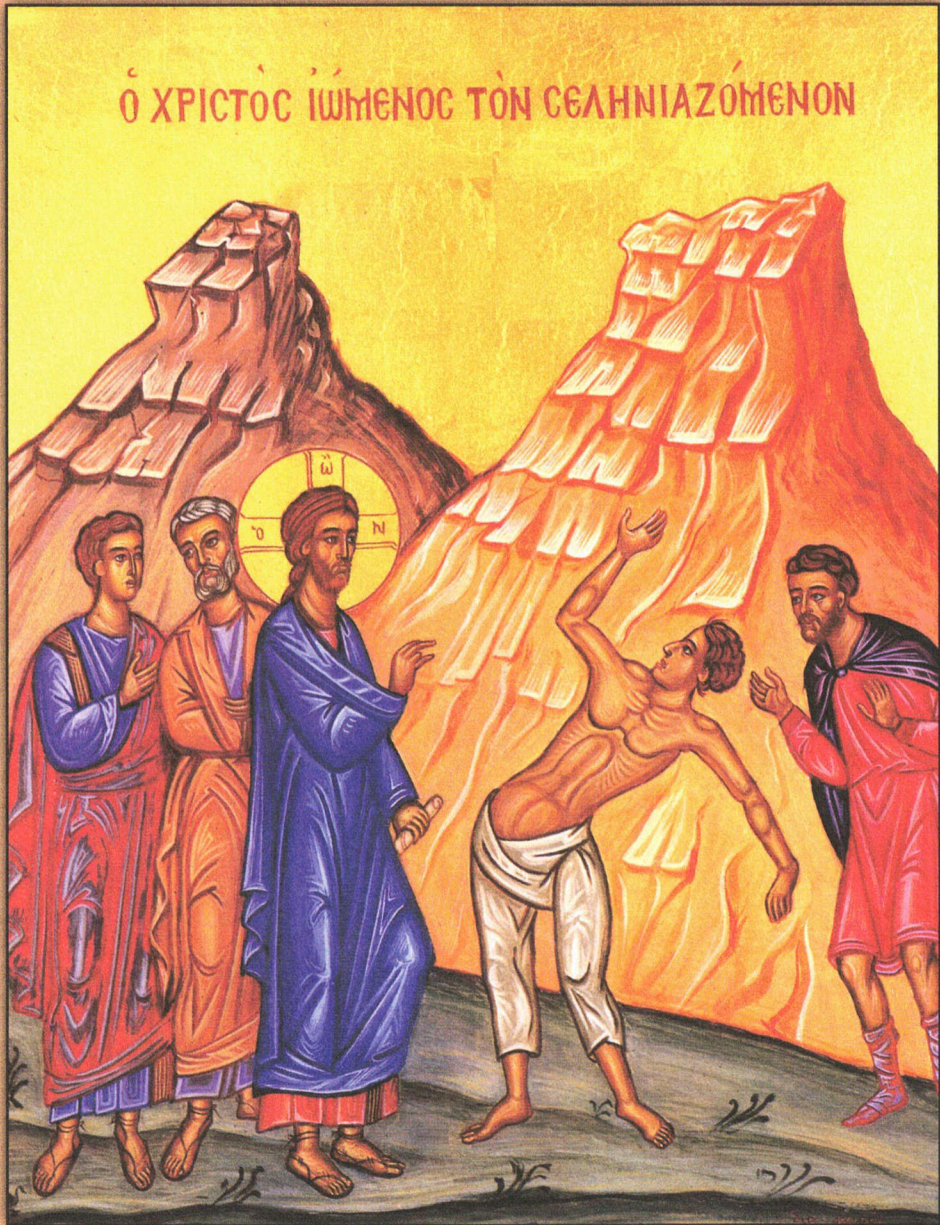


FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS



Icon of Healing the Boy with a Demon



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

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 Email: Kotlar@alum.mit.edu Cantor: Ann Marie Kotlar
 Office Assistant: Sharon Kotula; Email: d.kotula@comcast.net

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

Divine Liturgy Schedule: March 23rd, at 7:00pm

PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
4 th Sunday of the Great Fast – St. John Climacus 3.10.2024	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For living and deceased parishioners of our church
Friday 3.15.2024	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy	For living and deceased parishioners of our church
5 th Sunday of the Great Fast – St. Mary of Egypt 3.17.2024	9:00pm	Typika	For living and deceased parishioners of our church
Friday 3.22.2024	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy	For living and deceased parishioners of our church

4th Sunday of the Great Fast – St. John Climacus

Today's Propers can be found on page 161, Tone 8, then page 226, in our Divine Liturgy book.

Anaphora responses for the Liturgy of St. Basil are on page 96.

MYSTERY OF REPENTANCE: 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.

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 are 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 it may not always be available. The date is assigned on a first come, first served basis, and are reserved upon receipt of the offering. **We currently have some dates open, if you would like to request an intention!**

PATRONAGE CHURCH SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL: Our festival is scheduled for **Saturday, March 23rd, from 10:00am – 2:00pm.** We truly appreciate everyone who has donated towards our festival to help reduce the cost of our expenses. If you have donated any food item, **please be sure to give us a copy of your receipt**, so that we can have a more accurate accounting of our festival costs, as well as a fair representation of your individual donations. We will also continue to accept any amount of cash donations. Any questions, please email Mary Demyan at mdemya1@verizon.net. We will also need many volunteers for the following dates (please let Mary know if you are able to volunteer):

Saturday, March 16th, 9:00am – cooking for the festival

Wednesday, March 20th, 9:00am - kolachi baking, packaging, filling orders, and clean-up

Friday March 22nd, 9:00am - festival preparation and set-up

Saturday, March 23rd, 10:00am – 2:00pm - festival and clean-up

FESTIVAL BAKED GOODS NEEDED: Gather up your favorite recipes and get the whole family involved! We are in need of your homemade baked goods for our festival, and would love to fill our bake table. **You can drop your donation off on either Friday, March 22nd, or Saturday, March 23rd (before 10:00am).** It would also help to save time if your baked good donations were wrapped/packaged, and priced in sellable portions. We appreciate your assistance!

DONATED ITEMS FOR OUR FESTIVAL: Many thanks to the following for their donations towards our upcoming Slavic Food Festival this month. **Your generosity is greatly appreciated!**

1. Kolbassi – **Greg Calvitt**
2. Flour - **Dan & Nancy Bobby**
3. Monetary Donations – **Ann Marie Elwell, Joe Hoholick, Mark Kakalec, Greg & Claudia Hrinda, and Dana & Bill Tomcanin**
4. Soda – **Sean Metcalf, and Sara & Zachary Roberts**
5. Water – **Sara & Zachary Roberts**

PATRONAGE CHURCH SHOPPING BAGS FOR SALE: Please consider purchasing our church's shopping bag. They are \$5 per bag. Please see Mary Demyan, or Sharon Kotula, if you would like to purchase any. The shopping bags will also be available for sale at our festival.

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

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic Fasting Regulations for the Great Fast 2024

Abstinence: The law of Abstinence forbids the use of meat, permitting the use of eggs and dairy products. All the faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to abstain. Abstinence is to be observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays during the Holy Season of the Great Fast.

Strict Abstinence: The law of Strict Abstinence (Fast) forbids the use of meat, eggs, and dairy products. All the adult faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to observe Strict Abstinence, and is to be observed on the First Day of the Great Fast, Pure Monday, February 12th, and on Great and Holy Friday, March 29th.

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- *St. John Climacus*

“Ask with tears, seek with obedience, knock with patience. For thus he who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

“Prayer is by nature a dialogue & a union of man with God.”

“A sure sign of the deadening of the soul is the avoidance of church services.”

CHILDREN'S CORNER – 4th Sunday of the Great Fast



The *Icon of St. John Climacus* - the ladder represents our path in life and how we want it to lead to Christ. When we're on the _____, we are surrounded by _____ to help _____ us there. However, the dark figures are meant to remind us of _____ that can pull us off the ladder and away from _____. The bottom part of the _____ shows a life without accepting Jesus's _____ is lived in a _____ place. The icon shows us that we can get tempted to _____ the ladder, but we have to stay on _____!

Fill in the blanks using these words:

Jesus guide love angels ladder temptations track leave dark icon

+++++

Family Activity: Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross. As a family, choose one "virtue" a day to work on together. Each day of the week, take a piece of masking tape and write down the virtue that you want to work on and stick it to each step or rung of a paper ladder that you can make. Every day, throughout the week, as a family, walk up each step or add to each rung as it grows, and say, "God grant me patience and love to be _____ (humble, less prideful, obedient, seeking union with God through prayer, forgiving, generous, etc.)." This activity will help the whole family work together to include these virtues in their everyday lives, especially during Great Lent.

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 and Joe Belensky, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Veronica Ruszin, Anna Martin, Joseph 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 - March 3, 2024

Offertory: \$2,854.10	Tithe.ly: \$175.00
Easter Flowers: \$260.00	Religious Articles: \$43.00
Candles \$91.00	

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).*

PARISH SOCIAL: All are welcome to join us after Divine Liturgy this morning for refreshments in our social hall. If you would like to provide some snacks for one of our upcoming socials, please contact Mary Demyan or Sharon Kotula.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT/CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED: Mark your calendar - all children of our parish are invited to participate in our annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Palm Sunday, March 24th**. The hunt for eggs will take place following the Divine Liturgy. Weather permitting, we will be outside. We are hoping that all the children will be able to participate. Parishioners are invited to be spectators. **We are in need of wrapped candy donations for this event. If you would like to donate towards our Easter Egg Hunt, please give your donation to Kevin Ross no later than Sunday, March 17th.**

IN BLESSED REPOSE: +Marie Repasi, of our Hagerstown Mission, fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, March 7th. Funeral services will be held at St. Ann Catholic Church, in Hagerstown, on Monday, March 11th. Fr. Vasyl Symyon will be the celebrant. More details will be made available, as soon as we receive them. We extend our condolences to the Repasi family. May God grant His departed servant, +Marie, peaceful repose. Eternal Memory! Вічнаja jej памjat'.

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. We receive the Body and Blood of Christ in our mouth by spoon; please DO NOT stick out your tongue. All Catholics may receive the Eucharist if you are in good-standing and prepared. If you would like to be added to our parish email list, send us an email at patronage.church@gmail.com. If you want to make us your home church, parish registration is the OFFICIAL way we join a church. Simply complete a census form that is located either on the bookrack in the Narthex, or can be found on our website, and either mail it to the church, or place it in the collection basket in the back of our Temple. Donation information can be found under "Stewardship" in this bulletin.

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

THANK YOU: We appreciate **Greg Calvitt** for disposing of the old ceiling light that was replaced in our social hall!

2024 EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION (ECF) PROGRAM: ECF students will be participating in a ***Pysanky Workshop after Divine Liturgy today*** in our social hall. Classes will continue to take place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month through Sunday, June 9th. We will break for summer, and resume on Catechetical Sunday, September 15, 2024. We currently have 15 students enrolled in our program. ***If you would like to enroll a child in our program, or have any questions, please contact Kevin Ross, keviross@gmail.com, or Loui Villaneuva, villanuevaluxmundi@yahoo.com.***

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

1. We are looking for a volunteer(s) to assist in the ***sale and removal of a freezer in our social hall***, which was replaced in November. The freezer is believed to be in repairable condition. Please see Dennis Kotula or Alex Demyan, if you can help. This needs to be taken care of before our upcoming festival.
2. The ***rubber baseboard, in the entrance way to our social hall, needs to be re-glued, or replaced***. If you are able to do the repair, please see Dennis Kotula. This needs to be taken care of as soon as possible.
3. A parishioner is needed to ***manage the inspections that are required for our church/rectory***. Please see Dennis Kotula if you would like to be responsible for this task.

PICK UP YOUR PANS FOR “OUR DAILY BREAD” CASSEROLE DONATIONS: You can find aluminum pans and recipes on the kitchen counter in our social hall for this project. Additional information can be found in last week’s bulletin (on our website), or a flyer is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex, and in our social hall. Any questions, please contact either Greg Calvitt (gregcalvitt@gmail.com) or Mike Skovran (michaelskovran@gmail.com). ***The first casserole collection date is Sunday, April 21st.***

BISHOP’S 2023 ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE: Our goal for this campaign is \$9,800.00. As of February 23, 2024, Patronage parishioners have pledged or donated \$1,900.00. Visit www.eparchyofpassaic.com, click on “Giving,” then “Bishop’s Appeal 2023,” to submit your online donation or you can mail a check to: Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, 445 Lackawanna Avenue, Woodland Park, NJ 07424. All donations need to be received by our Eparchy no later than the first week of June, 2024. Please note on your check our church number is #198. Many thanks to those parishioners who have already made a donation!

“COME AND SEE” PAPERBACK BOOK: 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 in the book rack in the Narthex. You can place your money in the marked envelope next to the books.

PRINTER CARTRIDGES: We continue to collect 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 now collected 86 cartridges, so far!***

ANTIDORAN: The bread that is placed on the Tetrapod, after Divine Liturgy, is the Antidoran (“instead of the gifts”). This is the bread from the Prospora that is blessed during the preparation of the gifts, but is not used for Liturgy. Traditionally, it was given to people who were not able to receive Communion. If you know someone who is unable to receive for whatever reason, please take them some.

PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE: Please join us for our Presanctified services during Lent:

- Friday, March 15th, at 6:00pm
- Friday, March 22nd, at 6:00pm

GOD WITH US - FREE ONLINE WEBINARS: You can register for the following events, or if you missed an event, there are hundreds of hours of free pre-recorded webinars, series, conferences, and lectures for inquirers, the faithful, and catechists which are available in video and audio format. Please visit www.godwithusonline.org, click on “online,” and choose which webinar you would like to register for, or view one of the archived events.

- Every Great Lent the Byzantine Churches celebrate a unique form of weekday Liturgy known by name as, “The Presanctified Liturgy of Saint Gregory the Great.” But what is the meaning of this rite, especially in the context of the Fast? John Fr. James Bankston as we explore Fr. David Petras’ new book! This Byzantine bookshelf series, ***“Now the Powers of Heaven – The Lenten Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts,”*** is a 90-minute webinar, and will be held the ***1st and 3rd Thursdays of February and March, at 7:00pm.***
- “Visiting the sick,” is an important Corporal Work of Mercy that involves sharing in the suffering of others. How do we bring and find Christ in our service to the sick? Join full time staff Chaplain and Melkite Seminarian, Subdeacon Riley Winstead, as we discuss this important ministry to the sick and the dying. This live webinar, ***“Companions of the Cross – Compassion and Suffering in Ministry to the Sick,”*** will be held on ***Thursday, March 14th, and 7:00pm.***

PIROHI and KOLACHI 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. Several varieties of Kolachi are available for \$16.00 each. ***Please see Mary Demyan if you are interested in purchasing any.*** Please help us clear our freezer!

EASTER FLOWER SALE: Order forms can be found on the church’s website, or on the shelf in the Narthex. ***Deadline to place an order is Palm Sunday, March 24th.*** You can either mail your form and payment to the church, or place it in the collection basket. Please make checks payable to: Patronage Church.

FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM UPDATED: On March 1st, because of a new state mandate, we had to hire an electrician to update our Fire Suppression System in our social hall kitchen. The work was completed with no issues. Thank you to Dennis Kotula for organizing this repair update.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: On ***Sunday, March 17th***, we will be having a Typika service at 9:00am, instead of Divine Liturgy. Fr. Vasyl will be out of town.

Patronage of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church

Schedule of Pascha Services 2024 Resurrection of our Lord

Christ Is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

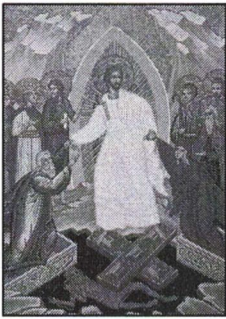
Christós Voskrése! Voístinnu Voskrése!

**Holy Monday/Annunciation of the Theotokos –
Monday, March 25, 2024 – Vigil Divine Liturgy at
6:00pm**

**Holy Thursday - March 28, 2024 - Vigil Divine
Liturgy at 6:00pm**

**Holy Friday – Vespers with Burial Shroud –
March 29, 2024 at 3:00pm**

**Resurrection of our Lord – Sunday, March 31, 2024 –
Matins at 8:00am followed by Divine Liturgy and
Blessing of Paschal Food**



EASTER FLOWERS

Our parish is once again sponsoring a flower sale for Easter. The flowers will be used to decorate the church and altar for Divine Liturgy on Pascha. Each donated flower will be published in a special insert of the Easter Bulletin. Plants may be taken by the giver after Resurrection Liturgy.

Please place the order form & payment in the offering basket or mail to the rectory by **Palm Sunday, March 24**. Make checks payable to *Patronage of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church*.

Name of Giver: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Type of flower (*check one*): \$14.00 each

Easter Lily _____ Tulip _____ Hyacinth _____ Daffodil _____

Name of Giver: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Type of flower (*check one*): \$14.00 each

Easter Lily _____ Tulip _____ Hyacinth _____ Daffodil _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ORDERED _____ x \$14.00 = \$_____

Journeying to Pascha

Jesus continues today his work of healing and exorcism, and that is appropriate for this time of Lent, because Lent is a time for healing and exorcism. It is a time for us to heal the wounds of our souls – self-inflicted wounds due to our complacency and laziness and self-indulgence. It is time to get rid of those demons of our own sinful habits and anything that keeps us away from God and from living that abundant life that Christ came to give us.

We start to make our way toward Jerusalem. At the end of today's Gospel already there is the prediction of the passion, the death and the resurrection of Christ, giving a little hint in the Gospel that the course of Lent is moving now towards Jerusalem. We have gone through several weeks now of spiritual preparations, Scripture texts, prayers and activities. Now our focus is starting to turn towards Jerusalem. That will

be made more explicit in next Sunday's Gospel, but we are already getting a hint of it now.

There are only three weeks now until Easter, two weeks until Palm Sunday, when we are really liturgically accompanying Christ into the mystery of His Passion.

So it is coming soon, and we have to start turning towards Jerusalem. We have to get focused, we have to get recollected, we have to really revive our Lenten prayer and fasting so that we can make the rest of this journey and be fruitful and overcome the demons and find healing for the wounds of our souls – and go with Christ to his Passion and, through the mystery of His Cross, come to that great, transfiguring, glorious celebration of His Resurrection.

**For publications on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com**