

SUNDAY BEFORE THE
EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross -- September 14th

Paradox of the Holy Cross

A hardened criminal was moved from his prison cell to solitary confinement because he deserved additional punishment. In the corner of his new cell, he saw something wedged into the corner of the room. Upon closer inspection, he discovered that it was a copy of the New Testament left there by the inmate before him. Out of curiosity, he began reading the Bible for the first time in his life and was drawn again and again to the account of our Lord's suffering and crucifixion. Our Lord suffered on the cross for the good of many. Thinking of his own present sufferings, the inmate then wondered how his own life would have been different if he had used all of his energies for good instead of evil. Then he realized that even he was among the

many for whom Jesus died on the Cross! Because of the Cross, the inmate repented and found a place for God in his life!

The Cross is the instrument of Christ's suffering and passion, however it is also the Trophy of Victory and the means by which Christ conquered death by His death. The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross places before us this most profound mystery of suffering and its undeniable paradox: that in death there is life and that in suffering there is glory. As we continue to celebrate this holy feast may we turn our own sufferings over to Jesus and ask Him for the grace to bear them with resignation to His divine will for those who bear the Cross are also sheltered by it.



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE
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Deacon: Anthony Kotlar
 kotlar@alum.mit.edu
 Cantor: Michael Kulka
 Cantor: Joseph Kotlar, Sr.

Patronage Church at Abingdon:

Church of St. Francis (Stone Chapel)
 1450 Abingdon Road, Abingdon, MD 21009
Contact: Deacon Anthony and Theresa Kotlar: 410-734-6973
Next Liturgy: Sunday, October 10th at 3pm

Patronage Church at Hagerstown:

St. Ann Catholic Church
 1525 Oak Hill Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742
Contact: Adam and Lauren Myers: 301-791-0930
Next Liturgy: Saturday, September 18th at 10am

DIVINE LITURGY - PATRONAGE CHURCH

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday 9.12.2021	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Phyllis Skovran Requested by: Michael Skovran
Tuesday 9.14.2021	9:00am	Divine Liturgy Exaltation of the Holy Cross	In Memory of: +Catherine Bluey Requested by: Carol & Tim Herder
Friday 9.17.2021	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert
Sunday 9.19.2021	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Karl Karlson Requested by: The Karlson Family

This is the **Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross.**
 Propers begin on page 156, then 243, Tone 7.

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

PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Believers!

Caring for the well-being of Patronage Church, and our Mission parishes in Hagerstown and Abingdon, I consider it appropriate to appoint two new trustees and a bookkeeper for Patronage Church, two other trustees and a bookkeeper for Hagerstown, and two trustees and a bookkeeper for Abingdon. We already have separate accounts for both the Hagerstown and Abingdon Missions. More information will be provided in upcoming bulletins.

Fr. Serhii

PANACHIDA SERVICE: Fr. Serhii will be having a Panachida service for those, from our parish, who are interred at Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Cemetery, Elkridge, MD, after Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, September 26th**. the cemetery is only a few miles from our church. We hope you can join us! **There will be no Liturgy at the Abingdon Mission on this date.** *O Lord, our God, who are good and full of love for all mankind: Give rest to our departed servants in the mansions of the just, and keep us, here on earth, free from sin, enabling us to lead a truly Christian life to the end of our days.*

BECOMING BYZANTINE: The Eparchy of Phoenix and Vineyard of the Lord Catholic Ministries are sponsoring a free webinar and video series on Byzantine Catholic faith, worship, and life based upon the **“Christ Our Pascha Catechism.”** Are you a Western Christian (Catholic or Protestant) who is interested in exploring the Byzantine Catholic faith for your own development in faith? Are you contemplating joining or have you recently joined a Byzantine or Greek Catholic parish? Are you a Byzantine Christian who wants to learn more about your own rich tradition? Visit [BECOMING BYZANTINE: An Introduction to Byzantine Catholicism](#) for more information. Sessions will be held on the 4th Sunday of the month beginning September 26th through August from 7-8:30pm.

LITURGY INTENTION BOOKS: Liturgy intention books are now available, in the Narthex, for your use. A mailing envelope is included with the book along with an intention form to complete with your request. You can either mail your request to the rectory, or place it in the collection basket in the back of our Temple.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Fr. Serhii is available 15 minutes before or immediately after Divine Liturgy to hear confession.

“COME AND SEE” WEEKEND OF DISCOVERY: A **free** retreat weekend hosted by the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA, is scheduled for November 5 –7, 2021 for men, ages 18-35, single or married, who may be considering a vocation to the priesthood in the Byzantine Catholic Church. The retreat will be conducted in a “no pressure, no hard-sell” environment. The atmosphere will be prayerful, positive, and fraternal. All registrants must be fully COVID vaccinated to attend. **For more information and to register, no later than October 13, 2021, please visit www.bcs.edu.**

INSTITUTE OF CATHOLIC CULTURE: **“How do I begin to think as God does rather than as man does?”** Visit www.instituteofcatholicculture.org to view a wide variety of programs such as weekly, instructor led, live learning experiences, which follow the course of our liturgical year; their extensive library of recorded programs; and weekly Gospel reflections. You can also sign up to receive a weekly email that offers an in-depth study of the lectionary readings for each Sunday’s Divine Liturgy. They explore the Biblical, literal, and historical context as the foundation for spiritual and moral application. Be sure to click on: **“View Byzantine Reflections.”**

STARTING A NEW SCHOOL YEAR: No matter the challenge, God will bring you through. No essay, technical difficulty, or lost assignment is too difficult for the Maker. *“I am the Lord, the God of all people. Nothing is too difficult for me” (Jeremiah 32:27).*

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7 DAILY PRAYERS

Pray for Love – “God help me to love, as you have commanded me to love” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Pray for Others – “God I pray for others to receive you in their life” (1 Timothy 2:1-5).

Pray for Guidance – “God show me what you want me to do today” (Jeremiah 42:3).

Pray for Peace – “God surround me with your peace” (1 Peter 5:7).

Pray for Forgiveness – “God if there is anything I have done wrong, please forgive me” (1 John 1:9).

Pray for Protection – “God keep your hands of protection around me” (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Pray for Faith – “God help me to believe you will meet all of my needs” (Mark 11:24).

Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

On the eve of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, our Church wants to remind us of the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ. For this, on the Sunday before the Exaltation, we read, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:13-17).

Today's Gospel refers to the concluding part of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus. In these few lines we see the following words twice, that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life. For this, says the Savior, it is necessary to ascend to the Son of man, for this God, having loved the world, gave his only-begotten Son. This is the purpose of the Savior's coming to earth, this is the meaning of His earthly life, His death on the cross and resurrection.

"The veneration of the Holy Cross," says the servant of God Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky in his message on the Holy Cross, "is one of the most important aspects of the veneration of God-Man. The sign of the Holy Cross made on oneself is one of the oldest Christian customs."

The Holy Cross is an eternal living symbol of God's infinite love for us sinners, a symbol of Christ's sacrifice, a symbol of our redemption and salvation, and a symbol of Christ's victory over death and the devil. In honoring the Holy Cross, we honor Christ's sacrifice, suffering, and death. By making the sign of the Holy Cross, we confess our faith in our Savior.

Moses' exaltation of the serpent in the wilderness was a type of cross. This symbolic sign saved people's lives from snake bites. The cross of Jesus elevates man in the spirit. It affirms faith and hope in God's mercy, and inflames in us the love of God. However, the cross does not act on its own, and it does not change the person himself. His power is in Jesus Christ, because Jesus, by his death, brought us forgiveness of sins. He who bears, experiences his cross of responsibilities, difficulties, and trials together with Christ, overcomes evil in life and gains good, as the Apostle Paul wrote, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

A boy was pushing his little sister in a wheelchair. When she fell asleep, he left her on the road and went to play nearby. Suddenly, he heard a roar and saw frightened horses, with an empty cart, running straight at his sister. He immediately rushed to rescue her, pushed the cart to the side with all his might, and managed to save his sister. Unfortunately, the rescuer, himself, died under the wheels of the heavy cart.

Later, when his sister grew up and learned of the tragic death of her brother, and that he had saved her, she was indescribably grateful to him and could never remember it without tears.

In another village, a girl who was dying had not lived piously, did not care about God and keeping His commandments. She didn't want to believe she was dying. But one day, she realized that death was really approaching, life was fading, and soon she would stand before God? She felt bitter, raised her hands, and said, "Look, look, I'm leaving empty-handed for the Judgment Seat of God!" Fortunately, a priest had already been called. As he approached her, she said plaintively, "Father, look at my hands, they are empty, I have done nothing for God, but I am already dying." God sent a good thought to the priest. He took a cross and gave it to the girl to kiss, and then put it in her hands. The dying girl shuddered. She opened her eyes and her face brightened. She pressed the cross to her heart, then confessed, and died a few minutes later with the cross in her hands.

Dear believers! "Let us not be ashamed of the Cross of Christ," says St. Cyril of Jerusalem. "Put it on your forehead so that the demons, seeing the royal sign, will tremble and flee far away." Make this sign when you eat and drink, when you sit or lie down, get up or walk, in short, at every opportunity. "St. John Chrysostom in his sermon said, "The cross is a trophy against demons, a weapon against sin, a sword with which Christ pierced the serpent. The cross is the will of the Father, the glory of the Only Begotten, the joy of the Spirit, the adornment of the angels, the strengthening of the Church, the stronghold of the saints, and the light of the whole universe."

PRAYER INTENTIONS – PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Our parishioners, the founders of our parish, our benefactors, those who are sick, those who cannot make it to church, also: Fr. Serhii, and his family, Arlene Duda, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Nancy Erdek, Kay Dinko, Andy Turian, Doris Ruszin, Anne Gupman, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Anna Martin, Marge Dulina, Paul Ruszin, Sr., Georgianna Kostak, Betty Rankin, 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!

CONTRIBUTIONS: Patronage: 9.5.2021 - \$1,260.00 Hagerstown Mission: 9.04.2021 - \$203.00

Thank you to those who continue to support our church and for your dedication to our parish. If you would like to make a donation, using our online giving account, please visit our church's website for the Tithely link. **"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).**

HAPPY GRANDPARENTS' DAY: Grandparents are gifts from above. They shower their grandchildren with blessings and love.

"Grandparents are proud of their grandchildren, just as children are proud of their parents" (Proverbs 17:6).

PARISH MEETING/POT-LUCK LUNCHEON: We will have our parish meeting/pot-luck luncheon immediately after Divine Liturgy today. Please join us for some parish fellowship!

KIELBASI FREEZER SALE: We have a limited supply of frozen **"smoked kielbasi"** for sale and available to take home after Liturgy today. If you are interested in purchasing kielbasi, please see Mary Demyan or Sharon Kotula. Price and size vary. This kielbasi was just recently purchased for our "Summer Festival" in June.

E-BULLETIN: Some parishioners have told us that they would prefer not to receive a bulletin in the mail because they can just visit the church's website to view it. We now have another option, if you would like us to email you a bulletin, called e-Bulletin, please let us know by sending the church an email where you would like it sent. Our on-line bulletin and eBulletin will now include the front and back covers, as well.

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.

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

PATRONAGE CRAB FEAST: Our crab feast is scheduled for this **Saturday, September 18, 2021**. Divine Liturgy will be at 5:00pm and the crab feast will immediately follow. The price is \$30 (all you can eat and drink) for adults, and children under 12 eat and drink free. Please bring a side dish or a dessert.

RSVP by today, September 12th to Dann Karlson at: ds.karlson@gmail.com

Name _____

Number Adults & Children over 12 _____ x \$30.00 = \$ _____

Number of Children under 12 _____

Make checks payable to: Patronage Byzantine Catholic Church. You can mail your payment to the rectory or drop it in the collection basket.

NEW EVENT: We will be having a 50/50 raffle along with **“Baba’s Auction!”** We are looking for donations of new items for our auction. Some ideas can be gift cards, a handmade craft, toys, pet items, household items, gardening supplies, plants, crafting supplies, etc. – be creative! **Please bring your donation(s) when you come to the Crab Feast.** Tables will be set up to display your item(s). Tickets, for the 50/50 raffle and auction, will be available at the Crab Feast. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Kotula at: d.kotula@comcast.net.

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ASSEMBLY OF THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC METROPOLITAN CHURCH 2021: The Archeparchial Office of Religious Education has announced an in-person event entitled, **“One Body in Christ: Re-emerging from the Pandemic.”** This event will take place November 5-6, 2021, at the Cathedral in Munhall, PA. Visit www.archpitt.org for more information.

GOD WITH US ONLILNE: The first webinar of the next curriculum year will be **“Rethinking Sunday School; The Problem and Practical Solutions**, takes place Monday, September 20th, from 8-9pm. Please join us as we explore, with Fr. Francois Beyrouti, the importance of holding onto a discipleship model in teaching the faith, and practical ways to accomplish this in our current situations. This will be a talk for everyone, regardless of whether you share the faith formally or informally. To register, visit www.godwithusonline.org. If you are unable to participate in this webinar, it will be recorded and available in the event library to view at your convenience.

“There is no greater calling than the education of our youth in the faith.”

St. John Chrysostom

CHILDREN’S CORNER

Paul no longer lived to please himself.

Cross out every 3rd letter.
Write the remaining letters in order on the lines.



I	H	V	A	V										
B	E	B	N	E										
E	H	N	C	U										
R	U	F	C	I	H	F	I	R	E	D	Z	W	I	
C	T	H	N	C	H	U	R	I	B	S	T	U	A	N
B	D	I	C	N	O	U	L	O	F	N	G	V	E	
R	C	L	I	N										
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A	E	S	T	I										
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EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION (ECF) FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM: Today, we joyfully celebrate an important event in our parish; the beginning of the catechetical school year. The children and the catechists, who will teach them, gather together to receive a blessing for the start of the new catechetical school year. The theme this year is, **“Christ the Physician of Our Souls and Bodies.”** May their good work help us all to realize the love and mercy of God’s healing presence and how Christ continues to heal through each one of us in His Mystical Body, the Church. Together we ask God to grant His servants, our students and catechists, many years in health and happiness. There is an old proverb: **“A teacher only opens the door (to knowledge), but you must enter by yourself.”** We invite and encourage all of you to enter that door, to take a step further in your learning about God. Also, ECF, at this time, will continue as a homeschool program until further notice.