



## PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

**BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE**  
 1260 Stevens Avenue, Arbutus, MD 21227-2644  
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 Fr. Serhii cell: (240) 644-2661

Deacon: Anthony Kotlar  
 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 2

### 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 8

### DIVINE LITURGY - PATRONAGE CHURCH

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday 12.26.2021	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert
Monday 12.27.2021	9:00am	Divine Liturgy Stephen Protomartyr	In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert
Saturday 1.01.2022	11:00am	Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert
Sunday 1.02.2022	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Lisa Gregorio Requested by: Anna Esquela

This is the *Sunday After the Nativity – David, Joseph, and James.*  
 Propers begin on page 302; Tone 6.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

# Nativity Word Search

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



angels  
 Christmas  
 donkey  
 innkeeper  
 Jesus  
 Joseph  
 king  
 manger  
 Mary  
 nativity  
 salvation  
 sheep  
 shepherds  
 star  
 wisemen

**EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION (ECF) PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN:** Please visit [www.godwithusonline.org](http://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.

*Christos Razdajetsja! Slavite Jeho! Christ is Born! Glorify Him!*

**HOLY HUMOR:** A boy wanted to be Joseph in the church play. He was cast as the landlord and objected loudly, but to no avail. When the play was presented, Mary and Joseph knocked on the door and asked him if he had a room for them. The boy smiled and said, "Yes, sure. Lots of room. Come on in!"

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*Troparion of the Nativity*

*Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge;  
for through it, those who worshiped the stars have learned from a star to  
worship You,  
the Sun of Justice, and to know you, the Dawn from on high:  
Glory to You, O Lord!*

## Vigil of The Nativity

# Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

We are now approaching the Feast of the Nativity of Christ! Today, Christmas Eve, is a special day, because Holy Mother Church uses this vigil celebration to prepare us in a special way to accept into our hearts and souls the One born of the Virgin Mary, Christ the Savior.

Not only does the Christmas Vigil stand out from all the other days of preparation leading up to the solemn feast of the Lord's Nativity, this vigil also distinguishes Christmas from most of the other twelve major feasts of our church year. Only the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord has a liturgical arrangement similar to that of the Nativity. The Christmas Vigil can be equated with the ray that penetrates us from the "never-ending day of the Kingdom of Christ." It opens before us the veil of eternity and inspires believers to encounter the Feast of the Nativity, which St. Gregory The Wonderworker called "the great and wonderful mystery."

The Prophet Isaiah foretold that "The people walking in darkness will see a great light" (Is 9: 1). This prophecy continues to excite us, especially when we hear it in the Christmas Vigil Liturgy. On this night, even as the spirit of darkness envelops the world, an event is being repeated that never ceases to amaze us: the people who walk in darkness are seeing a great light—a light that makes us think about the mystery of Christ's birth.

An ancient text of the Slavic Church known as The Slavic Prologue in its sermon for December 24 offers this spiritual encouragement for the faithful: "Know, brethren, that this day is a fast before the Feast of the Nativity of Christ. Therefore, on this day, gather with love and purity for prayer, overcoming anger, clearing bodily transgressions, and rejecting all bad deeds, so that we may become worthy to partake of the Body of God with pure mouths and immaculate hearts. The Lord clothed Himself for us and voluntarily became poor."

This evening the Church reminds us again that God became man for our salvation. Christ, as Saint Leo the Great teaches, assumed the nature of the human race in order to return it to its Creator, so that when the Father of Death, the devil (Rev. 2:24), seized it, he was defeated by it. St. Leo tells us that "In order to call us to eternal bliss from our ancient shackles and earthly errors, the One, to whom we ourselves could not ascend, descended to us."

On this night we share the joy of the Gospel: God loves us, He loves us so much that He has given us His Son, so that He may be a light to us in darkness. He is the light that illuminates the darkness. He is our world.

The shepherds were the first to see the "tent" in which the Lord chose to dwell among us, the first to see the earthly body of the Christ Child. They became the first because they were among the least of Christ's brothers. And they became the first because they were not sleeping at night, rather they were keeping vigil over their flock. Today, tonight, we are like them because we also came to our church to meet Him.

*Dear Believers!* Let us stand with the shepherds before the Infant Jesus, let us stand in silence. Together with them, let us thank the Lord for giving us the child Jesus, and together with them let us raise from the depths of our hearts our cry of praise: We bless you, Lord God Almighty, who humbled Yourself for us. Being immeasurable, You diminished Yourself; being rich, You impoverished Yourself; being omnipotent, You humbled Yourself. On this holy evening, fill our hearts with Your tenderness, love, peace, and mercy.

**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, 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!*

<b>CONTRIBUTIONS:</b> Patronage: 12.05.2021 - \$2,349.80	Hagerstown: 12.04.2021 - \$143.00
12.12.2021 - \$ 791.60	12.18.2021 - \$111.00
12.19.2021 - \$ 598.00	Abingdon: 12.19.2021 - \$175.00

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.

**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](http://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!

**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](http://www.godwithusonline.org).

**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](mailto:patronage.church@gmail.com).*

## Christmas Poinsettias

These flowers have been placed in our church to the Glory of Our Newborn Savior by the following:

### IN MEMORY OF

- ❖ **Christine Colorito** from John & Cathy Gunter
- ❖ **Michael & Ann Totin** from John & Cathy Gunter
- ❖ **Karl R. Karlson** from Dann, Shawna, Gabe & Anna Karlson
- ❖ **Our Deceased Family and Friends** from Dann, Shawna, Gabe, & Anna Karlson
- ❖ **Gordon and Mary Jane** from Katie & Rich McClelland and Family
- ❖ **Richard McClelland Sr.** from Katie & Rich McClelland and Family
- ❖ **Helms and Guenther Families** from Rich, Lisa, & Theo Guba
- ❖ **Guba and Turkos Family** from Rich, Lisa, & Theo Guba
- ❖ **Doris Mihalko** from Dana & Bill Tomcanin
- ❖ **Deceased members of the Wood and Stolte Families** from Clyde and Kelley Wood
- ❖ **Paul Yackanicz** from Regina Yackanicz
- ❖ **Bob Elwell** from Ann Marie Elwell and Family
- ❖ **Michael & Julia Kuchta and Kuchta Family** from Ann Marie Elwell
- ❖ **Wasil and Anna Rudy, and Rudy Family** from Ann Marie Elwell
- ❖ **Michael and Anna Kuchta** from Ann Marie Elwell and Family

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- ❖ **My beloved wife Phyllis Skovran** from Michael Skovran
- ❖ **John & Anne Skovran and Andrew & Dorothy Benlock** from Michael Skovran
- ❖ **Bubba** from John, Theresa and Matthew
- ❖ **Tom Ruszin** from Doris Ruszin
- ❖ **William & Martha Rudy** from Dennis & Sharon Kotula and Family
- ❖ **Philip & Esther Kotula** from Dennis & Sharon Kotula and Family

***Vicnaja Pamjat!***

### IN HONOR OF

- ❖ **Sally Turnball** from Dana & Bill Tomcanin
- ❖ **Jocelyn McClelland** from Katie & Rich McClelland and Family
- ❖ **Paul Ruszin Sr.** from Doris Ruszin

***Plants may be taken, by the giver, after Divine Liturgy. Many thanks to those who purchased Poinsettias in memory and/or in honor of a family member or friend!***



We wish everyone a safe and Blessed New Year!