

(Continued from a previous page.)

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 colony 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.

■ **Pray for Our Suffering Church** — Many Christian clergy, religious, and laity have been killed by Islamic radicals. Please pray for all those afflicted by these barbaric acts and for the conversion and forgiveness of the perpetrators. *Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!*

■ **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. 17	Mother of God School 10 a.m. (Fr. Lee)
Sept. 24	Mother of God School 10 a.m. (Fr. Lee)

God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
Therefore we won't be afraid, though the
earth changes, though the mountains are
shaken into the heart of the seas;
Though the waters of it roar and are troubled,
Though the mountains tremble
with their swelling...
From Psalm 41

Liturgy Propers	
Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Post-Festive of the Birth of the Holy Theotokos SS. Mendora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora, Martyrs September 10, 2017 Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	
Troparion of the Resurrection — Tone 5 (p. 146)	
Troparion Nativity of the Theotokos — Tone 4 (p. 243)	
Kontakion of the Resurrection — Tone 5 (p. 147)	
Prokiemenon of the Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross — Tone 3 (p. 247)	
Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18	
Alleluia of the Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross — Tone 5 (p. 247)	
Gospel: John 3:13-17	
Magnification & Irmos — (p. 245)	
[in place of “It is truly proper...”]	
Communion Hymns:	
Psalm 148:1 — A (p. 246) & Psalm 115:4 — A (p. 78)	
CELEBRANT: FR. LEE GROSS	

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 +Norm Dennis by Ron Pytel. *Vičnaja jemu 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 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 commemorated as the Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross, which is celebrated annually on September 14. It is also a post-festive day of the Feast of the Nativity of the Birth of the Theotokos (September 8), the first Solemn Feast of the new Church Year. Except for the Feast of the Dormition (Assumption), this is one of the most ancient and famous of Marian feasts.



Also commemorated on this date, September 10, are SS. Mendora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora, martyrs, who were three sisters and devout Christians of the Province of Bithynia in Asia Minor. Condemned for their Faith, they were beheaded A.D. 306 in the great persecution under Diocletian, Emperor.

■ **Birth of the Theotokos** — The tradition about the birth of the Virgin was transmitted in the book *The Protoevangelion of Saint James*. This tradition is what is commemorated liturgically in this feast.

We can derive these lessons from the feast: the fervent prayers of a husband and wife praying for the same intention are effective. Next, the birth of the Virgin Mary was accomplished by God acting and intervening in human history because the husband

(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.
- 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

(Continued from a previous page.)

and wife were beyond childbearing age. This reminds us that God is working in human history right now, even at work in our lives.

God does what He promised to Abraham and David, and this birth prepares us to fully understand the incarnation at the Annunciation and the complete meaning of Christmas as the birth of the Son of God made man.

■ **Mirovanije** — In celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, there will be anointing (*mirovanije*) and distribution of blessed bread at the close of today's Divine Liturgy. All are welcome to receive anointing and blessed bread. *Christ is among us! He is and shall be!*

■ **Day of Abstinence** — Friday, September 15, is a day of simple abstinence in the Byzantine Church. One may abstain from meat or perform an appropriate act of penance.



■ **Today: Slavic-American Festival** — Epiphany's 44th Annual Slavic-American Day begins at noon today following Divine Liturgy and runs until 6 p.m.. A complete list of events and attractions can be accessed through the festival's website at www.slavicamericanfestival.com.

Welcome to our visitors and guests

Last Week's Liturgy

September 3, 2017

Attendance: 22 Souls

■ **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.

■ **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

(continued on following page)

Hurricane Relief Collection

Bishop Kurt has authorized that parishes of the Eparchy of Passaic participate in the collection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for Hurricane Harvey relief efforts on the this weekend, September 9 and 10.

Please see the Bishop's letter and the photographs of St. John Chrysostom Church in Houston in last Sunday's bulletin insert.