

■ **Ask a Priest** — Fr. Dr. Vasyl Chepelskyy, is Administrator of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, Lansford, Pa., and St. Mary Church, Nesquehoning, Pa. Fr. Vasyl holds a doctorate in Moral Theology and is a professor of Theology at DeSalles University, Allentown, Pa. If you have a question on theology, spirituality, the sacraments, morality, Church history, or the lives of the saints, you may contact Fr. Vasyl and he will answer it or direct it to one of the priests of our eparchy expert in that topic. You can submit your question by e-mail: stjohnpastor@ptd.net.

Last Week's Liturgy

November 26, 2017
Attendance: 29 Souls

Divine Liturgy Schedule

- Dec. 3...** Mother of God School
10 a.m.
- Dec. 10...** Mother of God School
10 a.m.
- Dec. 17...** Mother of God School
10 a.m.
- Dec. 24 & Christmas Liturgies...**
- ◆ Liturgy for Sunday, December 24 will be celebrated on Saturday, December 23, at 5:30 p.m. in Our Lady's Chapel in the Goshen House.
 - ◆ Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity will be celebrated on Sunday, December 24, also at 5:30 p.m. and in Our Lady's Chapel.
 - ◆ There will be no Divine Liturgy celebrated on Christmas Day at the Mission.

■ **"Tammies" To Return** — Pittsburgh's internationally renowned Tamburitians (Tammies) will return to our area on Saturday, February 10 (Rockville) and Sunday, February 11 (Annandale). The Tammies' mission is preserve the music, songs, and dances of Eastern Europe and neighboring folk cultures. For more details, including a promotional video highlighting last year's performances, go to www.thetamburitians.org/.

Welcome Visitors and Guests

Liturgy Propers

Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
St. Zephaniah, Prophet
Theodulus, Prefect of Constantinople
December 3, 2017

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Opening Hymn: "O Come, O, Come Emmanuel"

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

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

Prokiemenon — Tone 1 (p. 127)

Epistle: Ephesians 5:9-19

Alleluia — Tone 1 (p. 127)

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

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

CELEBRANT: FR. LEE GROSS

[Page numbers refer to green Liturgy pew book.]

Change in Liturgy Propers...

- ◆ Because we are now in a fasting period, there is a slight change in the Divine Liturgy propers.
- ◆ The First and Second Typical Psalms (pp. 16-17) replace the First and Second Antiphons. In addition,
- ◆ The Beatitudes (pp. 23-24) replaces the Third Antiphon.

Announcements

■ **Today's Liturgy Intention** — Today's Divine Liturgy is offered for the blessed repose of +Elizabeth and +Andrew Kniska by Marion Kniska and Elizabeth and Claire Keyes. *Vičnaja pamjat'.*

"O God of sprits 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 Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost. Commemorated on this date, December 3, is St. Zephaniah, Prophet, who is said to be of the Tribe of Simeon. He foretold the judgments of God upon Jerusalem and the ultimate conversion of the Jews. He lived in the 7th century B.C.



Also commemorated is our Venerable Father Theodulus, Prefect of Constantinople A.D. 320. in the court of Theodosius the Great in Constantinople. He was married, but after his wife died, Theodulus felt drawn to the life of a hermit, claiming that all the world's glories meant nothing to him. He sold his estate, gave his fortune to the poor, and lived as a hermit on top of a pillar near Edessa, Syria. Legend says he had the gift of inedia; that is, living solely from Holy Communion for 38 years.

■ **The True Santa Clause** — Annually on December 6, the Byzantine Church commemorates its patron, our Holy Father, St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia. So, just who is St. Nicholas? To uncover the real story behind "Santa Claus," go to www.stnicholascenter.org/ to find out more.

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.
- 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."

Psalm 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 Maternity of Holy Anna** — Traditionally observed by the Eastern Churches on December 9, the Ruthenian Church joins with the Latin (Roman) Church on December 8 to celebrate the Conception of Mary the Theotokos by St. Anna.

The Eastern Churches have commemorated this feast since the 6th century. In the Latin Church, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception (the preservation from the stain of original sin) was declared dogma in 1854.

From Matins of the feast:

"O, Adam! O, Eve! Lay aside your sorrow!

Behold, a barren womb today wondrously bears fruit:

The Mother of our Joy!

Rejoice, O Father Abraham and all the Patriarchs!

See your seed blossom:

The Mother of our God."

■ **St. Nicholas and the Darr Mine Explosion** — On December 19, 1907, a tremendous explosion shook the Youghiogheny River Valley, killing 239 men and boys at the Darr Mine in Van Meter, Westmoreland County, in Western Pennsylvania.

The death toll would have been far worse had those workers who were Byzantine Catholics been in the mine also. That day (Old Calendar) was the Feast of St. Nicholas and the Byzantine Catholic workers were taking the day without pay to attend the local church.

A video about the disaster was produced by WQED-TV, Pittsburgh, and can be accessed at <https://www.wqed.org/tv/watch/experience/darr-mine-disaster-0>.

■ **Philip's Fast** — Philip's (or the Christmas or Winter) Fast began at sundown on Tuesday, November 14, the Feast of St. Philip, and runs 40 days until Christmas Eve.

The Philppian Fast offers several feasts: the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple,

November 21; St. Nicholas, December 6; Maternity of St. Anna (Immaculate Conception), December 8; two special commemoration on the two Sundays before Christmas; and several aliturgical days, which are days when the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated. These aliturgical are, usually on the day of an Old Testament prophet to recall that the prophets and people of the Old Testament time waited for the coming of the Messiah.

Fridays remain as days of penance and in the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church in the United States the other fasting prescriptions of the Christmas Fast are left to the ability of the individual. This fast was introduced to prepare the Church for a worthy celebration of the great and holy days of Christ's birth and Christ's baptism in the Jordan.

■ **Bishop's Annual Appeal 2017** — Mission members have received a letter from Bishop Kurt with a pledge/donation card and more information. Please return card with you check made out to the Eparchy of Passaic to 445 Lackawanna Ave., Woodland Park, NJ 07424. You can also pledge online. Go to www.eparchyofpassaic.com. Our goal for this year is once again \$6,000. Questions, see Vince Kovalick.

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 **December** is available on the information table.

Thank you!