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to the tower elevator so participants must be in good health. Further, those who are claustrophobic or would have anxiety being in an elevator are advised not to participate. Children are permitted, but parents are reminded about the restrictions for strollers. Food and drink are not permitted. Bags, suitcases, camera cases, large purses or other bulky items are not permitted. Photography is allowed, but tripods are not permitted. Prohibited items cannot be stored. Please leave the items in your vehicle or leave them at home.

■ **Smithsonian Religious Exhibit** — The National Museum of American History has opened a new exhibition, “Religion in Early America,” which celebrates the free exercise of religion eventually codified in the First Amendment of the Federal Constitution. The exhibit contains items from various faiths from the 1630s to the 1840s. The Catholic display includes the iron cross made of ballast beams forged by the blacksmith for the Catholic colo-

ny of Maryland in 1634. Also attracting attention is the chalice used by Archbishop John Carroll, S.J., the first Catholic bishop of the United States and cousin of Charles Carroll, the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence. The chalice is unique in that it disassembles to be made into a saddle bell. Such chalices were used by Catholic priests when Catholicism was persecuted in English Colonial America.

The exhibition runs until June 3, 2018. It can be viewed online at americanhistory.si.edu/religion-in-early-america.

■ **Thank You!** — A prayerful thank you to everyone who has stepped up to fill the shoes of cantor during these past several months. Your help and assistance has been tremendous. Remember: “He [or she] who sings prays twice.” (Attributed to St. Augustine of Hippo.)

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Sept. 3	Mother of God School 10 a.m. (Fr. Lee)
Sept. 10	Mother of God School 10 a.m. (Fr. Lee)
Sept. 17	Mother of God School 10 a.m. (Fr. Lee)

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.

Signup sheet for **September** is now available on the information table.
Thank you!

Announcements

■ **Today’s Liturgy Intention** — Today’s Divine Liturgy is offered for the blessed repose of +Anne Pytel by her son, Ronald Pytel. *Vičnaja jej pamjat’.*

“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, Anne, in a place of light, joy, and peace where there is no pain, sorrow, nor mourning.”

— From the Litany for the Deceased

■ **Today’s Commemorations** — Today is the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost. Commemorated on this date, August 27, is our Venerable Father Poeman, an Egyptian by birth, who flourished in the period of the Ecumenical Council at Ephesus A.D. 431.

■ **Beheading of St. John the Baptist** — On August 29, the Byzantine Church annually commemorates the Feast of the Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John. By tradition, this is a day of fasting from meat and dairy products. If the feast falls on Sunday, abstinence is by choice. Local traditions also include not eating food from a plate or eating anything in the form of a head, such as cabbage, lettuce, or apples.

■ **Happy New Year!** — September 1 marks the beginning (Indiction) of the Church Year for the Byzantine Catholic Church. The first great feasts of the liturgical year are the Nativity of the Theotokos on September 8 and Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 21.

■ **Day of Abstinence** — Friday, September 1, is a day of simple abstinence in the Byzantine Church. One may abstain from meat or perform an appropriate act of penance.

■ **Uniontown ‘Otpust’** — The 83rd Annual Pilgrimage (*otpusť*) in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will be held September 2 & 3.

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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.
- Raymond Klimkosky.

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.
- Linda Oros.
- Mike DiMarino.
- Robert Kreger.
- Robert Diethrich.
- Lucy Fontenot
- Patricia Minihane.
- Brother Joseph Comber, CFX.

SPECIAL INTENTION

- Elizabeth Basarab.
- Sally Pekarik.
- Fr. Conan Timoney.
- Fr. Lee Gross.



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

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The pilgrimage has been held every Labor Day weekend since 1934. It was that year that the Sisters and pilgrims celebrated the blessing of the then newly acquired Monastery for the Sisters. In 1935, Pope Pius XI gifted the Sisters with a beautiful icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help requesting that they spread devotion to the Theotokos under that title.

The Pilgrimage is a source of ongoing renewal and provides for the diverse spiritual needs of the many pilgrims who frequent this major unifying event in the life of the Byzantine Catholic Church. Its participants include clergy and faithful from across the country.

The Pilgrimage offers the celebration of Divine Liturgy; opportunities for the Mystery of Reconciliation; Anointing of the Sick; Adult Enrichment Programs; activities for children, teens, young adults; and pastoral counseling.

The Pilgrimage is the oldest and largest Byzantine Catholic Pilgrimage in the United States. The Sisters welcome all people of faith to share in this special ministry and in its many blessings.

■ **Middle Eastern Food Festival** — Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek Catholic Church in McLean, Va., will hold its annual Middle Eastern Food Festival on Saturday, Sept. 2 from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m., and on Sunday, Sept. 3 from 12 noon until 6 p.m. on the parish grounds. For more details, go to <https://middleeasternfoodfestival.com/festival/>.

Last Week's Liturgy

August 20, 2017

Attendance: 19 Souls

■ **Slavic-American Festival** — Information regarding Epiphany's annual Slavic-American Day on September 10 has been mailed out to members of our Mission Community. You can also access information through the website: www.slavicamericanfestival.com.

■ **Byzantine Catholic Seminary** — The seminary in Pittsburgh seeks to raise \$39,200. Needs for this accredited institution are: upgrading outdoor lighting for safety; making a first-floor bathroom handicapped accessible; replacing the worn set of red vestments and altar covers for the chapel; "pointing" the joints in the Indiana limestone of the chapel; faculty research and development; and adding to the seminary's dividend-yielding reserves, which are mandated by the terms of the accreditation. Visit www.bcs.edu for more information.

■ **Uniontown Receives 2017 Grant** — (SOAR, Support our Aging Religious) gave a grant to the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great to repair and upgrade an elevator at Mount St. Macrina.

SOAR was formed by concerned Catholics in 1986 to help care for aging monastics and religious. For information about SOAR and how you can help, visit www.soarusa.org.

■ **Bell Tower Tour** — The Basilica of the National Shrine will open the Knights of Columbus Bell Tower to the public on the feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God, September 8, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The last time the Tower was open to the public was September 8, 2013, for the 50th anniversary of the tower's dedication.

There are no tickets or reservations for the tour; visitors are permitted on a first-come basis. Visitors must be able to ascend the 85 steps

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