



■ **National Prayer Vigil for Life** — The 2018 National Prayer Vigil for Life will take place at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on January 18 and 19.

Among the services will be Night Prayer according to the Byzantine Rite in the Crypt Church (9:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.), prayed by the Most Reverend Kurt R. Burnette, JCL, DD, Bishop of the Byzantine Eparchy of Passaic. Homilist will be Archbishop Leonard Blair, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford.

Watch upcoming bulletins for more details or visit the website of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference.

Last Week's Liturgy

December 10, 2017

Liturgy cancelled due to weather.

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Dec. 17... Mother of God School
10 a.m.

Dec. 23 & 24...

- ◆ 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/.

Liturgy Propers

Second Sunday Before Christmas

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

The Prophet Daniel

The Three Holy Youths

December 17, 2017

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

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

Troparion of the Resurrection — Tone 3 (p. 130)

Troparion of the Holy Forefathers — Tone 2 (p. 281)

Kontakion of the Three Youths — Tone 6 (p. 281)

Prokiemenon of the Holy Forefathers — Tone 4 (p. 282)

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

Alleluia of the Holy Forefathers — Tone 4 (p. 282)

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

Communion Hymns:

Communion Hymn for Sunday: Psalm 148:1A (p. 282)

Communion Hymn for the Righteous: Psalm 32:1 (p. 283)

[Page numbers refer to green Liturgy pew book.]

CELEBRANT: FR. JOHN G. BASARAB

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 by Mike Hamas for the blessed repose of his wife, +Theresia Maria. *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 in the Byzantine Church is the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (ancestors according to the flesh) of our Lord Jesus Christ. This Sunday falls between December 11-17 and is the second Sunday before the Nativity.

The ancestors of Christ, according to the flesh, are all the great Fathers and Mothers and Prophets of the Old Testament, starting with Adam; Abraham; the Righteous Sarah; Isaac and Jacob, including Holy Prophet Elias and Daniel; and concluding with Holy Prophet Zechariah (Zachary); Joachim and Anna; the Holy Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist; and Mary the Theotokos.

They lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (*Genesis 12:3, 22:18*).



Also commemorated on this date is St. Daniel and the Three Youths (SS. Hannaniah, Azariah, and Mishael). Daniel is the fourth of the Four Great Prophets. He died a centenarian in Persia in the fifth century B.C. The Three Youths were cast into a fiery furnace by the order of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon but miraculously came out unscathed (*Daniel 3*).

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."

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

■ **Fasting and Feasting** — Observance of strict abstinence from meat and dairy products for the Vigil of Christmas, December 24, is transferred to Friday, December 23. The period from Christmas Day through January 4 is free from fasting and abstinence.

■ **The Holy Supper: Christmas in the Carpatho-Rusyn Tradition** — The Carpatho-Rusyn people maintain a wide variety of customs associated with all the holidays of the year, but few of them are as elaborate or as eagerly awaited as those associated with the Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ.

The entire drama of events associated with Christmas is made present in the Rusyn home by the observance of the Christmas Eve Holy Supper (*Svjatij Vecer / Velija*). The custom of the Holy Supper is observed wherever Rusyns live, but variations in customs and foods served at the meal are found from region to region, village to village, even among different families. These variations testify to the richness of the Rusyn culture, but in the unity of a tradition kept by all Rusyns.

To find out more about observing the Christmas Eve Holy Supper, go to www.wirnowski.com/Carp/Nat_HolyNight.html

■ **Christmas Greetings** — Our Byzantine Catholic greeting to one another for Christmas through Christmastide is "Christ is born!" Our response is "Glorify Him!" In Slavonic (transliterated), it is "Christos razdajetsa!" And the response, "Slavite Jeho!"

■ **Funeral Services for Maggie Karam** — Funeral services for long-time Mission Community member Maggie (Margaret) Karam, who fell asleep in the Lord on October 28, will take place tomorrow, December 18, at 4 p.m. at St.

Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church, 6701 Muncaster Mill Road, Derwood, Md. *Vičnaja jej pamjat.*

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

— Revelation 21:4 (NKJV / OSB)

Food Pantry — Remember our Mission Community's ministry to the unfortunate of our area through the local Food Pantry program, administered by St. Martin Roman Catholic Church, Gaithersburg, which is always in great need of nonperishable foods, baby food and supplies, and personal hygiene items. Hunger never takes a vacation or holiday.

■ **Bishop's Appeal Coming to a Close** — The Bishop's Appeal for the Eparchy of Passaic will conclude at the end of this month. Please access the eparchy's website or see the latest issue of Eastern Catholic Life for details and instructions. Note: Pledges/payments must be sent directly to the Eparchy and checks must be made out to "Eparchy of Passaic." Please see Vince Kovalick with questions. Our goal once again is \$6,000. Also, as last year, if our Mission Community reaches the goal, we will receive a reversion of 40% of donations sent to the chancery office.

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 sheets for the remainder of **December** and for **January** are available on the information table.