

■ **Bishop's Annual Appeal 2019** – Mission members should have received a letter from Bishop Kurt with a pledge/ donation card and more information regarding the 2019 appeal. Please return the pledge card with your check made out to the Eparchy of Passaic, 445 Lackawanna Ave., Woodland Park, NJ 07424. You can also pledge online. Go to *www.eparchy-ofpassaic.com*. Every year since our community began participating in the appeal, we have either met or exceeded our goal. Monies over our goal are returned for religious education.

■ **Eastern Catholic Radio** – Eastern Catholic Radio is a 24/7 internet radio station broadcast through *Live365.com*. Programing consists of continuous Eastern Christian Church music and selections from Western Christianity. We also broadcast daily prayers, church services, sermons, podcasts, inspirational talk radio, and lectures. Lecture series produced by OLTV and Eastern Christian Publications are heard

daily as well as “Light of the East,” featuring Father Thomas Loya.

Eastern Catholic Radio is a production of Eastern Catholic Broadcasting, a media Apostolate affiliated with the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic. With the permission of Bishop Kurt Burnette, the apostolate was founded in 2014 at Saint Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church in New Brunswick, N.J., and Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Somerset, N.J., by Fr. Francis Rella.

The ministry began as weekly broadcasts of the Sunday Divine Liturgy and the production of multiple videos for the Eparchy, including a full-length documentary titled “A Time for Living.” The media ministry continues with funding from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Toms River, N.J., and private donations.

The easiest way to listen to Eastern Catholic Radio is through the free *Live365 app* or on your computer or smartphone at *www.easterncatholic/*



Come, O Jesus,
Our Savior;
Redeem and Save Us!

Announcements

■ **Today's Divine Liturgy Intention** – Today's Divine Liturgy is offered by Michael Hammas for the blessed repose of his wife, +Theresia Maria. May her memory be eternal. *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)

■ **Today's Commemorations** – Today in the Byzantine Church is the Second Sunday before Christmas and is commemorated as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers of our Lord Jesus Christ. Observed on the Sunday between the 11th and the 17th of December, this Sunday commemorates all the ancestors of the people of God, the holy patriarchs living up to the law, given on Sinai, and under the law – from Adam to Joseph the Betrothed – together with them are commemorated “those who preached Christ” the holy prophets – from Samuel to Zechariah and to John the Baptist, and all the Old Testament righteous men, who were righteous in the faith in the coming of the Messiah.



Especially praised in the services for this day are “the pious youths,” Ananias, Azarias, and Misael, who “in faith were thrown into the fiery fur-

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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 for 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.

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Dec. 22...	Sunday before Christmas / Sunday of the Holy Ancestors Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Dec. 24...	Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy (Obligation) Our Lady's Chapel, Goshen House 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 29...	Sunday after Christmas Mother of God School 10 a.m.
Jan. 5...	Sunday before Theophany Mother of God School 10 a.m.

Liturgy Propers

Second Sunday before Christmas Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

St. Eleutherius, Bishop-Martyr
Our Venerable Father Paul of Latra
Fr. Stephen, Confessor, Abbot of Sodrozh
December 15, 2019
[Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom]
Troparion of the Resurrection – Tone 2 (p. 130)
Troparion of the Ancestors – Tone 2 (p. 281)
Kontakion of the Thrice-Blessed Youths – Tone 6 (p. 281)
Prokeimenon – Tone 4 (p. 282)
EPISTLE: Colossians 3:4–11
Alleluia – Tone 4 (p. 282)
GOSPEL: Luke 14:16–24
Communion Hymns (p.282 & 283)
[PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]

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

- Jeff Sesok.
- Ron Pytel.
- Lou Shanks.
- Rosemary Chisarick.
- Doris and Rich Fejka.

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Delores Moldowan.
- Mary Neimiller.
- Yazmine Nickerson.
- 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 and Doris Kreger.
- Robert Diethrich.
- Lucy Fontenot
- Patricia Minihane.
- Brother Joseph Comber, CFX.

SPECIAL INTENTION

- Elizabeth Basarab.
- Sally Pekarik.
- Fr. Conan Timoney.
- Fr. Lee Gross.
- Deacon Peter Turko.

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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nace" and "who in the middle of the flames were cooled by the dew of the Spirit and who walked about rejoicing, are mystically a prototype of the Trinity and incarnation of Christ" from the Virgin, who after giving birth remained a virgin.

With these holy youths also are commemorated "the righteous Daniel and the wonderful prophets," who, clearly revealing the divine second coming, saw Christ, "coming to all nations as Judge," and who, "your mind illumined by divine radiance," "that clearly the Virgin would give birth represented in mystical images."

Commemorated on this date, December 15, is St. Eleutherius, Bishop-Martyr, who endured death A.D. 120 in the reign of the Emperor Hadrian. Also commemorated is our Venerable Father Paul of Latra, a holy hermit in Greece, about A.D. 880; and Fr. Stephen, Confessor, Abbot of Sodrozh.

■ **Philip's Fast & Christmas Eve** — Philip's Fast, also known as the Christmas Fast or Pre-Nativity Fast, began on November 14, the Feast of St. Philip, and runs 40 days until Christmas Eve. This feast 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.

According to tradition, it was customary to observe as strict fast (no meat or dairy products) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and a lesser fast on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Under current eparchial norms, Fridays are to be observed as days of fasting from meat; Wednesdays are recommended as days of fasting from meat.

Note that the Vigil of Christmas (December 24) is observed as a day of simple abstinence (no meat or meat products). One may also fast from dairy products. The period from Christmas Day through January 3 is free from fasting and abstinence.

■ **Christmas Divine Liturgy** — Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh will be prayed on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. in Our Lady's Chapel, Goshen House. There is no Divine Liturgy at the Mission on Christmas Day. Please note that all other liturgies for December are being held in the Mother of God School.

■ **It's a Boy!** — Our prayerful congratulations go out to Doris and Rich Fejka on the birth of their first grandchild, Joseph Robert Dufek, who was born last Sunday morning to their daughter, Anne, and her husband, Chris Dufek.

May God grant His servant Joseph Robert and his family peace, health, and happiness for many blessed years. *Mnohaja l'ita!*

■ **Yes, Virginia, There Is a St. Nicholas** — On December 6, the Byzantine Church commemorates our Holy Father St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, and patron of all Byzantine Catholics. So, just who is St. Nicholas? To uncover the real story behind "Santa Claus," visit stnicholascenter.org/

■ **Updates Regarding Warfield Road** — Please note that any updates regarding our Warfield Road property are being posted in the Epiphany-Annandale section of the Sunday bulletin.