

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS



*Icon of the Holy Ancestors*



## PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

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### Patronage Church at Hagerstown:

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Next Liturgy: TBD

### PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Saturday Before Christmas 12.23.2023	4:00pm	Divine Liturgy	For: +Simeon Esquela From: Anna Esquela
Christmas Eve Vigil of Christmas Sunday, 12.24.2023	4:00pm	Compline followed by the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom Mirovanije/Anointing	For: Living and Deceased Members of our Parish
Christmas Birth of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ Monday, 12.25.2023	9:00am	Divine Liturgy Mirovanije/Anointing	For: Living and Deceased Members of our Parish
Sunday After Christmas – David, Joseph and James 12.31.2023	9:00am	Diving Liturgy	For: +Michael, +Mary, & +Matthew Loncaric From: Anna Esquela
Circumcision of Our Lord, Feast of St. Basil Monday, 1.1.2024	11:00am	Divine Liturgy Great Blessing of the Water, and Mirovanije/Anointing	For: Living and Deceased Members of our Parish

The Propers for today are on page 146, Tone 5, then page 288 in the teal Liturgy book. **1**

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

**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.

**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.

**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. 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.

**EASTERN CATHOLIC LIFE (ECL):** If you would like to subscribe to the ECL, or change your subscription, please email the church, and let us know no later than **January 28, 2024**. The subscription cost is \$15/year and will be mailed to your home each month.

**PATRONAGE FREEZER SALE:** We have bags of a dozen pirohi of potato and cheese for sale at \$7.00 and 4 dozen bags at \$25.00. We also have bags of a dozen pirohi of farmer's cheese, sauerkraut, and cabbage for sale at \$7.00 each. Nut, poppy, and raspberry kolachi are available for \$15.00 each. Please see Mary Demyan, if you are interested in purchasing any.

**2023 BISHOP'S APPEAL:** The Passaic Eparchy will accept pledges and payments 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 the Eparchy of Passaic**, and mailed to: Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, 445 Lackawanna Avenue, Woodland Park, NJ 07424. 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!

**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.

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

**LEARN ABOUT THE GUBA:** Join the Carpatho-Rusyn Society on *Thursday evening, December 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm*, to learn about the Guba from Dr. Nicole Andel and Dr. Harold Aurand. Who is this character they call "the Guba?" If you are Rusyn and, perhaps, hail from the coal regions, you know the character who scared you as a child chasing you around your house. He came with the Christmas Carolers and was to incite nervous, tense energy all around. "Who's Krampus?" You might say. It's another view! In addition to talking about the Guba, Drs. Andel and Aurand will talk about additional new, exciting research they are engaged in. This free program will be live-streamed on <https://steliasmunhallpa.weebly.com>





This is, dear brothers and sisters, Holy Day of love when heaven and earth celebrate together because the Son of God was born and humbled Himself for us. It is a day when the promised Messiah came to us from heaven to save His world, to reconcile the relationship between God and His people, and to open the closed door of heaven to us.

May the baby Jesus from Bethlehem give all of you love, peace, and a joyful and blessed Christmas among each other. I cordially encourage all of you to walk closer with our Lord this Christmas season; to open your hearts wider to His Love; to fully accept Him; and to understand that He is the first One who loved us.

May the blessing of the Lord be upon you through His grace and loving kindness always, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!  
 Christós Raždájetsja! Slávite Jeho!

## CHILDREN'S CORNER



### Nativity Word Scramble

All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?

1. ASRT                    -----
2. HSERHSEDP        -----
3. YKENDO             -----
4. MAYR                 -----
5. GLEAN                -----
6. SGKIN                -----
7. SJESU                -----
8. ERANMG             -----
9. HJSEPO             -----
10. TEBLAS            -----





### *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!*

**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, Sandy Sabo Rabuse, Nicholas Kotlar, 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 17, 2023**

**Offertory: \$1,275.04 Tithe.ly: \$190.00 Flowers: \$156.00**

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

**THANK YOU:** Dear Patronage Family, thank you for remembering me on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my diaconal ordination. Thank you for the holy icon of the Virgin of Tenderness, the gift, and the cake. You are to me, Dearly Beloved in Christ – Deacon Anthony/Tony Kotlar

**GCU MATCHING FUNDS:** We are happy to report that the GCU sent our church a check last week for \$3,000.00 in Matching Funds based on the income from our Slavic Food Festival in November. Thank you to Dennis Kotula for completing the paperwork, and to the GCU for their ongoing support of our Ruthenian Churches!

**ANNUAL PATRONAGE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SALE:** Thank you to everyone who purchased a Poinsettia. You are welcome to take your Poinsettia home after Christmas services. If you did not purchase a Poinsettia, we have a few extra available, and you are welcome to purchase one for \$12.00. Please see Dennis Kotula.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** *Sunday, January 7, 2024, Divine Liturgy is at 11am; this will be combined with the Liturgy for the Theophany of Our Lord.* After the Liturgy will be the Great Blessing of the Water, and Mirovaniye/Anointing. Following Liturgy, we will be having a dinner in our social hall. Please plan on joining us! More details to follow in next week’s bulletin.

**CHURCH ENVELOPES 2024:** If you do not have church envelopes, and would like to receive them, please send the church an email, and let us know. Envelopes are mailed out bi-monthly.

**2024 LITURGICAL CALENDAR:** Next year’s calendar can be found on the table in the back of our Temple.

**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).*

## *The Story of the Origin of Jesus Christ, Son of David, and the Rest of the Names*

Matthew's genealogy is extraordinarily comprehensive in his theology of the roots of Jesus' story in the Old Testament. But that is only one part of the story of Jesus Christ. The story has a sequence as well; and the continuing sequence is what makes the genealogy "good news" for Matthew's audience and for us. Human beings have been empowered to preserve, proclaim, and convey the salvation brought by Jesus Christ throughout history. The God who wrote the beginnings with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines, and some of those lines are our own lives and witness.

A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure as well as the pure, men to whom the world hearkened and women upon whom the world frowned – this God continues to work through the same melange. If it was a challenge to recognize in the last part of

Matthew's genealogy that totally unknown people were part of the story of Jesus Christ, it may be a greater challenge to recognize that the unknown characters of today are an essential part of the sequence. The proclamation of that genealogy in the Advent liturgy is designed to give us hope about our destiny and our importance.

By stressing the all-powerful grace of God, the genealogy presents its greatest challenge to those who will accept only an idealized Jesus Christ whose story they would write only with straight lines and whose portrait they would paint only in pastel colors. If we look at the whole story and the total picture, the Gospels teach us that Jesus' ministry was not thus; the history of the church teaches us that the sequence is not thus. God's grace can work even with people like us.

*Father Raymond E. Brown, S.S.*