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through Your Providence were united in marriage and who now offer thanksgiving to You for all the good things which they have received from You in their years of marriage. Bless the daily course of their life; fill their life with good things; and accept their crowns into Your Kingdom, keeping them pure, blameless, and above reproach forever.”

– From the Byzantine Ritual of Marriage

■ **Divine Liturgy at Mount St. Mary** – The Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Holy and Glorious Apostle St. Andrew will again be celebrated at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, at 4 p.m. on November 30, the feast of the Apostle.

Fr. Lee will concelebrate the Liturgy with various Byzantine Catholic clergy. The Semi-

Liturgy Propers

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Our Venerable Mother Pelagia, Penitent
October 8, 2017

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

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

Kontakion of the Resurrection — Tone 1 (p. 126)

Prokiemenon — Tone 1 (p. 127)

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Alleluia — Tone 1 (p. 127)

Gospel: Luke 17:11-16

Communion Hymn: Psalm 148:1A (p. 78)

CELEBRANT: FR. LEE GROSS

Page numbers refer to green Liturgy pew book.]

Divine Liturgy Schedule

- Oct. 15 Mother of God School
10 a.m. (Fr. Lee)
- Oct. 22 Mother of God School
10 a.m. (Fr. Lee)
- Oct. 29 Mother of God School
10 a.m. (Fr. Lee)

nary Schola (choir) will lead the responses, and several seminarians will assist at the altar. All are welcome to attend.

■ **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. 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 colony of Maryland in 1634. Also attracting attention is the chalice used by Archbishop John Carroll, S.J., the first Catholic bishop of the U.S. 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 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.

Last Week’s Liturgy

October 1, 2017

Attendance: 23 Souls

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 the remainder of **October** is available on the information table.

Thank you!

Announcements

■ **Today’s Liturgy Intention** – Today’s Divine Liturgy is offered by Lou and Marie Shanks for the blessed repose of +Marjorie Durbin, Lou’s aunt. *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 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 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost. On this date, October 8, the Byzantine Church commemorates our Venerable Mother Pelagia the Penitent.

Pelagia was born to pagan parents in Antioch, and was endowed by God with great physical beauty. Pelagia used her beauty to the destruction of her own soul and those of others. She became very wealthy as a result of her prostitution.

Once, while walking past the Church of the Holy Martyr Julian, in which Bishop Nonnus was preaching, she stopped in and heard a sermon on the Dread Judgment and the punishment of sinners. Those words so shook her and changed her that she immediately felt revulsion for herself, acquired true fear of God, repented of all her sins, and fell down before St. Nonnus with the plea that he baptize her: “Have mercy on me, a sinner, holy Father. Baptize me and teach me repentance—I am a sea of iniquity, an abyss of destruction, a net and weapon of the devil.”

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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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Thus this penitent begged the hierarch of Christ with tears, and he baptized her. At her baptism, Blessed Romana, the deaconess of the church, was her godmother. Romana, as her spiritual mother, grounded her well in the Christian Faith. But Pelagia was not satisfied with baptism alone. She was keenly aware of the multitude of her sins and, pricked by her conscience, decided on a great ascetic labor.

She left her enormous, sinfully gained wealth to the poor, and secretly went to Jerusalem as the monk Pelagius. There, she shut herself up in a cell on the Mount of Olives, and began the difficult asceticism of fasting, prayer, and all-night vigils. After three years, St. Nonnus' deacon, James, visited her and found her still alive, but when he visited her again several days later, he found that she had reposed. He honorably buried her body.

St. Pelagia entered into rest in about the year 461. Thus, this formerly terrible sinner pleased God by her repentance and labor, was forgiven of her sins, and became sanctified. And her purified and enlightened soul was deemed worthy of the Kingdom of God.

Fall Festivals

St. Gregory of Nyssa Byzantine Catholic Church in Beltsville, Md., will sponsor a food festival featuring Eastern European dishes on Saturday, November 4, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. For more information, call, 301–953–9323.

On Saturday, November 18, Patronage of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church near Baltimore, Md., will hold its annual Slavic food festival from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. For more information, call 410–247–4936.

■ **Day of Abstinence** — Friday, October 13, is a day of simple abstinence in the Byzantine Church. One may abstain from meat or perform an appropriate act of penance.

■ **Bishop's Annual Appeal 2017** — Bishop Kurt has announced the start of the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal for the Eparchy of Passaic. Please watch your mail, upcoming bulletins, and the *Eastern Catholic Life* for details.

■ **Wedding Anniversary Celebration** — Bishop Kurt will celebrate a Divine Liturgy for married couples celebrating their five-year anniversaries (5th, 10th, 15th, etc.) at a Vigil Divine Liturgy on October 14 at 4 p.m. at Epiphany-Annandale. If you or your spouse are celebrating a valid marriage this year, please call the Parish Office between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, or send an e-mail to epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net.

Invitations will be mailed to each couple. A response card will be included in the invitation. Please return the response card whether you plan to attend or not.

"O God, our God, You came to Cana in Galilee and blessed the marriage there; now bless Your servants who

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October is Respect Life Month.

<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/>

