

(Continued from a preceding page.)

dle States Protoperesbyterate, member of the Presbyteral Council, assistant Vocations Director, and member of the Evangelization Committee. Fr. Timoney had retired as a chaplain at the Loch Haven Veterans Administration Hospital. He was also a chaplain in the Army Reserves.

“O Lord, You called Your servant the Priest Conan to be a minister in Your holy Church, and have shown him a participant at the service of Your holy altar. Now make him worthy to serve You at Your heavenly altar.”
— From the “Office for Burial of a Priest”

■ **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.

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Dec. 24...

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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.

■ **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.

Your ineffable love for humankind,
O Christ our God,
make us worthy of Your voice,
which we long to hear,
number us among those at Your right hand,
and have mercy on us. Amen.

Liturgy Propers

Sunday before Christmas

Sunday of the Holy Ancestors

St. Anastasia, Great-Martyr

December 22, 2019

[Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom]

Troparion of the Resurrection – Tone 3 (p. 135)

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

Troparion of the Pre-Feast – Tone 2 (p. 285)

Kontakion of the Prefeast – Tone 2 (p. 287)

Prokeimenon – Tone 4 (p. 287)

EPISTLE:

Hebrews 11:9–10, 17–23 & 32–40

Alleluia – Tone 4 (p. 287)

GOSPEL:

Matthew 1:1–25

Communion Hymns (p. 287)

[PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]

CELEBRANT: FR. LEE GROSS



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

Announcements

■ **Today’s Divine Liturgy Intention** — Today’s Divine Liturgy is offered by Andy Haba for the blessed repose of +George, +Janet, and +John. May their memories be eternal. *Vičnaja 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 Sunday before Christmas and is commemorated as the Sunday of the Holy Ancestors.

On this Sunday, the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew is proclaimed. Often called the Genealogy of Jesus (*verses 1-17*), this reading has a wonderful message that points to the real meaning and power and joy of Christmas.

The key to the message is the women. This is a Hebrew genealogy; therefore, it should go from father to son, to son, to son, and so on. Who the mother is, is genealogically speaking, irrelevant. But, there are five women listed among Jesus’ ancestors, four of which are: Tamar (*v. 3*); Rahab (*v. 5*); Ruth (*v. 5*); and Basheeba, referred to as “her that had been the wife of Urias” (*v. 6*).

Why are these women listed in the genealogy of Christ? Strangely enough (genealogically speaking) that women are listed at all — but these women — and men — who certainly did not lead exemplary lives.

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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.

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. 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."

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

(Continued from a previous page.)

Throughout human history, and in our own lives, we see — painfully, tragically — that which is whole, being broken; that which is high and holy, falling. The message here is that in human history, and very specifically, in our own lives, God can and does act to undo this tragedy. He takes what is broken and makes it raises it up! He produces, from this very humble, very “mortal” family tree, one who is capable of giving birth to His immortal Son.

For the fifth and final woman in the genealogy is “Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.” Mary, who replied to the Archangel Gabriel, when he had delivered the shocking news of her impending maternity, with these words: “Behold the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word!” Mary, who is the fruit of this family tree, is the proof of God’s ability and His passionate desire to make right all the things that have gone wrong. By her free choice and assent, God Himself is born into the world to make it new, whole, and holy once more.

By our free choice and assent, the same thing can happen to us, in us. If we are willing, God is able. If we are even willing to consider being willing, it is a start — and sometimes it is enough! This is the real meaning and power and joy of Christmas. “Let it be to me according to your word!” (Text adapted from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Orthodox Christian Fellowship.)

Commemorated on this date, December 22, is St. Anastasia, Great-Martyr, a famous Roman matron of noble birth, who was a spiritual pupil of St. Chrysogonus. She was imprisoned, tortured, and burned alive for the Faith A.D. 304 in the reign of the Emperor Diocletian.

■ **Fast & Feast** — 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.

■ **Christmas Greeting** — Our Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic greeting to one another for the Feast of the Nativity is “Christ is born!” Our response is “Glorify Him!” In Slavonic (transliterated), it is “Christos raždajetsa!” And the response, “Slavite Jeho!”

Liturgically, the Christmas season for the Eastern Churches runs 40 days (mirroring the 40 days following Pascha) from the Feast of the Nativity to the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple on February 2.

■ **Our Prayerful Condolences** — We offer our condolences to Bishop Kurt Burnette; the priests of the Eparchy of Passaic; the parishioners of Patronage of the Mother of God Church and its missions in Abingdon, Md., and Hagerstown, Md.; and the parishioners of Blessed Basil Hopko Mission, Myrtle Beach, S.C.; and family upon the death of Very Reverend Conan Timoney, Ph.D., December 9, 2019. Fr. Timoney, pastor of Patronage Church for 36 years, served as the protopresbyter of the Mid-

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