

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saints Charitina and Methodia -- October 5th

Life's Choices

Native Americans have a legend about the two paths one can take in life. One path is broad and easy and slopes down rolling hills. At the bottom of the hill, however, is a barren dessert where nothing lives. The other path is narrow and rocky. It winds around dangerous curves and is filled with unexpected difficulties. However, at the end of this path is the lush greenness of life and happiness. The Native Americans told this story to their children in order to teach them that the easy way is not always the best way. Strong character is built by facing obstacles, not by avoiding them. In the same way, Christians grow in virtue and grace often through facing trials and struggles.

The life of the holy martyr Charitina

is witness to this lesson. She was a young orphan girl – of great beauty – who was raised by devout Christian parents. At an early age she made the decision to dedicate her life to Christ in perpetual virginity. Through her example, many others were converted to Christ. This infuriated the pagan emperor who ordered that the hair of this beautiful servant of God be cut off and that hot coals be placed upon her head. She endured this and other inhumane and degrading tortures until the Lord took her soul to abide with Him in Paradise.

Her path in life was not an easy one, but it was the right one. Upon which path do the decisions that we make in life place us? Do we choose merely the easy path or the path that leads to Life?



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

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Men's Club Coordinator: ???

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

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, October 10th 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, October 16th at 10am

DIVINE LITURGY - PATRONAGE CHURCH

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday 10.03.2021	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert
Tuesday 10.05.2021	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert
Friday 10.08.2021	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert
Sunday 10.10.2021	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Robert Elwell and what would have been their 60 th Wedding Anniversary Requested by: Ann Marie Elwell

This is the **19th Sunday After Pentecost.**
 Propers begin on page 130, Tone 2.

RECTORY MAILBOX REPAIR NEEDED: We are looking for someone to volunteer to stabilize the rectory mailbox post. If you would like to volunteer to repair it, please let Fr. Serhii know.

OUR DAILY BREAD: Our next collection date will be **Sunday, December 5th**. If you would like to prepare a casserole to donate for this project, please contact Mike Skovran at 410-979-4791. Aluminum pans are available in the church hall to use when making a casserole.

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Sunday Blessing

**May you feel content with the knowledge that you are loved and treasured by God,
may you feel relaxed and at peace knowing that the Lord is aware of your
every need and He has promised to meet them,
may you feel a sense of gratitude as you remember your blessings, and
may you find comfort knowing that someone is praying for you today.
May the Lord's blessing be upon you today and every day!**

18th Sunday After Pentecost

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

In the words of today's Gospel, Jesus Christ instills in us a perfect love for God and for our neighbor. "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Cor. 13:4-7).

The Apostle Paul writes to the Colossians: "...forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And over all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Col. 3:13-14).

Everyone has experienced many annoying moments in their lives. Sometimes it happens that the person we love, who is our friend, behaves very badly towards us. We do not expect anything like that from them. Anger arises in our heart towards such a person. It seems that we will never be able to forgive them. This is beyond our power. No matter how hard it is for us, no matter how great our grief, if we do not care about our eternal life, we must forgive our enemies. Unforgiveness is the rejection of God's mercy on us. How many times do we partake of the Mysteries of Repentance and confess our sins, which we have made many times over? We hope that the Lord God has forgiven us in the person of the priest. The Lord God forgives us, but on one condition, if we forgive our neighbors. That is why Jesus Christ reminds us, "...give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (Luke 6:38).

It is very difficult to forgive on the human side, but what is impossible for a person is possible for God. Ask Jesus Christ to help you so that you can forgive. If we do not do this, we are hypocritical: we say one thing and do another.

There was once a grandfather, so old that he could barely stand on his feet. And his hands shook so much that he could hardly hold a spoon as he sat down to eat. Sometimes a little soup splashed on the table and ran down his beard. His son and daughter-in-law were very upset, and finally they began to feed their grandfather not at the table, but in a corner by the stove, and they gave him food in a clay bowl. The grandfather looked sadly, from the corner, at the table where they were eating, and there were tears in his eyes.

One day the grandfather could not hold the bowl with his trembling hands. It fell down and crashed. The daughter-in-law scolded him, but he said nothing, just sighed heavily. Then the son and daughter-in-law went to the store and bought a wooden bowl. From then on, the old man ate from it. One day they were all sitting in the house, and the four-year-old grandson was putting some boards together. "The father asked him, what are you doing?" "Making a trough," the boy replied, "You and mom will eat from that bowl when I grow up." The man and woman looked at each other, cried and immediately took the grandfather to the table. From then on, the old man ate with everyone, and the son and daughter-in-law did not tell him anything, not even as he splashed some soup. ("Grandfather and Grandson" - Tales of the Brothers Grimm.)

What a wonderful story! It is sad that each of us can become a participant in such a story. Love our parents!

The Apostle John says, "If any one says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar..." (1 John 4:20). You will find that he gets upset with his neighbors very easily, is angry, feels pain in the heart, shortening his life, destroying his soul, and the fruits of the Holy Spirit: tenderness, humility, and meekness.

African folklore has a story of the "smart and stupid monkeys." Two monkeys lived on one island: one smart, the other stupid. Somehow, they agreed to always follow the principles of the golden rule and "do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

One day, during a flood, the stupid monkey climbed a tall tree to escape the water. When he saw a fish swimming in the water around the tree, the monkey felt sorry for the fish, and decided to save it from the flood. The monkey caught the fish, climbed with it to the top of the tree, and held it firmly until it died.

The smart monkey also climbed a tree and saw a fish. But he knew that fish could not live without water. "If I were a fish," thought the monkey, "would I want to be pulled out of the water?" "Of course not!" The monkey decided and left the fish alone. As it turned out, the fish not only did not suffer from the flood, but found a lot of food on the flooded shore.

Dear believers! Each of us is endowed with a high talent - the Divine ability to love. If we lose this talent, all of our other virtues will become useless and even harmful to our souls. It is about this path that the Apostle Paul speaks, urging the faithful, "But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way" (1 Cor. 12:31).

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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. 5

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

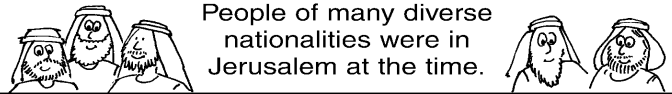
PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION: Please mark your calendar – we will be celebrating our church's feast day, Protection of the Theotokos, **on Sunday, October 10th, with a Slavonic Liturgy followed by an ethnic pot-luck dinner in our parish hall.** Please sign up, on the flyer posted on the bulletin board, in the Narthex. Any questions, please contact Mary Demyan. There will also be Slavonic prayer books, in the pews, so you can sing along.

"COME AND SEE" WEEKEND OF DISCOVERY: A *free* retreat weekend hosted by the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA, is scheduled for November 5–7, 2021 for men, ages 18-35, single or married, who may be considering a vocation to the priesthood in the Byzantine Catholic Church. The retreat will be conducted in a "no pressure, no hard-sell" environment. The atmosphere will be prayerful, positive, and fraternal. All registrants must be fully COVID vaccinated to attend. **For more information and to register, no later than October 13, 2021, please visit www.bcs.edu.**

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](#) for more information. Sessions will be held on the 4th Sunday of the month beginning September 26th through August from 7-8:30pm.

GOD WITH US ONLINE: The second webinar of this curriculum year will be "**Singing our Faith; Music as Catechesis in our Eastern Christian Tradition.**" This is a free program and takes place on Wednesday, October 13th, from 8-9pm. Rev. David Anderson will be the presenter. Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. To register, visit www.godwithusonline.org.

CHILDREN'S CORNER



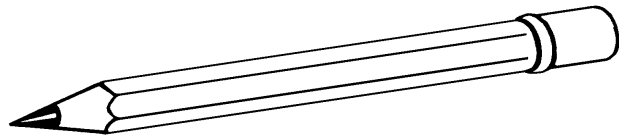
People of many diverse nationalities were in Jerusalem at the time.

Find and circle the various countries, districts, and nationalities that were mentioned.

Arabs	Egypt	Mesopotamia	Pontus
Asia	Galileans	Medes	Rome
Cappadocia	Jews	Pamphylia	
Cretans	Judea	Parthians	
Cyrene	Libya	Phrygia	



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



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

A reminder that ECF will continue as a homeschool program. Textbooks are now available and you can pick them up on the cabinet in the room next to the Narthex. They are marked with your family's name on them. **It is also not too late to register, a child, for our ECF Program. Please send Fr. Serhii an email and let him know. "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6).**

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, Arlene Duda, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Nancy Erdek, Kay Dinko, Andy Turian, Doris Ruszin, Anne Gupman, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Anna Martin, Marge Dulina, Paul Ruszin, Sr., 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: 9.26.2021 - \$785.50

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 church's website and click on the Tithely link. **"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).**

2021 "FALL" SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL: Help is needed after Liturgy today to stuff envelopes for the festival mailing. Please don't forget to mark your calendar - our next food festival is Saturday, November 20th, from 10am-2pm. Our festival will be for pre-orders/take-out only. **We need volunteers to help make our festival a success. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please be generous with your time.** You can contact Mary Demyan, mdemya1@verison.net or 410-591-5654, if you are able to volunteer. Festival order forms will be mailed out this week and are also available on our website, under "News." You can either submit orders online, mail your form to the church rectory, or leave it in the collection basket, in the back of our Temple. **The pre-order date deadline is Monday, November 8, 2021.**

Sunday, October 3, 2021, after Liturgy – stuff envelopes for mailing with festival information
Saturday, October 23, 2021, at 9am – holupki making (volunteers are needed to help roll, cook, and clean-up)
Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 9am – kolachi making (we plan on making 400+ kolachi and need as many volunteers as possible to help roll, bake, package them up, and help in clean-up)
Saturday, November 20, 2021, from 10am-2pm – volunteers needed to work the festival, as well as help is needed to clean up after the festival

KIELBASI FREEZER SALE: We have a limited supply of frozen "smoked kielbasi" for sale and available to take home after Liturgy today. If you are interested in purchasing any, please see Mary Demyan or Sharon Kotula. Price and size vary.

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).