

THIRTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Ὁ ΧΡΙΣΤὸς ἰώμενος τοὺς δέκα λεπρούς



*Icon of the Cure of the Ten Lepers – Luke 17:12-19*





## PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

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Cantor: Michael Kulka

Cantor: Joseph Kotlar, Sr.

Cantor: Ann Marie Kotlar

### Patronage Church at Hagerstown:

St. Ann Catholic Church: 1525 Oak Hill Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742

Contact: Adam and Lauren Myers: (301) 791-0930 / [axxearp@yahoo.com](mailto:axxearp@yahoo.com)

Next Liturgy: TBD

### PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
28 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost 12.10.2023	11:00am	Divine Liturgy	For: +Sonia Lopatofsky From: M/M Kevin Ross & Family
28 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Forefathers 12.17.2023	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For: +Michael & +Margaret Loncaric From: Anna Esquela

Today is the **28<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**.  
 The Propers for today are on page 135, Tone 3,  
 in the teal Liturgy book located in the pews.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Confession is available beginning an hour before Divine Liturgy, and ending 15 minutes before the start of services.

*Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na viki! Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!* **1**

**HOLY COMMUNION AND VISITATION OF THE SICK:** Holy Communion can be brought to parishioners who are ill, in the hospital, or at home. If you would like to receive Communion or a visit by either Fr. Vasyl, or Deacon Tony, you can send the church an email or call either one. Their contact information is on page 1 of this bulletin.

**ATTENTION GREEK CATHOLIC UNION (GCU) MEMBERS:** Dennis Kotula is Patronage Church's GCU Parish Coordinator, and is working on compiling a list of Patronage Church parishioners who are GCU members. If you are a member, please send him an email at [dennis.kotula@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.kotula@gmail.com), and let him know.

**LITURGY INTENTIONS:** *Liturgy intention books and forms have been updated, and are now available on the bookrack in the Narthex. Forms can also be found on our website.* If you would like to request an Intention, please either call, or email Fr. Vasyl, and let him know. **Checks should be made payable to: Fr. Vasyl Symyon.** You can either mail your Intention request to the rectory, or place it in the offertory basket in the back of our Temple.

**2023 BISHOP'S APPEAL:** You will be receiving information in the mail shortly regarding this year's Appeal. Pledges and payments will be accepted through June 30, 2024. Any contributions received after December 31, 2023, must be attributed to the 2024 tax year. All checks must be made payable to: Eparchy of Passaic, and not Patronage Church. You may also pledge/donate online at: [www.eparchyofpassaic.com](http://www.eparchyofpassaic.com). Our parish goal is \$9,800.00, and if we achieve or exceed this amount, our parish will receive a 40% refund of the total received. Contributions from the Hagerstown Mission will also be attributed to Patronage Church's total.

**PRINTER CARTRIDGES:** We are collecting used printer cartridges to recycle, and earn rewards to help pay for new cartridges we use to print our weekly bulletins and Liturgical information. You can place your cartridges in the labeled box in the cry room. Many thanks for your contribution!

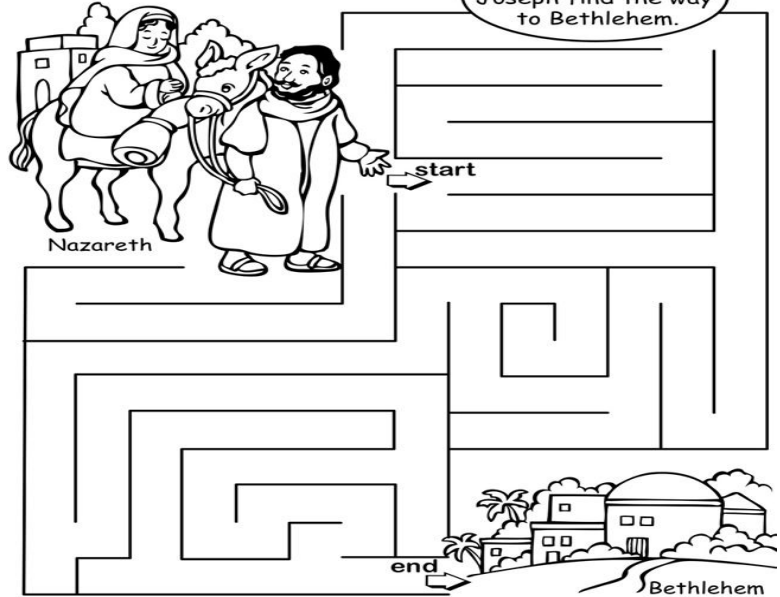
**A MODERN DAY ST. NICHOLAS MIRACLE:** The lives of many Greek Catholic Union members, living in Van Meter and Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania, were spared because they attended religious services on the Feast Day of St. Nicholas, instead of going to work. They were employed by the Darr mines and were requested to work on December 19, 1907 (when the Feast of St. Nicholas was celebrated according to the "old" or Julian Calendar). And despite the fact that work had been slack, they refused to go to work and attended the Liturgy that day instead. That very day a huge mine explosion occurred, snuffing out the lives of approximately 200 men. Spared were the Greek Catholic Union members and others who decided, instead, to attend the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of St. Nicholas. The following account appeared in the area newspaper:

*Jacob's Creek, PA, December 19th – "Religious fervor is due to sweep through the Youghiogheny Valley as never before as a consequence of the Darr disaster. Today was a holiday of the Greek (Byzantine) Catholic Church, and as such it was observed by many of the men who usually work in the Darr mines. Usually about 400 men toil within the mine. On account of the religious holiday – it was the Feast of St. Nicholas – this number was nearly cut in half, and these, almost two hundred men, who were saved by religious devotion, will certainly be more devout than ever, after the extent of the mine's horror is fully realized."*

*"The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic His giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves."*  
 - St. Nicholas of Myra

# A LONG JOURNEY

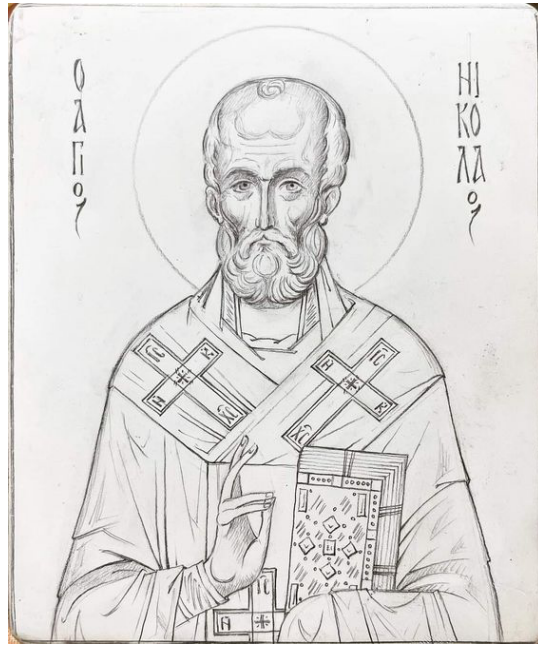
Help Mary and Joseph find the way to Bethlehem.



Joseph and Mary went on a long journey from the town of Nazareth to the town of Bethlehem.  
(Luke 2:1-5)

# CHILDREN'S CORNER

## St. Nicholas



Fill in the blanks by using these words:

**Myra need character God December 6<sup>th</sup> Bishop life God protector**

1. St. Nicholas' Feast Day is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. St. Nicholas dedicated his \_\_\_\_\_ to serving \_\_\_\_\_ and was made \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ while still a young man.
3. St. Nicholas helped those in \_\_\_\_\_ and taught people about \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Through the centuries many stories and legends have been of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary \_\_\_\_\_ and why he is so beloved and revered as \_\_\_\_\_ and helper of those in need.

**EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION (ECF) PROGRAM:** Please mark your calendar with these upcoming dates.

- **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** - ECF Confession opportunity before Christmas
- **Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve Nativity presentation

Any questions, please contact Loui Villanueva at [villanuevaluxmundi@gmail.com](mailto:villanuevaluxmundi@gmail.com).

**BECOMING BYZANTINE (BYZANTINE CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR ADULTS):** This *Becoming Byzantine* series is a FREE online introduction to Byzantine Catholic faith. This is a series of pre-recorded online presentations (webinars and lessons) for those interested in learning more about the Byzantine Catholic Church, are considering formally joining the Church through baptism or transfer, or already are a Byzantine Christian who desires to go deeper into his or her faith and practice or to learn how to share this faith with others. Please visit [www.becomingbyzantine.updates.church](http://www.becomingbyzantine.updates.church) for more information, and access to the webinars and lessons.

**“COME AND SEE:”** Produced by the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, this is a resource which aims to share the “Good News” – the transforming message of the Gospel within the context of the Byzantine Catholic tradition, and was designed with a two-fold goal in mind: 1) to be beneficial to all the existing Byzantine Catholics, and serve as the ABCs about our church and tradition, and 2) it is also an invitation to all those who are in search of a new spiritual home, who want to learn more about God and build a lasting personal friendship with Him. It is an introduction about who are and what we believe and it aims to grow awareness and participation in the great Christian richness of our Byzantine tradition and speak about its practices. It is an invitation to a journey to experience the Mystery of God. The cost of this book is only \$5.00, and is located on the book rack in the Narthex. You can place your money in the marked envelope next to the books. Any questions, please contact Sharon Kotula.

**ALL-OCCASION CARDS FOR SALE:** Sister Seraphim Olsafsky, OSBM, from the Sisters of St. Basil, has turned some of her paintings into all-occasion cards and are being sold in a package of ten. 4 Birthday (2 of 2 designs), 2 Wellness, 2 Congratulations, and 2 Sympathy. Inside each card is an inspirational message and a verse from the Bible. Vicnaja Pamjat! is on the back of the sympathy card, and Mnohaja L'ita! Blahaja L'ita! is on the back of the wellness card. The cost is \$14.50 + shipping & handling. Each card is 4 1/4" X 5 1/2". The order form can be found at <https://sistersofstbasil.org/greeting-cards/>. Please consider purchasing some of these beautiful cards to benefit the Sisters of St. Basil.

**BYZANTINE ICON PAINTING WORKSHOP (UPDATED INFORMATION):** Patronage Church is planning a Byzantine Icon Painting Workshop with Iconographer, Wayne Hajos. Wayne wrote many icons in our church. This workshop is an excellent opportunity for spiritual growth in our faith! Take advantage of this opportunity! **The class will be held on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, from 9am – 5pm, and Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30am – 7:30pm.** The class fee will be \$250 with all supplies included. No art experience is necessary, and we will paint an icon of our church's patron, the Theotokos to register, please send a deposit of \$50, by check, along with your name, and mail it to: Wayne Hajos, 400 Symphony Circle #555, Hunt Valley, MD 21030. The balance of \$200 will be due on the first day of class. Class size is limited to 20 students max, and will be first come, first serve! Registration deadline is January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024! If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Ross at [keviross@gmail.com](mailto:keviross@gmail.com), or by text/phone at 570-561-6540.

**GIFT FROM ST. NICHOLAS:** Many thanks to those who made a donation for the Seminarians in Uzhhorad, Ukraine. **We collected \$1,374.00.** Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!

**PATRONAGE CHURCH SHOPPING BAGS FOR SALE:** Christmas is right around the corner. If you haven't gotten our new shopping bag, with the church's logo on it yet, they are \$5 per bag. Please see Mary Demyan, or Sharon Kotula, if you would like to purchase any.

**RELIGIOUS ARTICLES FOR SALE:** We have a variety of religious articles available for immediate purchase. If you are interested, please see Sharon Kotula.

**PATRONAGE FREEZER SALE:** We have pirohi for sale, and quantities are limited. Please see Mary Demyan, if you are interested in purchasing any.

**PARISH CENSUS:** We are still missing a few census forms. If you have not completed one, please do so as soon as possible, so that we can update our church records. You can locate a census form on our website, or on the bookrack in the Narthex. Thank you for your assistance!

**BULLETIN COVER:** Please note that the publisher for our bulletin covers discovered a design error. This week's cover reads the "Thirty-Eighth Sunday of Pentecost," and should have read the "Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Pentecost." The publisher apologizes for the mistake, but it was too late in the production process to correct it.

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## Schedule of Christmas Services 2023

### The Feast of the Nativity

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

**Saturday, December 23, 2023** – Vigil Divine Liturgy for Sunday Before Christmas: 4pm

**Sunday, December 24, 2023** – NO MORNING LITURGY

**Sunday, December 24, 2023** – Christmas Eve – Compline with St. John Chrysostom Liturgy: 4pm

**Monday, December 25, 2023** – Nativity of Our Lord – Divine Liturgy: 9am

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** The people of Ukraine, that peace may be soon be restored to their land, our parishioners, the founders of our parish, our benefactors, those who are sick, and those who cannot make it to church. Also, Fr. Vasyl Symyon, Matthew Skovran, Mike Skovran, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Veronica Ruszin, Anna Martin, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Howard Guba, Missy Kakalec, Albert Ondrish, 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!*

**STEWARDSHIP:** (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733> – the link is also on our website)

**Patronage Church – December 3, 2023**  
**Offertory: \$1,665.00      Tithe.ly: \$180.00**

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

**ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION:** Following Divine Liturgy today, please join us in our social hall for our St. Nicholas celebration. We will be having a presentation by the children in ECF, a special visit from St. Nicholas, himself, along with a parish pot-luck luncheon. **Many thanks to the GCU for their donation of St. Nicholas pamphlets, coloring books, and candy for our youth, along with a ham for our dinner.** We are grateful and blessed for all of their continued support and donations to our parish.

**SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL RESULTS:** We are happy to announce that once again, we had a very successful festival. After all the costs were tabulated, we cleared **\$9,930.73**. Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this festival such a success, and to Mary Demyan for chairing this event. Everyone's support included many hours of hard work, and significant financial support including **\$3,360.00** of cash and non-cash donations to help offset festival costs. Your dedication to our church is truly appreciated!

**EPISTLE READERS:** If you are interested in chanting the Epistle, please see Joe Kotlar or Mike Kulka after Divine Liturgy. A schedule will be created, and the reading can be made available to you to practice ahead of time.

**BIRTHDAY AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:** At the beginning of each month, **starting in January 2024**, we will be celebrating parishioners' birthdays and anniversaries. The month and day will be posted in the bulletin, and we will have a cake in our social hall after Divine Liturgy. If you would like to participate in our monthly celebration, please email the church with the name(s), date, and for anniversaries, let us also know how many years.

**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).

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



## 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 or mail to the rectory by **Sunday, December 17th**. Make checks payable to *Patronage Church*.

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**Name of Giver:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

Type of poinsettia (*check one*): \$12.00 each

Red \_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_ Marble \_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**Name of Giver:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

Type of poinsettia (*check one*): \$12.00 each

Red \_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_ Marble \_\_\_\_

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**TOTAL AMOUNT ORDERED** \_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## *Faith, Cleansing and Gratitude*

Once, as Jesus was passing through Samaria on His way to Jerusalem, ten lepers met Him. They stood afar off and cried: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Jesus saw them and said: "Go, show yourselves to the priest." So in this case He did not touch them. Instead, He tested their faith to see whether they would obey and go to the priests to get a certificate of healing even before they had been healed. They obeyed and were healed.

And one of them returned and with a loud voice glorified God and fell at His feet, giving Him thanks. He was a Samaritan. And Jesus said: "Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Were there not any found to give glory to God except this for-

eigner?" And Jesus said to him: "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well." The Samaritans accepted Christ as the Messiah and became Christians, while the Jews rejected Him.

The Fathers of the Church see a lesson in this for us. The ten lepers signify mankind. We are all leprous, but only one in ten give thanks to God for the salvation He has brought to us. In the same way, only some of the seed sown by God (in the Parable of the Sower) brings forth good fruit. We can all be cleansed by Him, but if we do not return to Him in gratitude and to glorify Him, we cannot be saved.