

(Continued from a previous page.)

They are being rounded up, raped, robbed, and murdered by these and other jihadists across much of the Middle East just because of their faith. Typically, when IS jihadists conquer an area, they target Christian minorities by labeling their homes with the Arabic letter ن (pronounced “nun”), shorthand for the Arabic word Nasrani, which means Nazarene – a believer in Jesus of Nazareth and, therefore, a Christian.

Once marked in this fashion, they are singled out for persecution, and given the simple choice – convert, submit, or die. In the lands controlled by the Islamic State, the Arabic letter ن is the modern day version of the Star of David that Jews were forced to wear in Nazi Germany and the lands it conquered.

“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

We welcome our visitors and guests.

In the Liturgy we pray “for those who serve and have served in this holy church.”
Until the happy day when we have our own temple (grant it, O Lord!),
we will need men and women
to help with setup and takedown.

The signup sheet for June
is now available
on the information table.

Thank you!

Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered;
let those who hate Him flee from before His face.
As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish;
as wax melts before the fire.

Psalms 68:1 & 68:21

Liturgy Propers

Sixth Sunday of Pascha
Sunday of the Man Born Blind
SS. Constantine and Helen
May 21, 2017
Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Troparion of the Resurrection — Tone 5 (p. 189)
Kontakion of the Feast — Tone 4 (p. 189)
Kontakion of the Resurrection — Tone 8 (p. 189)
Prokiemenon — Tone 8 (p. 190)

New Testament Reading: Acts 16:16-34
Alleluia — Tone 8 (p. 190)

Gospel: John 9:1-38
Exaltation and Irmos (p. 167)
[in place of “It is truly just...”]
Paschal “Our Father” (p. 167)
Communion Hymn (p. 188)

Celebrants Fr. Lee Gross
PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]

Christ is risen! + Indeed, He is risen!
Christos voskrese! + Voistinnu voskrese!
Christos anesti! + Alithos anesti!
Christus surrexit! + Vere surrexit!

Announcements

■ **Today’s Liturgy Intention** — Today’s Divine Liturgy is offered by Marge Rusnak for her parents, +Michael and +Margaret Rusnak. *Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!*

When You descended to death, O Immortal Life, You destroyed Hades by the brilliance of Your Divinity; and when You raised the dead from the depths of the earth, all the heavenly powers cried out” O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to you.”

— Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 2)

■ **Sunday of the Man Born Blind** — Today is the sixth and final Sunday of Pascha. It is known as the Sunday of the Man Born Blind and is also the Sunday before the Feast of the Ascension.

Today, let us offer thanks for the gift of spiritual sight given to us so that we might see and know the meaning of life through the victory of Christ the Messiah. Each Sunday from Pascha to Pentecost is an experience of the mystery of the victory of Christ. Each week has its sacramental, paschal theme. There is water involved in every one of the Gospels: the pool of the paralytic, the well of the Samaritan woman, the anointing and washing of the eyes of the blind man. All of this is for us. It tells us of our experience of the risen Christ and witnesses to our own washing and anointing, our own dying and rising with Him.

Jesus anointed the eyes of the blind man, and he was enlightened, professing Jesus to be Lord. He is an image of our baptism, when we are enlightened out of darkness by the anointing of the chrism of the

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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

- 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.
- 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

Chrystus zmartwychwstał! Prawdziwie zmartwychwstał!

POLISH

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Holy Spirit. We remember the salvation of the Man Born Blind and our own enlightenment as we close the feast of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

■ **Also Commemorated Today** — On this date, May 21, the Byzantine Church commemorates SS. Constantine the Great, King and Equal to the Apostles, and his mother, Helen.

Constantine reigned in ancient Rome and Byzantium (Constantinople) and became the first Christian emperor, champion of the Faith, and builder of many Christian edifices. He died A.D. 337. St. Helen, his mother, discovered the true Cross of Jesus in Jerusalem.

■ **Thursday: Feast of the Ascension** — Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord will be prayed this Thursday, May 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mother of God School. This feast is a day of precept (obligation) for the Byzantine Church.

Note that many Roman Catholic dioceses have transferred the feast to the following Sunday. The Byzantine Catholic and Orthodox Churches, however, retain the traditional observance on the fortieth day following Pascha.

In Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox theology, the Ascension of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ is interpreted as the culmination of the Mystery of the Incarnation,

in that it not only marked the completion of Jesus' physical presence among his apostles, but consummated the union of God and man when Jesus ascended in his glorified human body to sit at the right hand of God the Father.

The Ascension and the Transfiguration both figure prominently in the Eastern Christian doctrine of theosis (<http://orthodoxwiki.org/Theosis>). The bodily Ascension into heaven is also understood as the final token of Christ's two natures: divine and human.

■ **Abstinence** — Friday, May 26, is designated by the Byzantine Church as a day of penance. Abstaining from meat or performing an appropriate act of penance is prescribed.

■ **What Does ☩ Mean?** — Since the rise of the so-called "Islamic State" (IS), many gruesome stories have surfaced depicting the barbarity of this terrorist organization. Its horrific acts of violence have received international attention and condemnation. Unfortunately, the plight of one minority being set upon in particular, but not exclusively, by the Islamic State are Christians (Catholic, Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, and Protestants) of all ages.

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Last Week's Liturgy

May 14, 2017

Attendance: 32 Souls

I ask you, how can God's love survive in a man who has enough of this world's goods yet closes his heart to his brother when he sees him in need?

Little children, let us love in deed and in truth and not merely talk about it.

1 Timothy 6:18-19