



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

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Cantor: Michael Kulka
Cantor: Joseph Kotlar, Sr.

Patronage Church at Abingdon:

Church of St. Francis (Stone Chapel)

1450 Abingdon Road, Abingdon, MD 21009

Contact: Deacon Anthony and Theresa Kotlar: 410-734-6973

Next Liturgy: Sunday, January 16th, at 3pm

Patronage Church at Hagerstown:

St. Ann Catholic Church

1525 Oak Hill Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742

Contact: Adam and Lauren Myers: 301-791-0930

Next Liturgy: Saturday, January 8th, at 10am

DIVINE LITURGY - PATRONAGE CHURCH

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday 1.02.2022	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Lisa Gregorio Requested by: Anna Esquela
Tuesday 1.04.22	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert
Thursday 1.06.22	9:00am	Divine Liturgy Theophany of our Lord	In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert
Sunday 1.09.22	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert

This is the *Sunday Before Theophany*.

Propers begin on Tone 7, page 156, then page 309.

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SUNDAY OBLIGATION: Bishop Kurt revoked the dispensation, regarding the Sunday precept or obligation to assist at Divine Liturgy, on June 6, 2021. Watching the live stream no longer fulfills the obligation to assist at Divine Liturgy. However, the Bishop reminds everyone that "just as before the pandemic, anyone is relieved of the obligation for serious reason such as sickness, immobility, fear, caring for someone else, to protect your own health, or the health of others." Our parish continues to be cleaned and hand sanitizer is available throughout the church.

2021 BISHOP'S APPEAL: The Bishop's Appeal began on November 1, 2021. Pledges and payments will be accepted through June 30, 2021. Any contributions received after December 31, 2021, must be attributed to the 2022 tax year. Our parish goal, for this year's campaign, is \$9,800.00. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to: The Eparchy of Passaic, and mail it to: The Eparchy of Passaic, 445 Lackawanna Avenue, Woodland Park, NJ 07424. You can also make your pledge online at www.eparchyofpassaic.com and make either one payment or 5 monthly payments. All payment plans must be completed no later than June 30, 2022, to count toward our parish goal. If you didn't receive a pledge form in the mail, there are a few extra copies on the shelf in the Narthex. Please take one!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Fr. Serhii is available 15 minutes before or immediately after Divine Liturgy to hear confession.

2022 LITURGICAL CALENDARS: Liturgical wall calendars for 2022, are available on the book rack in the Narthex. Please take one for use in your home.

GOD WITH US ONLINE FREE WEBINAR: "Orthodoxy & Heterodoxy; The History of the Ecumenical Councils." This program takes place on Wednesdays, January 12-26 & February 9-16, from 8-9pm. Rev. Christiaan Kappes, Ph.D., SLD, will be the presenter. Join Rev. Christiaan as he leads us through the breathtaking story of the battle of the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils to preserve the integrity of the faith against heresy in the decisive first centuries of Church history. To register, visit www.godwithusonline.org.

BECOMING BYZANTINE: The Eparchy of Phoenix and Vineyard of the Lord Catholic Ministries are sponsoring a free webinar and video series on Byzantine Catholic faith, worship, and life based upon the "*Christ Our Pascha Catechism*." Are you a Western Christian (Catholic or Protestant) who is interested in exploring the Byzantine Catholic faith for your own development in faith? Are you contemplating joining or have you recently joined a Byzantine or Greek Catholic parish? Are you a Byzantine Christian who wants to learn more about your own rich tradition? Visit [BECOMING BYZANTINE: An Introduction to Byzantine Catholicism](http://www.becomingbyzantine.org) for more information. Sessions will be held on the 4th Sunday of the month beginning September 26, 2021 through August, 2022, from 7-8:30pm. You can view prior videos on the Becoming Byzantine YouTube channel.

FEAST OF THEOPHANY: The Blessing of Holy Water will take place on Thursday, January 6th. Holy Water will be available to take home.

GCU MAGAZINE: December's issue of the GCU magazine is available, on the book rack, in the Narthex.

Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na viki! Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

HOLY HUMOR: A child watched her exasperated mother sift through and delete a long list of emails. “This reminds me of the Lord’s Prayer,” the child said. “What do you mean?” the mother asked. “You know the part about delivering us from email.”

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May the coming year be one of increased riches of grace –
hearing His voice more dearly,
knowing His heart more deeply,
resting in His love more fully,
trusting His care more completely,
walking His pathway more peacefully,
knowing His presence more intimately, and
blessed by His goodness more abundantly.

- Author Unknown

Sunday Before Theophany

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

We continue to walk spiritually at Christmas time. We recently met Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem. Today, we met Jesus Christ, as an adult, who was preparing for his missionary work. He went to the Jordan River to receive baptism from John the Baptist. There the Heavenly Father revealed Him to the people through various symbolic signs: in the form of a dove and a voice from heaven as the Messiah and Savior of mankind.

Today, we heard about the transition from the manger in Bethlehem to the Jordan River, from the baby Jesus to Jesus in adulthood. In Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus was announced by the stars, the singing of angels, and the visits of shepherds and sages. On the Jordan River, John the Baptist and the voice of the Heavenly Father announced Jesus to the people: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Mt. 3:17). John the Baptist prepared people for the encounter with Christ, the Messiah, by saying: "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie" (Mark 1:7). The call of the Lord's Forerunner to repent and purify and prepare to meet the Messiah is a call to spiritual knowledge of the Kingdom of Heaven.

These words are still alive and relevant today. The Kingdom of Heaven is approaching us every day, and it is up to us whether we enter it or not.

The forerunner of Christ speaks of the fulfillment of the prophecy: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Mark 1: 3). What is a "desert?" The people came to the Forerunner in the desert to confess their sins. But there is a hidden, deep theological meaning here. These were human souls who did not have God in them. The desert is humanity that has dried up because of sins, like a land devoid of moisture.

Why was John's preaching so effective that crowds of people came to listen to him and receive Baptism, which was only a shadow of what is happening today? He was a man who sincerely loved God and lived by faith in salvation. Not only his words, but his whole life were a confirmation of his attitude toward God. The desert in which he lived, his camel's hair, his meager food - acrid and wild honey - all testified to his great simplicity and involvement in the suffering of the people and their poverty. Immersion in the waters of Jordan was not a new rite, but his prophecy forerunner gave him a new meaning, but, most importantly - and in all the ministry of the Forerunner - he announced that he was followed by the Stronger than him, so strong that he considered himself unworthy to serve His servant bent down to untie the strap of his shoe: "I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit" (Mark 1:8).

St. John Chrysostom, during one of his sermons on the Holy Sacrament of Baptism, said that it could be compared to the melting of a golden cup. "If we have a dirty bowl, no matter how we clean it, it will always bear the marks of its pollution. It will be clean, but the signs will remain. To avoid any signs, it must be remelted. You need to put it in the fire and from the same piece of gold and re-cast it in the same shape. It will be the same in matter and form, but at the same time will be completely new. In that rebirth in the Sacrament of Baptism, man passes through the fire, which is the Holy Spirit and which melts, transforms and makes him a truly new man. In the waters of Baptism, the devil dies with his servants, evil with sinful deeds, as in the waters of the Red Sea Pharaoh perished with all his army."

Priests today also baptize with water, but the Lord, who goes before every man, through death and resurrection, is always present in all the sacraments of the Church and baptizes all with the Holy Spirit. When priests recite the sacred words of the sacrament, heaven unites with earth and God unites with man. But the acceptance of this gift by us and those who enter the water depends on how worthy we all are of these words.

Dear believers! It's Christmas time. The Prophet, John the Baptist, and the Jordan River, remind us that we are entering a time of immediate preparation for Lent. John the Baptist's call to repentance was also addressed to us. Let us try to hear his words in our hearts so that prayer, fasting, and mercy may accompany us throughout Lent.

INTENTIONS – PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Our parishioners, the founders of our parish, our benefactors, those who are sick, those who cannot make it to church, also: Fr. Serhii, and his family, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Nancy Erdek, Kay Dinko, Andy Turian, Doris Ruszin, Anne Gupman, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Anna Martin, Marge Dulina, Georgianna Kostak, Betty Rankin, our first responders, and all military service men and women throughout the world.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician and Healer of souls and bodies, grant them peace and good health for many blessed years!

CONTRIBUTIONS: Patronage: 12.26.2021 - \$1,707.75 Abingdon: 12.19.2021 - \$175.00
Christmas Eve: 12.24.2021 - \$693.00 Christmas Day: 12.25.2021 - \$591.00
November Tithely: \$1,329.03

Thank you to those who continue to support our church and for your dedication to our parish. If you would like to make a donation, using our online giving account, please visit our website and click on the Tithely link.

“Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth” (Dt. 8:18).

PATRONAGE FREEZER SALE: The following are available for purchase:

1. Frozen Pirohi – cost is \$7/dozen or a bag of 4 dozen/\$25.00
2. Frozen Kolachi - \$15 each (nut, raspberry, apricot, or poppy seed) – supply is limited

Please see Mary Demyan if you are interested in purchasing any of the above items.

2020 GIVING CONTRIBUTIONS: Just to let you know, your monetary 2020 donation amount, to Patronage Church, will be provided in a letter that will be available by the end of January.

GREEK CATHOLIC UNION (GCU) 2022 ART & PHOTO CONTEST: The theme is, “My favorite vacation spot!” The contest runs from January 1st – April 4th, 2022. For more information, visit GCU.usa.com. You can also contact Chris Chamberlain at 724-495-3400, x3810 or events@GCUusa.com. Entries should be mailed to: GCU Art Contest, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009. ***There is a limit of one entry per member, and all contestants must have been a GCU member for one year.***

1. If you are 12 or younger, enter your artwork! Submission must be original on paper or art board (maximum size 12"X18"). Include a short description of your art, name, age, address, phone number, and email address on the back of your submission.
2. If you are 13 and up (age divisions are: 13-21 and age 22 and older) enter your photo! Include a short description, name, age, address, phone number, and email address with your submission. Photos that include identifiable people require a model release. The model release form is available for download at GCUusa.com/events.

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH: We welcome all new visitors, to our parish family, and are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and hope you will become an active part of our parish community. ***If you would like to be added to our parish email list, send us an email at patronage.church@gmail.com.***

“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples” (Isaiah 56:7).

CHILDREN'S CORNER



EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION (ECF) PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN: Please visit www.godwithusonline.org, and be sure to click on "Ruthenian," for this week's catechetical resources, including the Gospel summary and discussion questions, that you can use in your catechesis.

"Today the Lord appears in the Jordan's streams and cries out to John: Do not be afraid to baptize me, for I have come to save Adam, the first created" (Kontakion of the Pre-feast).

BIBLE WORD SEARCH!

BASIC WORDS OF THE BIBLE

G	E	N	T	I	L	E	B	I	B	L	E	D
O	B	A	A	B	R	T	J	E	M	D	I	I
D	P	I	E	S	I	M	N	I	P	B	N	
T	E	M	P	T	A	T	I	O	N	J	A	H
H	R	P	S	H	L	H	R	P	I	E	P	O
E	S	R	A	L	V	E	A	N	S	R	T	L
F	E	A	C	E	A	H	C	A	T	U	I	Y
A	C	Y	R	H	T	O	L	Z	R	S	Z	S
T	U	E	I	E	I	L	E	A	Y	A	E	P
H	T	I	F	M	O	Y	J	R	H	L	N	I
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R	W	E	C	L	F	A	I	T	H	M	L	I
B	S	J	E	S	U	S	C	H	R	I	S	T

JESUS CHRIST
SALVATION
JEW
GENTILE
HOLY SPIRIT
GOD THE FATHER
PERSECUTE

PRAY
TITHE
MINISTRY
BIBLE
HOLY
SACRIFICE
FAITH

MIRACLE
NAZARETH
BETHLEHEM
JERUSALEM
BAPTIZE
TEMPTATION
SIN

CREATED BY MELINDA SKAGGS