

(Continued from a previous page.)

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.

■ **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.

Last Week's Liturgy

December 17, 2017

28 Souls

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Dec. 24... Our Lady's Chapel

- ◆ Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity will be celebrated on Sunday, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. in Our Lady's Chapel.
- ◆ There will be no Divine Liturgy celebrated on Christmas Day at the Mission.

Dec. 31... Mother of God School
10 a.m.



Liturgy Propers

Sunday Before Christmas
Sunday of the Ancestors
SS. Eugenia, Venerable Martyr,
& Protus and Hyacinth
December 24, 2017

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Opening Hymn: “O Come, O, Come Emmanuel”

Troparion of the Resurrection — Tone 4 (p. 141)

Troparion of the Ancestors — Tone 2 (p. 285)

Troparion of the Vigil — Tone 4 (p. 286)

Kontakion of the Prefeast — Tone 3 (p. 284)

Prokiemenon of the Ancestors — Tone 4 (p. 287)

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, & 32-40

Alleluia of the Ancestors — Tone 4 (p. 287)

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Communion Hymns:

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

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

[Page numbers refer to green Liturgy pew book.]

CELEBRANT: FR. LEE GROSS

Change in Liturgy Propers...

- ◆ Because we are still 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 Andy Haba for the blessed repose of +George and +Janet Haba. *Vičnaja 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 servants 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 before Christmas, during which we celebrate the memory of all the righteous men and women from Adam to St. Joseph the Betrothed. They were faithful to God's will, observing what He commanded, fulfilling the work He asked of them, and living in the hope of the fulfillment of promise of God — the coming of the Messiah.

On this Sunday, the genealogy of the human family through St. Joseph is read at the Divine Liturgy. The family descendants of Abraham, through the fathers and several mothers who are mentioned, reveal that the Lord Jesus was born a member of God's chosen people, the Jews, and a descendant of King David, to fulfill the promise made to David and to fulfill His plan of salvation.

On this date, December 24, we commemorate also SS. Eugenia, venerable-martyr, and her two slaves, Protus and Hyacinth, by whom she was converted to Christianity. Eugenia was put to death in prison at Rome on Christmas Day A.D. 257 in the reign of the emperor Valerian.

■ **Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity** — The Divine Liturgy for Christmas will be served in Our Lady's Chapel at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow, Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve. (There will be no 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy served at Epiphany Mission tomorrow, Sunday, December 24, or on Christmas Day, Monday, December 25.)

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

■ **Fast and Feast** — When Christmas Day occurs on a Sunday or a Monday, the *Typicon* makes special provisions, one of which is that when Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, is not a day of strict fast. The fast is instead mitigated to abstinence from meat products. The period from Christmas Day through January 4, however, is free from fasting and abstinence.

The *Typicon* is a liturgical book which contains instructions about the order of the Byzantine Rite office and variable hymns of the Divine Liturgy.

■ **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 (*Svjatyj 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

■ **A Prayerful Thank You** — Epiphany Byzantine Catholic Mission-Montgomery County extends a prayerful thank you and Christmas blessings to Fr. Lee and Fr. John; to the deacons, Peter and Elmer; to our cantors; and to all

the clergy and people—young and old—who have supported and contributed to our mission community in so many ways this past year. May God grant us all peace, health, and happiness on this Feast of the Nativity and throughout the coming year.

■ **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 raždajetsa!" And the response, "Slavite Jeho!"

■ **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 Ends on 31st** — The Bishop's Appeal for the Eparchy of Passaic concludes on December 31. Please access the eparchy's website or see the latest issue of Eastern Catholic Life for details and instructions. Note:

(continued on following page)

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 **January**
are available on the information table.

Thank you!