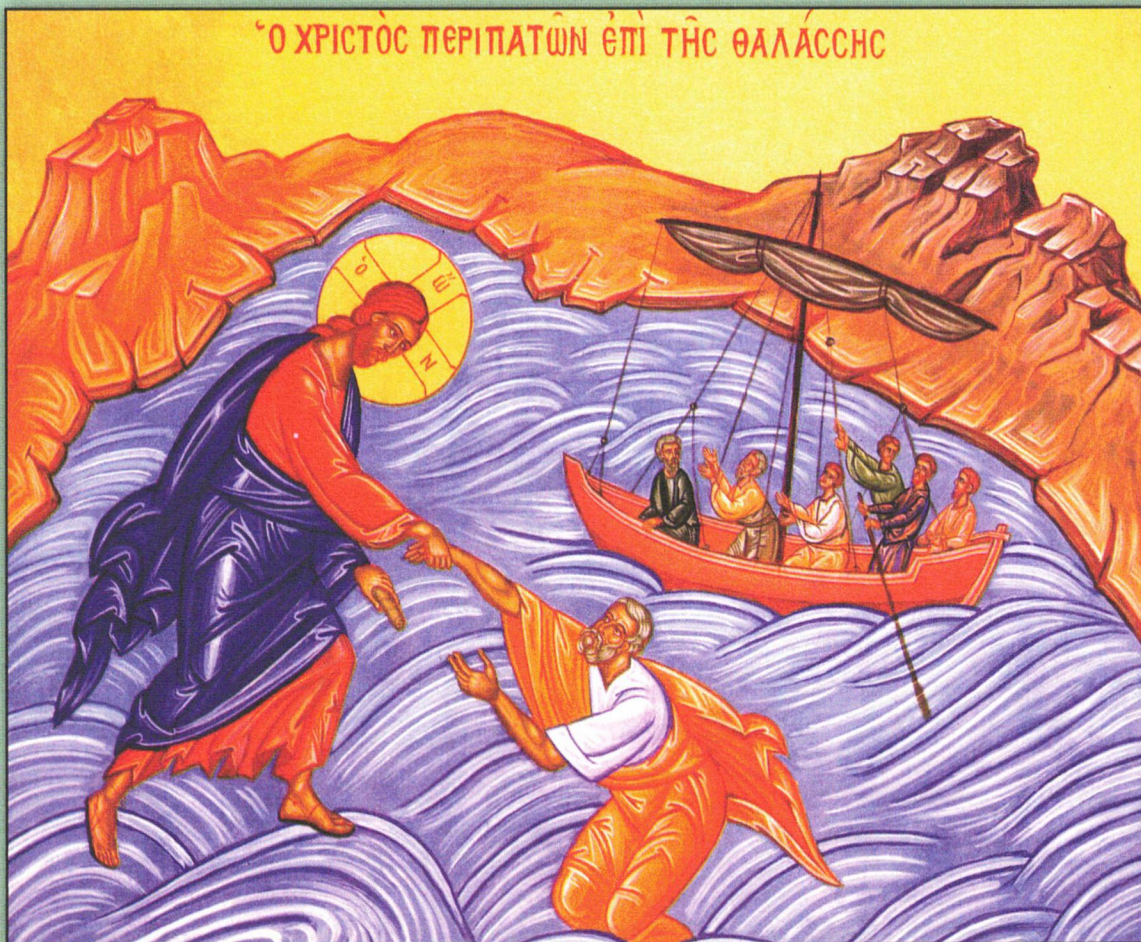


NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of Christ Walking on Water*



## PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

1260 Stevens Avenue, Arbutus, MD 21227-2644

www.patronagechurch.com / Facebook: Patronagechurch

[patronage.church@gmail.com](mailto:patronage.church@gmail.com)

Office: (410) 247-4936

Administrator: Rev. Deacon  
William Szewczyk  
Cell: 301-254-0016  
[deacon@stgregoryofnyssa.net](mailto:deacon@stgregoryofnyssa.net)  
Assistant: Sharon Kotula  
d.kotula@comcast.net

Rev. Deacon: Anthony Kotlar, Sr.  
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

Date	Time	Service	Intention
9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 7.30.2023	9:30am	Hymns from Matins followed by the Typika and Panachida	In Memory of: +Marge Dulina Requested by: M/M Jack Russell
Transfiguration of our Lord 8.6.2023	3:00pm	Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Marge Dulina Requested by: Ms. Emmera Wheeler

This is the **9<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**.

Matins and Typika booklets are available on the table in the back of our Temple.

Propers for today can be found on page 161, Tone 8.

**Saint Gregory of Nyssa Church:** Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, at 10am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10am Matins, 10:15am Typika

1

**PARISH CENSUS:** We are asking all parishioners to complete a census form. Please help us! Forms can either be found on the shelf in the Narthex, or on our website. We need to have accurate contact information, including mailing address, phone number, and email address. You can either place your completed census form in the offertory basket, or mail it to the church. If any of your information changes, at any time, please also let us know. Thank you, again, to those who have already completed a form.

**PATRONAGE FREEZER SALE:** We have kolbassi available for purchase after church services today. Please see Mary Demyan, if you would like to purchase any. Kolbassi tastes great cooked on the grill!

**FAMILY RETREAT DAY:** Families are welcome to join us for a day full of personal reflection and fun for the whole family. This family retreat day will be held on **Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>**, at the Carpathian Village in Cresco, PA. There will be presentations for parents and children. There will also be games and crafts. Cost for this retreat is \$50 per family with 2 parents and 2 children. Each additional person is \$10 each. Please RSVP to Jon Aponick by emailing him at [passaicfamilycamp@gmail.com](mailto:passaicfamilycamp@gmail.com).

**THE DISCALCED CARMELITES OF SUGARLOAF, PA:** Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla and Most Revered Kurt Burnette have both graciously accepted to officiate at a Pontifical Divine Liturgy, principal Service of our proposed Pilgrimage honoring Saint Therese of Lisieux. We hope for your presence at the *First Pilgrimage to Saint Therese of Lisieux*, **Saturday, September 30, 2023**, Holy Annunciation Monastery Grounds, 403 West County Road, Sugarloaf, PA. More details to follow.

**METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY:** Most Rev. William Skurla, Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh, have invited all clergy and faithful to the Assembly of the Byzantine (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 1900 Brooks Boulevard, Hillsboro, NJ, 08844, **November 2-5, 2023**. The theme of this Assembly is "Living Our Faith, Moving Forward, Appreciating Our Past." *Registration is now open*. The Assembly cost is \$250 for individuals and \$400 for couples. The fee includes meals, breaks, presentations, materials, and the gala on Saturday evening. The Maria Theresa Foundation will underwrite the registration fees of individuals and couples between the ages of 18 and 35. Special rates for hotel accommodations have been arranged at the Hilton Garden Inn, 500 Promenade Boulevard, Bridgewater, NJ, 08807, and is a 15-minute drive to St. Mary's Church. *Hotel registration deadline is September 30<sup>th</sup>*. For more information, contact the Assembly coordinators, Fr. Ed Cimbala, at 212-677-0516 or Fr. Yuriy Oros at 609-394-5004. The assembly website is [byzantineassembly2023.org](http://byzantineassembly2023.org), and the email is [byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com](mailto:byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com).

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND & JORDAN:** Don't miss this trip of a lifetime. Hosted by Fr. Ed Cimbala. Visit Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Mt. Nebo, Madaba, Amman, Petra, Jericho, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem, **January 21-31, 2024**. For more information, please contact Fr. Ed at 908-872-2928 or [fredcimbala@gmail.com](mailto:fredcimbala@gmail.com).

**HERSHEY PARK, PA:** GCU members can purchase discounted single visit tickets that can be used any day during the 2023 operating season at Hersheypark now through December 29, 2023. Tickets are \$35 and can be ordered at [www.gcuusa.com](http://www.gcuusa.com). Any questions can be directed to Chris Chamberlain, at the GCU Home Office, at 1-724-495-3400 or [cchamberlain@GCUusa.com](mailto:cchamberlain@GCUusa.com).

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

6

"For the man who is kindly, modest, merciful and just will not keep his good works to himself but will see to it that these admirable fountains send out their streams for the good of others. Again, the man who is clean of heart, a peacemaker and ardent for truth will order his life so as to contribute to the common good."

- St. John Chrysostom

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you to all who continue to serve our church with their time, talent, and treasure. There are many ways to be of service; because if not me, then who?

## Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

In today's Gospel, we can observe the deity of Jesus Christ as he walks on the water, and the difficulties of life in faith, which are characteristic of his disciples and us. Today's evangelical Gospel testifies that a man walks on water - the Apostle Peter. This becomes possible thanks to the extraordinary presence and power of the word of Jesus Christ, who answers the doubts and fears of the disciples, "Be calm, it is I, do not be afraid!"

After the multiplication of the loaves, Jesus told the disciples to get into the boat and cross to the other side of the sea, while He sent away the people who were satisfied with the bread (Mt 14:22-34). When the boat was in the middle of the sea, a storm arose and the disciples asked each other, "Does Jesus know about our danger?" "Oh, that Jesus was here!" Losing trust in God is the greatest difficulty in times of life's anxieties. In days of distress, when we are burdened with problems and the whole world looks gloomy, we say, "If only Jesus were here!"

But the Lord is always near us, closer than we think. One night, when Jesus was praying on the mountain, He also saw His disciples in the midst of the raging waves. Christ saw the boat being tossed on the sea, He felt all the danger of that storm, He knew very well the danger his friends, the apostles, were in. And, as the Evangelist says, at the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came to them "...walking on the sea..." (Mt 14:26).

And we meet Christ more than once in the midst of the waves of our life, as stormy as on the Sea of Galilee. One of the greatest discoveries in our lives is how shocks, illnesses, and all kinds of difficulties can suddenly lead a person to God. When life is like a stormy sea, full of difficulties and dangers, the Lord is close by, watching over us, and in the midst of this gloom He is personally able to come to us and bring us peace and tranquility.

When the Apostle Peter saw that Christ was walking on the rough sea, he said, "Lord, if it is you, make me come to you by water." And Christ immediately answered, "Come." Jesus says the same thing to us today, "Come, You can walk on the turbulent waves of your life." If you are struck by an illness, you can say, "God, lead me to walk through the waves of this illness to You." If a financial crisis has destroyed your life, you can say, "God, guide me through the waves of this calamity." If you are having problems in your married life, you can say, "God, guide me through the turbulent waves of my marriage." This same power, this same faith, the same Christ that helped Peter walk through the stormy waves of the Sea of Galilee, is with us today. It is Jesus who gives us the strength to endure the storms of our lives and pass by the turbulent waves.

Christ answered the cry of the Apostle Peter for help in danger. When Jesus looked at the sea and saw His disciples in danger, He immediately went to them. When He saw Peter drowning, He immediately stretched out His hand to save him. This is the most important message of today's Gospel. When our life becomes like a stormy sea, full of difficulties and challenges, the Lord is next to us, and out of this global darkness, He is the one who is able to help us, to bring us peace and tranquility in our lives.

Thomas Wright, in one of his popular commentaries, said this about this passage of the Gospel, "The apostles who were sitting in the boat saw many manifestations of the power of Jesus, listened to His sermons, and prayed as He taught. Now these skillful fishermen had a hard time, they struggled with their oars, but could hardly make headway against the wind. And we today, although we have invented, learned, and discovered a lot, we still do not have enough strength, power, and knowledge to achieve all that is necessary for us. We have invented a lot of military equipment, but so far, we have not invented such machines that could establish peace on earth. We are ready to send a man to the moon, but we cannot feed the hungry on planet Earth. Our devices allow us to listen to the sounds that whales make in the depths of the ocean, but we are not able to hear the cry of a person who lives on the next street."

Dear believers! Today's Gospel shows that Jesus can calm any hurricane in our life, just as He can dispel the darkness of any night. It can fill our life with true meaning, throw out of it what is actually worthless, and fleeting. So, like the Apostle Peter, let's say today, "Save me, Lord, because I'm drowning!"

Fr. Serhii Deiak

+++++

**EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION (ECF) PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN:** Catechetical Sunday is September 17<sup>th</sup>. Parents, we are encouraging you to register your children. Registration forms can either be found on the bookrack in the Narthex, or on our website. Please either mail your registration form(s) to the church, or place it in the offertory basket. More details to follow in upcoming bulletins.

**ANNUAL PATRONAGE CHURCH CRAB FEAST:** Mark your calendars – Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Join us for some fellowship and great food! We will also be having a church service prior to the Crab Feast. More details to follow in upcoming bulletins! If you would like to volunteer to assist with this event, please contact Dann Karlson at [DS.Karlson@gmail.com](mailto:DS.Karlson@gmail.com), and let him know.

**INTENTIONS:** If you would like to request a Liturgy Intention, the Eparchy of Passaic is accepting Stipends for Ukrainian priests. Stipend forms can be found on the bookrack in the Narthex, or on our church website. Make checks payable to: "Eparchy of Passaic." Our Eparchy will pay the administrative costs, so that 100% goes to a priest and his family who needs the help. Mail the Stipend sheet and your check to: Eparchy of Passaic, 445 Lackawanna Ave., Woodland Park, NJ 07424. You can also request to have a Panachida or Moleben at Patronage Church. A form can be found in this bulletin, on the bookrack in the Narthex, or on our website. Donations help benefit our church. Checks can be made payable to: Patronage Church, and you can either mail your request to our church, or you can place a note in our offertory basket.

**EPARCHY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:** Bishop Kurt will celebrate a Divine Liturgy for the intention of couples celebrating a five-year anniversary of a wedding year ending in an eight or a three. ***This will take place in mid-November. The specific date has not been determined.*** The liturgy will be celebrated in Annandale, VA, at Epiphany of our Lord, followed by a sit-down dinner. If you were not married at Patronage and were married in a year ending with a 3 or an 8, please let Deacon Bill know so that you can receive an invitation.

# CHILDREN'S CORNER

Books of the New Testament		
D	R	V
L	E	E
L	Z	X
O	U	T
M	T	S
Z	H	U
L	A	T
O	Q	I
Y	T	T
P	H	E
N	I	F
T	U	S
Z	E	L
S	L	B
Y	J	P
J	B	K
I	A	T
X	J	M
F	P	J
I	W	T
Acts	John	Philippians
Colossians	Jude	Revelation
Corinthians	Luke	Romans
Ephesians	Mark	Thessalonians
Galatians	Matthew	Timothy
Hebrews	Peter	Titus
James	Philemon	

©A Kid's Heart at [akidsheart.com](http://akidsheart.com)

**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. Serhii Deiak, and his family, Mike Skovran, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Nancy Erdek, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Veronica Ruszin, Anna Martin, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Howard Guba, 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!*

**PRAYERS REQUESTED:** Please remember in your prayers, Matthew Skovran, the youngest son of Mike Skovran, who had a double transplant, kidney and pancreas, a week ago. May God grant Matthew many blessed years!

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

**Patronage Church (July 23, 2023):**

Offertory: \$1,065.00  
Tithe.ly: \$231.00  
Kolbassi Sales: \$64.55

**Hagerstown Mission (July 23, 2023):**

Tithe.ly: \$19.00

**BYZANTINE ICON PAINTING WORKSHOP:** Patronage Church is planning a Byzantine Icon Painting Workshop with Iconographer, Wayne Hajos, sometime in the beginning of 2024. Wayne was the Iconographer who wrote the icons in our Holy Place and below our choir loft many years ago. The class will be 4 days long (9am - 4:30pm). The class fee will be \$275 with all supplies and lunch provided. No art experience necessary, and we will paint/write the icon of the Virgin Mary. We'd love to have our teenage parishioners (recommended minimum age is 15) participate in this great opportunity! At the moment, we are trying to pin down exact dates for the class, but are looking at a JAN, FEB, or MAR timeframe. We would also like to hear if you have a preference for doing the class in a single week (Wednesday - Saturday) or would prefer four consecutive Saturdays? Please email Kevin Ross at [keviross@gmail.com](mailto:keviross@gmail.com) if you are potentially interested along with any preference on dates/timing. Class size is limited to 20 students. More details regarding payment, will be forthcoming.

**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).*

## *Trust in Prayer*

A man sat in his luxurious hotel room and dialed room service. He marveled at the fact that at the other end of the telephone line was an individual waiting to respond to his every need. All he had to do was ask.

Many people believe that prayer is supposed to work the same way. For them, God is at the receiving end of their prayers and is expected to grant every prayer requested. "And why shouldn't it be?" they might ask. "Doesn't God want me to get this new job?" "Doesn't God want my marriage to work?" "Doesn't God want my surgery to be successful?" After all, don't we read in the Scriptures, "Ask and you shall receive?"

The answer is, yes – God always wants what is best for us, and every prayer is answered. But, not every prayer is answered as we expect it to be. In order to be able to accept God's answers

to our prayers, especially the unanticipated answers, we need to exercise patience, trust and openness to God's will and His wisdom.

We see Saint Peter exercise this kind of trust in God in today's Gospel lesson. While the disciples' boat was being storm-tossed on the sea, Jesus came walking on water toward them. Then, Jesus issued a most unexpected command to Peter. "Come," Jesus said and Peter actually began walking on water toward Him! It was only when Peter took his eyes away from Jesus and focused again on the perilous storm around him that he began to sink. The same is true for us. When we trust God, He will lead us to safety. When we take our eyes away from Him, we become overwhelmed by the storms of life.

For books on Eastern Christianity, visit [www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)  
To view over 300 videos, visit [www.oltv.tv](http://www.oltv.tv)