:30 p.m.
Apr. 16	Pascha (Easter) Mother of God School 10 a.m. Blessing of Paschal Foods
Apr. 23	Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Apr. 30	Mother of God School 10 a.m.

Liturgy Propers	
Fifth Sunday of Great Lent [Memory of St. Mary of Egypt] April 2, 2017 Liturgy of St. Basil the Great Typica and Beatitudes [in place of Sunday Antiphons]	
Troparion of the Resurrection — Tone 5 (p. 146) Troparion of a Venerable Woman — Tone 8 (p. 230) Kontakion of a Venerable Woman — Tone 3 (p. 230)	
Prokiemenon — Tone 5 (p. 148) Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Alleluia — Tone 5 (p. 148) Gospel: Mark 10:32-45 “In You, O Woman Full of Grace (p. 102) [in place of “It is truly proper...”]	
Communion Hymn followed by p. 331 Celebrant Fr. Lee Gross PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]	

Announcements

■ **Today’s Liturgy Intention** — Today’s Divine Liturgy is offered by Rick Neimiller for the physical health of his cousin Michael Maffett.

“O Lord Jesus Christ... We beseech You, look mercifully upon him and in Your great love grant him relief from his pain... that restored to the vigor of health, he may serve You faithfully and gratefully all his life and become heir of Your kingdom, for You are the physician of our souls and bodies, O Christ...”
— St. John Chrysostom

■ **Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast** — Today in the Byzantine Church is the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast and is dedicated to the memory of St. Mary of Egypt, a harlot who, having recognized her sinfulness, sought to bring about an essential change in her life: she ran from sinfulness and devoted the remainder of her life to placing God’s will above her own.



In her person we recall Christ’s words: “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the Kingdom of God before you” (Matthew 21:31). The end is drawing near, yet repentance is still possible, even for the greatest of sinners. We see how the harlot repents and is forgiven. There is no sin so great that God will not forgive it. There is no amount of sinfulness that can condemn us if we are willing to repent and to merge our vision with that of the Lord. But we must not only count on His mercy; we must change ourselves as well. Even if we have sought forgiveness for the same sins a thousand time, the Lord welcomes us. All we need do is ask.

■ **Sunday Collections** — The Sunday collections for the month of March were \$1,856, \$658, \$890, and \$864 for March 5, 12, 19, and 26, respectively. May God bless you for your continued generosity.

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

- Michael Maffett.
- 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

The Holy and Great Fast

■ **The Season of Bright Sadness** — "...The Lenten season is meant to kindle a 'bright sadness' within our hearts. Its aim is precisely the remembrance of Christ, a longing for a relationship with God that has been lost. Lent offers the time and place for recovery of this relationship. The darkness of Lent allows the flame of the Holy Spirit to burn within our hearts until we are led to the brilliance of the Resurrection." —Fr. Alexander Schmemmann (+1983)

■ **The Great Fast** — 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 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.

■ **The Passion of the Lord** — By the word "passion," we refer to all the sufferings and humiliations our Lord underwent on Holy and Great Friday. In our time, "passion" generally has a positive sense: it refers to some strong emotional drive or energy. But in the early Church, and even today among Christian theologians and spiritual writers, this word is much more complicated.

To the Church Fathers, the "passions" were precisely what one suffered — and not only physically. A desire is passionate precisely to the extent that it drives us and renders us unable to control our lives. It is in this sense that we as Christians are urged to master our passions, rather than letting them master us. In doing so, by God's gift we regain the inner freedom of the children of God, which was forfeited by the sin of our first parents.

Another word we hear on this day is long-suffering, which might perhaps be translated as "enduring patience" or "steadfast endurance." Our Lord, to an unimaginable degree, not only suffered for our faults, but did so without complaint, in obedience to the will of his Father, and out of love for us.

On this day, before each Gospel reading, we sing *Glory to your Passion, O Lord!* and after each, we sing: *Glory to your long-suffering, O Lord!*

Last Week's Liturgy

March 26, 2017

Attendance: 26 Souls