

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON



*Icon of the Prodigal Son*



## PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

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### 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
Sunday of the Prodigal Son 1.28.2024	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For: Living and Deceased Members of Our Parish
Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs Monday, 1.29.2024	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy	For: Living and Deceased Members of Our Parish
Meeting of Our Lord with Simeon and Anna and 1 <sup>st</sup> All Souls Friday, 2.2.2024	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy followed by a Panachida	Reading of the Hramoty List
Sunday of Meat-Fare 2.4.2024	11:00am	Divine Liturgy	For: Living and Deceased Members of Our Parish

The Propers for today are on page 130, Tone 2, then page 216, in the Divine Liturgy book.

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

**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 contact either one.

**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.

**LITURGY INTENTIONS:** It is a beautiful part of our Byzantine Catholic tradition to have the Divine Liturgy celebrated for a special intention or for health and God's blessings upon a living person, or for the repose of the soul of a deceased person. *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.* A donation or stipend is an offering made to the priest for the Divine Liturgy for such a request. **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. A special date may be requested, but they may not always be available. The date is assigned on a first come, first served basis, and are reserved upon receipt of the offering.

**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. If you are using Tithe.ly to make donations to our church and no longer need envelopes, please let us know, as well. Thank you for your assistance in helping us update our parish records!

**2024 PATRONAGE CENSUS:** If you have not completed a parish census form, or have any changes to make to the 2023 form you submitted last year, the 2024 form is available on the bookrack in the Narthex. You can mail your completed form to our church, or drop it in the offertory basket. Please do so no later than **Sunday, February, 4<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for your assistance in helping us to keep our parish records updated!

**EASTERN CATHOLIC LIFE (ECL):** If you would like to subscribe to the ECL, or change/update your subscription, please email the church, and let us know no later than today, **January 28, 2024**. We need to send an updated list to the Eparchy, and this information is needed to do so. The subscription cost is \$15/year and will be mailed to your home each month. Thank you for your assistance in helping us update our parish records!

**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.

**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 to those who have already contributed – we've collected 58 cartridges, so far!**

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

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

**2023 BISHOP'S APPEAL:** The Passaic Eparchy will accept pledges and payments through June 30, 2024. Any contributions received in 2024 will 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.

**LASTING LEGACY:** Do you ever think about how you'll be remembered after you're gone? It's a question that often crosses our minds. We all want to leave a lasting legacy, to ensure that our values and beliefs live on. If you're one of the many who have made a New Year's resolution to write a will, or update it, why not include a gift to Patronage of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church in your plans? It's a powerful way to communicate that truly matters to you. By leaving a gift to our church through your will or estate, you're not only showing gratitude to God for all the blessings in your life, but also setting an example for your loved ones. It's a chance to demonstrate the importance of faith and make a positive impact on the lives of others. At every Divine Liturgy we pray, "Remember, O Lord, those who bring offerings and perform good deeds in your holy Churches." Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!

***"What shall I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?" (Ps 116:12)***

Reflection from Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA

By: Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM

“Considering the dignity of all”

Glory to Jesus Christ!

We come today to the Fifth Commandment, “Thou shall not kill,” and it does include, of course, “Thou shall not harm.” That’s because in God’s hand “is the life of every living thing and the breath of all humankind” – a quote from the Book of Job.

We are made in the image and the likeness of God and receive that dignity. Therefore, the murder of a human being is gravely against that dignity and gift of God unless, of course, that it’s known that if one must defend oneself against an unjust aggressor; yes, that’s considered acceptable.

Abortion becomes an issue in the Fifth Commandment. Direct abortion, willing it as a means or an end is a grave sin for anyone involved in it. One must make a sincere confession and receive sacramental reconciliation before returning to receiving the Holy Eucharist.

Intentional euthanasia is also a means of killing and unacceptable to the dignity God gives us. Suicide also comes under this Commandment; contrary to justice, contrary to hope and to charity. Yet it’s well understood that sometimes there are inner circumstances, psychological issues, anguish, suffering, great fears that lead people into this – addictions, perhaps, as well – and the Church continues to pray for those who have died through suicide.

Scandal is interestingly placed under this Commandment – “Thou shall not kill” – because scandal causes great harm and can kill the spirit, so to speak, or another aspect of a person’s life other than the body.

Of course, war comes under the Commandment of “Thou shall not kill.” The church always has taught against war whenever it is possible to avoid it and moral laws apply even within war so that even today, in the war in Ukraine, we hear talk about criminal acts because there have been agreements between nations on what could and could not be done justly within a war situation.

Consider also that the arms race – building up arms against one another – is against this dignity of the human person.

So let us remember love for one another, love for ourselves and the well-being and dignity of all because of living in, receiving the image of likeness of God. God bless you.

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**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, 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, 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: Patronage Church

**January 21, 2024:**

Offertory: \$1,595.98

Tithe.ly: \$190.00.

ECL: \$45.00

Initial Offering: \$24.00

You honor God and our Church by continuing to tithe each week. A collection basket is on the table in the back of our Temple for your weekly donation. You may also mail in your donation, or donate online at: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>. The link is also on our website. *“Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth” (Dt. 8:18).*

**AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) TRAINING:** Please join Barbara Breeze and Kelley Wood (2 of our parish nurses) in our social hall after Liturgy today. They will demonstrate how to use the ZOLL AED Plus unit that is currently in our social hall. We are encouraging everyone to attend, and learn how you can save a life with this easy-to-use device! ***Many thanks to Barbara and Kelley for giving this informative demonstration.***

**A TRADITION IN THE BYZANTINE CHURCH - THE BLESSING OF CANDLES ON THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE:** *On Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, we be having Divine Liturgy at 6:00pm for the feast day, along with The Blessing of Candles.* You are welcome to bring your own candle(s) from home to have blessed, or we will have candles available for purchase. Cash or check (made payable to: Patronage Church) will be accepted. When you bring your candle(s) to church, you can place them on the table in front of the first pew to be blessed, and can take them home after Liturgy.

**POT-LUCK SLAVIC FOOD DINNER:** Please join us on the ***Sunday of Meat-Fare, February 4th***, after our 11:00am Divine Liturgy, for our annual Slavic food dinner. To ensure we will have enough food for everyone, email Mary Demyan at [mdemya1@verizon.net](mailto:mdemya1@verizon.net), and let her know what dish you will be bringing, and how many from your family will be attending.

**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).

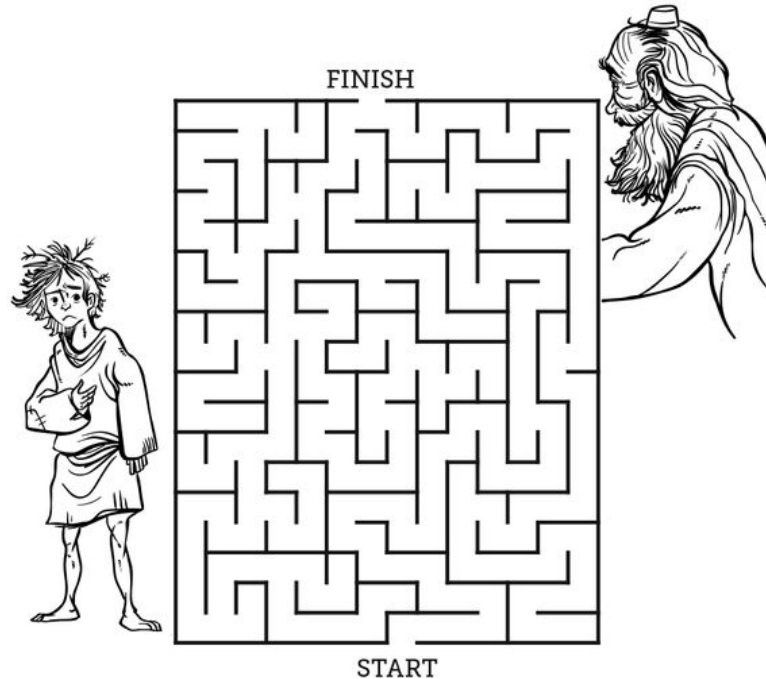
***“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples” (Isaiah 56:7).***

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## CHILDREN'S CORNER

# THE PRODIGAL SON

Lead the son to his loving father.



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*The Prodigal Son returns! Every morning say, "Today I will be humble."*

### 2024 EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION (ECF) PROGRAM:

1. ECF students will be making icons with Kevin Ross today in our social hall immediately after Divine Liturgy.
2. Classes will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month through Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. We will break for summer, and resume on Catechetical Sunday, September 15, 2024. There are currently 15 students registered in our program. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Ross, [keviross@gmail.com](mailto:keviross@gmail.com), or Loui Villaneuva, [villanuevaluxmundi@yahoo.com](mailto:villanuevaluxmundi@yahoo.com).

**THE BYZANTINE RITE LITURGICAL PRACTICE OF OBSERVING ALL SOULS SATURDAYS:** In the Byzantine Liturgical Year there are five All Souls Saturdays – namely, Meat-Fare Saturday, the Second, Third, and Fourth Saturdays of the Great Lent, and Pentecost Saturday. ***Our first All Souls service will be held on Friday, February 2, 2024. Every year, we request that parishioners submit a list of their departed loved ones called a "Hramoty."*** These lists will be put into a booklet form, and the names will be mentioned at the services held for the deceased on All Souls Saturday. ***Please remember to write the names legibly.*** Members of the family are encouraged to attend these services on the All Souls Saturdays services, for by your presence and personal prayers, it strengthens the bond with your departed loved ones, and indeed keeps their memory eternal! **VIČNAJA PAMJAT!** ***You can find a "Hramoty" form either on our website, or on the shelf in the Narthex.*** If you receive church envelopes, you can also use the envelope that was mailed to you. All forms and/or envelopes can either be mailed to our church, or dropped in the collection basket. ***Please submit your "Hramoty" list no later today, Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, in order to have them included in the booklet.***

**HOLY WATER CONTAINERS:** Bottles are available on the table in the front of our Temple if you would like to take some Holy Water home. ***Plastic bottles with a cross on them are \$4/each and the glass decorated bottles are \$12.50/each (prices are marked on each container).*** You can leave your payment in the basket. The undecorated glass jars on the bottom shelf are free.

**2023 TAX LETTERS:** If you did not pick up your 2023 tax letter last week, please see Dennis Kotula after Divine Liturgy today. Any letters not picked up at our church will be put in the mail. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Vasyl.

**2024 BYZAN-TEEN YOUTH RALLY:** Mark your calendar, the next Byzan-teen Youth Rally will take place **June 27-29, 2024, at the University of San Diego, in California.** The theme is *"Walking with Jesus on the stormy waters of the modern sea of life."* This rally provides Eastern Catholic faith formation and fraternity for all teens ages 13-17 (*must be 13 by November 1, 2024, and not have reached the age of 18 by June 30, 2024*) growing up in the Byzantine Catholic Tradition. Together with their peers, Byzan-teens actively engage in living, growing in, and promoting the Byzantine Catholic tradition. All Byzan-teens are given the opportunity to gather from across the country for the biennial national Byzan-teen Youth Rally. The registration deadline is Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. ***If you are interested in attending, please see Fr. Vasyl, as soon as possible.***

### EPARCHY OF PASSAIC SUMMER CAMPS:

1. **ALTAR SERVER CONGRESS:** Save the date - this event will take place on **July 14-18, 2024**, and will be held at the Carpathian Village in Pennsylvania. More information to follow.
2. **GIRLS CAMP:** Save the date – this event is open to girls ages 6-17, and will take place **July 21-25, 2024**, and will be held at the Carpathian Village in Pennsylvania. More information to follow:
3. **PRE-TEEN CO-ED CAMP:** Save the date – this event is open to boys & girls ages 6-12, and will take place **August 11-15, 2024**, and will be held at the Carpathian Village in Pennsylvania. More information to follow.

**GOD WITH US FREE ONLINE WEBINAR:** Want to learn more about the relationship between the Baptism of Jesus Christ and our own Mysteries of Christian Initiation? Fr. Daniel Dozier and Fr. Dn. Robert Klesko discuss Archbishop Joseph Raya's ***"Theophany and Sacraments of Initiation."*** Join them as they explore our salvation in Christ. This 90-minute webinar is scheduled for tomorrow, **Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm.** Register at [www.godwithusononline.org](http://www.godwithusononline.org), click on "online," and choose this webinar to register.

## *Who Art in Heaven*

These words I think have a very deep meaning. They remind us of the homeland we have abandoned, of the citizenship we have lost. In the parable of the young man who left his father's house, went off the rails and was reduced to living with pigs, the Word of God shows us human wretchedness. That young man did not find his one-time happiness again until he had realized his moral degradation, had looked into his own heart and had pronounced the words of confession. These words almost agree with the Lord's Prayer, because the prodigal son says: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you." [Luke 15:21] He would not confess himself to be a sinner against heaven

if he were not convinced that the homeland he had left at the time of his going astray were not in actual fact heaven.

By this confession of his he makes himself worthy once again to stand in the presence of his father who runs towards him, embraces him, and kisses him. The conclusion is this. To return to heaven there is only one route and that is to admit one's sinfulness and seek to avoid it. To make the decision to avoid it is already to be perfecting one's likeness to God.

*St. Gregory of Nyssa  
On the Lord's Prayer*