



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

1260 Stevens Avenue, Arbutus, MD 21227-2644

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Pastor: Reverend Serhii Deiak
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Cell phone: (240) 644-2661
Office: (410) 247-4936

Deacon: Anthony Kotlar
kotlar@alum.mit.edu
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, December 19th, 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, December 18th, at 10am

DIVINE LITURGY - PATRONAGE CHURCH

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday 12.19.2021	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Paul Ruszin Requested by: Elwell Family
Friday 12.24.2021	6:00pm	Christmas Eve	
Saturday 12.25.2021	9:00am	Christmas - Birth of our Lord	
Sunday 12.26.2021	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert

This is the *Sunday Before Christmas – of the Holy Fathers.*
Propers begin on page 285; Tone 5.

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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.

“COME AND SEE:” With the holidays quickly approaching, why not share a book, produced by the Eparchy of Passaic, about our Byzantine Catholic Church and its traditions. This book makes a great gift and can also be an invitation to share with others who are in search of a new spiritual home, who may want to learn more about God, and also build a lasting personal relationship with Him. The cost is \$5/book, and is available on the book rack in the Narthex.

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

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HOLY HUMOR: Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents' house the week before Christmas. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers. The younger one began praying at the top of his lungs: "I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE..." "I PRAY FOR A NEW INTENDO..." His older brother leaned over, nudged him and said, "Why are you shouting? God isn't deaf." To which the little brother replied, "No but Baba is!"

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I Said a Christmas Prayer for You

*because the season's near.
I didn't ask for riches
but for gifts so much more dear.
I asked for joyful gatherings
with your family all around,
And for carols to inspire you
with their old familiar sound.
I asked for quite moments
in your heart on Christmas morn,
For a special time to celebrate
the Savior who was born.*

Sunday before Christmas

Dear brothers and sisters!

Here we are again, this year, approaching the long-awaited and joyful holiday - Christmas. Celebrating the Nativity of our Savior Jesus Christ, we remember the circumstances of his birth: a poor stable, escape to Egypt ...

By his birth, Christ reminds us that the Kingdom of Heaven is near and the way is open. It originates here on earth, where Christ is, when his love is in the hearts of men and unites them: husband and wife in marriage, children and parents in the family, Christians in the parish community. When the Pharisees once asked Christ when the Kingdom of Heaven would come, He replied, "The kingdom of God will come unnoticed; they shall not say, Behold, it is here. - or: He's there! For the Kingdom of God is among you" (Luke 17:21). A special sign of the presence of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God on earth is his Church and the Holy Mysteries in it, and in particular the Holy Eucharist, where the living Christ is present in the form of bread and wine.

The Holy Fathers assure us that our salvation is happening here and now on earth, and we receive its fullness in eternity. Thus the words of Christ are fulfilled: "He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, liveth everlasting life" (Jn 5:24), "He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood liveth eternal life" (Jn 6:54). Because when we are united with Jesus Christ, we are united with God, the source of our happiness.

Thanks to Jesus, we can already here on earth know and feel the blissful state of heaven, the fruits of our salvation: lack of patience, peace and lasting joy. This is confirmed by the words of the funeral prayer: "Lord, rest the souls of your servants, where there is no pain, no sorrow, no sighing, but life is endless." The Apostle John assures us of this in the words of the book of Revelation: "God himself will be with them, and will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death, no sorrow, no crying, no pain, for all that has passed is past" (Rev. 21, 3-4). "For he is our peace," adds the Apostle Paul.

40 students were interviewed at one university. The professor asked them to write the word "Christmas" and everything that reminds them. For most students, Christmas was associated with the following words: "Christmas tree", "gifts", "dinner", "guests", "entertainment". Unfortunately, none of the respondents mentioned the birth of Jesus Christ in a word. And most people, when celebrating Christmas, do not think about who is the cause of that holiday.

Dear believers! As we prepare for Christmas, let us prepare a stable in our hearts for the baby Jesus. And as the sages from the east came to the newborn, so I invite you all to come and celebrate his birth together in our Church.

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, Paul Ruszin, Sr., Georgianna Kostak, Alexandra Kotula Mariotti, Betty Rankin, Greg Rudy, 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!

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.

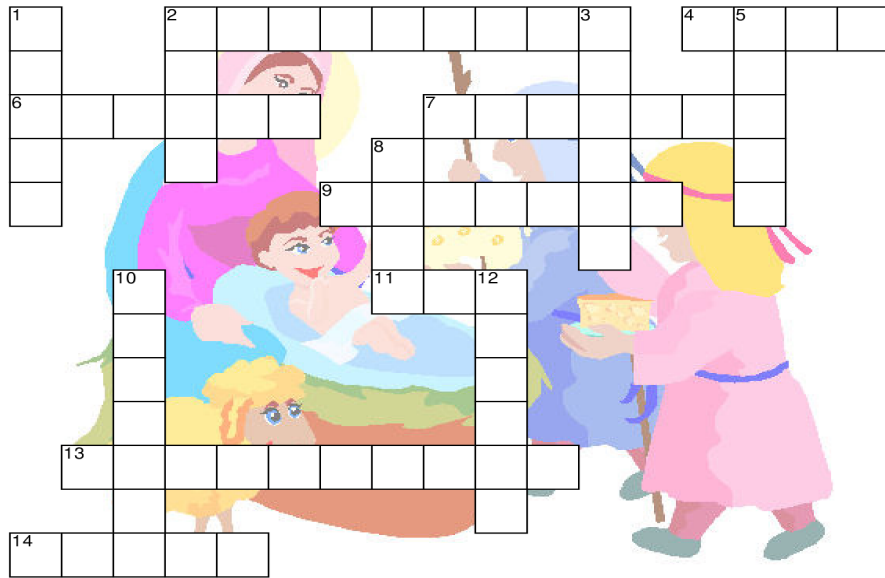
WELCOME TO OUR PARISH: We welcome all new visitors, to our parish family, and are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and hope you will become an active part of our parish community. ***If you would like to be added to our parish email list, send us an email at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

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

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Christmas Nativity

www.kidsCanHaveFun.com

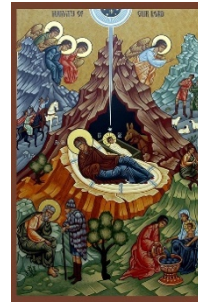


Across

- 2. The town where Baby Jesus was born.
- 4. Jesus mother's name.
- 6. The inn-keeper told Mary that she could stay in the _____ with the animals.
- 7. There was a _____ star that lead the wise men to Baby Jesus.
- 9. _____ brought Jesus gifts and travelled far.
- 11. Baby Jesus was also the son of _____.
- 13. The wise men _____ baby Jesus.
- 14. The manger was filled with _____ to make it comfortable for baby Jesus.

Down

- 1. Mary was told by the angel to call the baby _____.
- 2. An angel told Mary that she would have a very special _____.
- 3. Jesus lay in a _____.
- 5. An _____ told the Shepherds about Jesus birth.
- 8. Jesus was also known as the newborn _____.
- 10. Jesus would be our _____.
- 12. Mary rode on a _____ to find a place to stay.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Our parish is once again sponsoring a Christmas poinsettia sale. The flowers will be placed within the church and altar for Christmas Divine Liturgy. Each commemoration will be published in a special insert of the Christmas Bulletin.

Plants may be taken by the giver after Christmas Liturgy. **Please place the order form and payment in the offering basket by today.** Make checks payable to: *Patronage Church.*

Name of Giver: _____
In Honor of: _____
In Memory of: _____

Type of poinsettia (*check one*): \$13.00 each
 Red ____ White ____ Pink ____ Marble ____

Name of Giver: _____
In Honor of: _____
In Memory of: _____

Type of poinsettia (*check one*): \$13.00 each

Red ____ White ____ Pink ____ Marble ____

TOTAL AMOUNT ORDERED: ____ x \$13.00 = \$_____

EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION (ECF) PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN:

1. Please visit www.godwithusonlineorg, 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.
2. ***This morning, after Divine Liturgy, Fr. Serhii will be hearing confession for the children in ECF.*** Children should gather in the front of church after Liturgy. Parents, please review the confession prayer with your children. If you need another confession pamphlet, please email the church and let Fr. Serhii know.