

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN



Icon of the Myrrh-bearing Women



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

Divine Liturgy Schedule: Saturday, April 13th, at 7:00pm and Saturday, April 27th, at 7:00pm

PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers 4.14.2024	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For the repose of the soul of: +Grace Tignanelli From Melanie Sanderson
Sunday of the Paralytic Man 4.21.2024	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For the repose of the soul of: +Dennis Kohlhoff, Sr. From: Dennis Kohlhoff, Jr.
The Holy Great – Martyr George Monday, 4.22.2024	6:00pm	Vigil Divine Liturgy	For: Living and Deceased Parishioners of our Church
Sunday of the Samaritan Woman 4.28.2024	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For the repose of the souls of: +Eugene Kakalec, Sr., +Eugene Kakalec, Jr., +Elizabeth Kakalec, and +Paul Kakalec From: The Kakalec Family

Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers – Propers are included in the green Pascha booklets.

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

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Christós Voskrése! Voístinnu Voskrése!

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, beginning in May, if you would like to request an intention!**

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC LITURGICAL PRACTICE OF OBSERVING ALL SOULS SATURDAYS:

Mark your calendar - the fifth and final service this year for "All Souls," will be held at 6:00pm, on **Friday May 17th**. Parishioners are encouraged to attend these services, for by your presence and personal prayers, it strengthens the bond with your departed loved ones, and indeed keeps their memory eternal! **VICNAJA PAMJAT!** Please join us!

THE DUAL ANNIVERSARIES - A Jubilee Weekend Celebration will take place October 12-13, 2024, in Washington D.C., and Annandale, VA. More details to follow.

- 1924 CENTENNIAL 2024** - Establishment of the Byzantine Ruthenian Church Exarchate in the United States. The Ruthenian Exarchate was established on February 25, 1924. Pope Pius XI appointed Most Reverend Basil Takach, D.D., as the first Byzantine-Ruthenian Bishop in the United States on May 20, 1924. He arrived at New York Harbor on August 13, 1924, on the liner RMS Mauretania and offered a Moleben of Thanksgiving at St. Mary of the Protection Church, New York City.
- 1974 GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY 2024** – Dedication of the Byzantine Ruthenian Chapel, Washington, D.C./Dedication of the Byzantine Ruthenian Church in the United States to the Protection of the Mother of God.

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.

- Explore the influences that formed, in the cauldron of first-millennium Constantinople, the Byzantine Church and its unique and profound perspective on the great truths of our Christian faith by reading Archbishop Joseph Raya's text with Fr. Deacons Anthony Dragani and Robert Klesko! This Byzantine Bookshelf Series 90-minute webinar, **"Byzantine Church & Culture – The Grace, Splendor, History, & Culture of Byzantium,"** will be take place on **Monday, April 22nd, at 7:00pm.**
- People who desire communion with God can discover how the Postinia powerfully fulfills their yearning by reading Catherine Doherty's spiritual classic! In it we are invited to leave the noise and harried pace to enter a place of silence and solitude in the heart! Please join Fr. Michael Winn and Fr. Deacon Robert Klesko for this 90-minute webinar, **"Postinia: The Desert – Encountering God in Silence, Solitude & Prayer,"** on **Monday, May 20th, at 7:00pm.**

2024 BYZAN-TEEN YOUTH RALLY: The 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. Keynote speakers are Fr. Christopher Zuger, Trent Hom, and Mother Iliana. **The registration deadline is Friday, May 31st.** If you are interested in attending, please see Fr. Vasyl, as soon as possible. Visit www.archpitt.org, and click on Byzan-Teen Youth Rally 2024, to download registration forms. **Attendance for this rally is limited, so reserve your spot!**

PRINTER CARTRIDGES: We continue to collect used printer cartridges to recycle, and earn rewards to help pay for new cartridges and paper 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 over 100 cartridges, so far!**

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Fill in the blanks using these words:

stone garments apostles angel story empty spices tomb

This icon depicts the biblical _____ of the eight Myrrh-Bearing Women. In the icon, it shows the Myrrh-Bearers had arrived at the _____, and had brought funeral _____ to anoint the body of Christ. The _____ is seated upon the _____ that covered the tomb, and he is pointing to the empty _____ showing that Christ has risen from the dead. The Myrrh-Bearers were the first to see the _____ tomb and were instructed by the risen Lord to bring the joyful news to the _____.

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EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION (ECF): ECF classes, in April, will take place on the 14th, and the 28th, after Divine Liturgy. Loui's students will continue with their classes diving into the Byzantine Catholic Church. Kevin's students will be learning about basic church design/Iconostasis on the 14th, and Eastern Prayer (and how to make a Chotki) on the 28th. The final round of classes before summer break will be announced in next week's bulletin.

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: Sunday, April 7, 2024
 Offertory: \$1,150.00 Tithe.ly: \$175.00
 Easter: \$1,025.00 Religious Articles: \$125.00

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: Please join us in our social hall after Divine Liturgy today for some light refreshments. All are welcome!

PRAYERFUL CONGRATULATIONS: Last Sunday, April 7th, parishioner **James Tinnick, and Theresa Olson** received the Mystery of Crowning in Marriage. May God grant James and Theresa Tinnick, many Blessed years! *Mnohaja l'ita!*

RECTORY BASEMENT CLEAN-UP: We are in need of volunteers to clean out the basement, in our church rectory, this **Saturday, April 20th, beginning at 9:00am**. Then, on a date to be determined, the basement will need to be prepped for painting, the broken lights repaired, the space cleaned, and classrooms set up. The plan is to have our Eastern Catholic Formation (ECF) classes relocate from our parish hall back to the rectory basement beginning on Catechetical Sunday, September 15th. **If you are able to assist in this project, please send the church an email no later than Wednesday, April 17th, and let us know!** Many hands make less work!

RELOCATION OF OUR AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) UNIT: Thank you to **Alex Demyan** for relocating our AED unit, and instruction posters, to the entrance wall of our social hall. This is a more accessible location for the AED.

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).*

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 on the flyer 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 next Sunday, April 21st.**

SAVE THE DATE:

- 1. PATRONAGE CHURCH PICNIC:** On **Sunday, July 21st**, after our 11:00am Divine Liturgy, our parish will be having a picnic at Holy Trinity Cemetery in Elkridge (only a few miles away from our church), at their pavilion/playground area. More details to follow.
- 2. ANNUAL PATRONAGE CHURCH CRAB FEAST:** This year’s Crab Feast will take place on **Saturday, September 21st**. More details to follow.

PATRONAGE MAINTENANCE MINISTRY: We are looking for interested parishioners who are willing to assist with projects in need of repair or improvement, around our church and rectory, with approval from Fr. Vasyl. The group will meet quarterly (and as needed, via Zoom online) to prioritize projects needing attention. The ministry will also coordinate volunteers and/or recommended contractors for completion of a project. Please email Kevin Ross at keviross@gmail.com, if you are interested in joining this ministry.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

1. The **rubber baseboard, in the entrance way to our social hall, needs to be re-glued, or replaced.**
2. The **air conditioner filters in the church and social hall need to be cleaned** before the warm weather comes, and we need to turn them on (volunteer identified).
3. The **aluminum trim on the eaves of the rectory** needs to be repaired. A few pieces came down during a storm.
4. We need to **add a hand rail to the steps** between the rectory and church, as well as one in front of the church coming up the steps from the sidewalk.

EPARCHY OF PASSAIC YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS: Registration is now open for the following camps, and will take place at The Carpathian Village, 802 Snow Hill Road, Cresco, PA 18326. Visit www.eparchyofpassaic.com, click on “Youth and Young Adult Ministries,” then “Youth Summer Camps” to download the forms. If you have any questions regarding Camp Theotokos or Camp Saint Nicholas, please contact Maria Kovach - camptheotokos@gmail.com, Jon Aponik - passaicyouthcamps@gmail.com, or Fr. Teras Lovska. If you are interested in attending a camp, please let Fr. Vasyl know. More information is forthcoming.

1. **Altar Server Congress:** July 21-25, 2024 – open to Altar Servers; cost is unknown at this time
2. **Camp Theotokos:** July 14-18, 2024 – open to girls ages 6-17; cost is \$175.00
3. **Camp Saint Nicholas** (pre-teen co-ed): August 11-15, 2024 – open to boys and girls ages 6-12; cost is \$175.00

GCU 2024 BYZANTINE FAMILY DAY AND LUNCHEON AT KNOEBELS PARK: Mark your calendar – **Sunday, June 9, 2024**, from 10:15am – 8:00pm in Pavilion Q. At 11:00am, there will be a Divine Liturgy – **Celebrant: Fr. Paul Varchola West**. **The deadline to order ticket booklets is Monday, May 20th, and to order luncheon tickets is Tuesday, May 21st.** Visit www.gcuusa.com for more information. You can also contact Chris Chamberlain at 724-495-3400, X3810, or cchamberlain@GCUusa.com, if you have any questions.

ANOINTING WITH OIL: Anointing with Holy Oil (Mirovanije) is a sacramental blessing that takes place for each solemn Feast, usually at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy of the week when the feast is celebrated. This oil is applied to the forehead, by the priest with the Sign of the Cross, while proclaiming the appropriate greeting for the season. In return, you should proclaim the appropriate response, and then receive a piece of blessed bread.

Greetings and responses include:

- Christ is Among Us! He is and Ever Shall Be!
- Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
- Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan!
- Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
- Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

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Who were the Myrrh-Bearing Women?

Mary Magdalene purchased myrrh and spices to anoint the body of the buried Christ, and to accord Him, following Jewish custom as much honor as possible. This role is fitting for her since two of the Evangelists place her among the several women, and third identifies her as performing this noble deed herself.

Mary the Theotokos (Mother of God) is the Mother of the Word and God Jesus Christ. It is assumed by the Church that she was present with the other women bearing myrrh.

Joanna is the wife of Chouza, the steward-administrator of King Herod Antipas and was also one of the women who first witnessed the Resurrection.

Mary was the wife of Cleopas (the brother of Joseph), the making this Mary the aunt of Jesus and sister-in-law to the Theotokos.

Susannah is the wealthy woman of the group who provided material means of support to the ministry of Jesus Christ during his three-year public ministry.

Salome is the generally considered to be the wife of Zebedee, and mother of the Apostles James and John. She who asked the Lord to have her sons sit one on His right, and the other on His left.

Mary of Bethany is the sister of Lazarus. She was a believer even before Jesus raised her brother from the dead and continued to be a faithful servant of God long after the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.

Martha of Bethany is the other sister of Lazarus. She was also a believer in Jesus Christ before He raised her brother Lazarus from the dead. It is generally assumed that both she and her sister were present as the news of the Resurrection of Christ was announced to the world.

The Myrrh-Bearing Women

The Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women ... reminds us that the love and faithfulness of a few individuals shone brightly in the midst of hopeless darkness. It calls us to ensure that in this world love and faithfulness do not disappear or die out. It judges our lack of courage, our fear, our endless and servile rationalizations. The mysterious Joseph and Nicodemus, and these women who go to the grave at dawn, occupy so little space in the gospels. Precisely here, however, is where the eternal fate of each of us is decided.

Today, I think, we are especially in need of recovering this love and basic human loyalty. For we have entered a time when even these are being discredited by harmful concepts of the person and human life now prevailing in this world. For centuries, the world still had the weak, but still flickering and shining, glow from that faith-

fulness, love and co-suffering which was silently present at the sufferings of the Man cast aside by all. And we need to cling, as if to a last thread, to everything in our world that still thrives on the warm light of simple, earthly, human love. Love does not ask about theories and ideologies, but speaks to the heart and soul. Human history has rumbled along, kingdoms have risen and fallen, cultures have been built and bloody wars fought, but what has remained unchanging on earth and in this troubled and tragic history is the bright image of the woman. An image of care, self-giving, love, compassion. Without this presence, without this light, our world, regardless of its successes and accomplishments, would be a world of terror.

Father Alexander Schmemmann

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www.ecpubs.com**