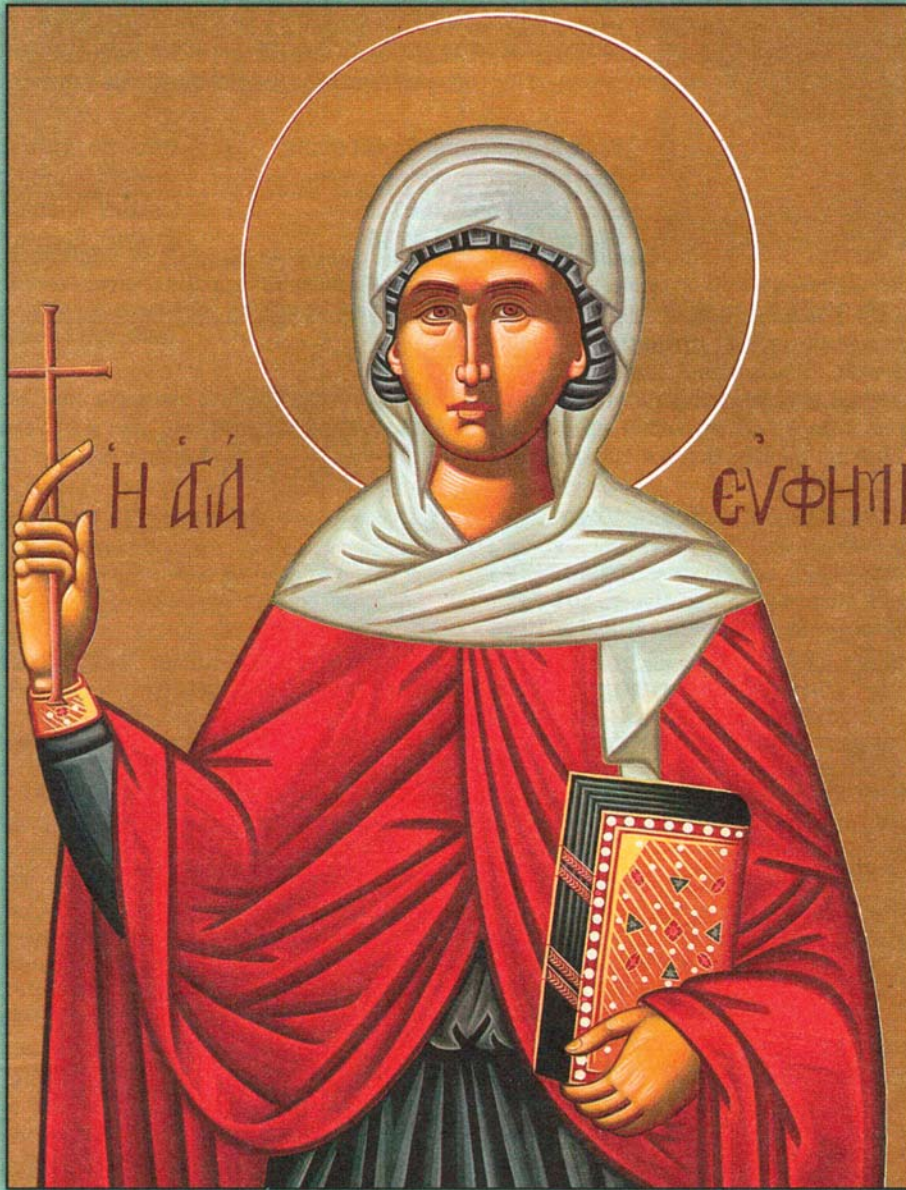


SUNDAY AFTER THE  
EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of Saint Euphemia -- September 16th

*Facing Death with Us*

There is a legend about a tribe of people who, many years ago, had the custom of offering one of their maidens in sacrifice. When the appointed time arrived, the young girl was placed in a boat and allowed to drift over the falls to her death below. The chief of the tribe was a good man who loved his family very much. He was very saddened when his daughter was chosen to be the next sacrifice. When the day for the sacrifice arrived, the chief was not to be found. Nevertheless, the tribesmen put the chief's daughter in a boat, and set her adrift on the river towards the raging falls.

As the girl floated down the river, she passed the spot where her father secretly waited in his own boat. He paddled quickly

and brought his boat next to hers. When he was close enough, he grasped her hand and pulled her close to him. Then, they both went down the falls together!

It is interesting that the legend does not say that the father rescued the girl. Instead, he gave up his own life so that she should not have to face death alone. The same is true with our Lord, Jesus Christ. He does not take away the reality of death from us. Instead, by His crucifixion and resurrection, He makes death powerless! By His death, Christ has conquered death. Christ is with us at the time of our own death and leads us to eternal life. This is the great victory of the Cross – which we gloriously exalt today!



## PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

1260 Stevens Avenue, Arbutus, MD 21227-2644

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

Pastor: Reverend Serhii Deiak  
[frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com](mailto:frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com)  
 Cell: (240) 644-2661  
 Office: (410) 247-4936

Deacon: Anthony Kotlar  
[kotlar@alum.mit.edu](mailto: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, October 2nd at 10am

### DIVINE LITURGY - PATRONAGE CHURCH

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday 9.19.2021	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Karl Karlson Requested by: The Karlson Family
Tuesday 9.21.2021	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert
Friday 9.24.2021	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert
Sunday 9.26.2021	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Martha Kostak Rudy Requested by: The Kotula Family

This is the **Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross**.  
 Propers begin on page 161, then 258, Tone 8.

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

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**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 26<sup>th</sup>**. 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.***

**PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION:** Please mark your calendar – we will be celebrating our church’s feast day, **Protection of the Theotokos**, on Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, with a Slavonic Liturgy followed by an ethnic dinner in our parish hall. Please sign up, on the flyer posted on the bulletin board, in the Narthex. There will also be prayer books (in Slavonic), in the pews, so you can sing along.

**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](http://www.becomingbyzantine.com) for more information. Sessions will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month beginning September 26<sup>th</sup> through August from 7-8:30pm.

**“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](http://www.bcs.edu).**

**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).

## **Thank You, Jesus**

**When I fall, You lift me up!**

**When I am weak, You are strong!**

**When I am lost, You are the way!**

**When I am hurt, You heal me!**

**When I face problems, You comfort me!**

**You are everything to me!**

**You are my Lord, and You are faithful.**

**I AM YOURS AND YOU ARE MINE!**

**...Christ is all, and in all...**

**- Colossians 3:11**

## Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

"I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness" (John 12:46). Before the Son of God came to earth, people were in darkness, people did not know the purpose of their lives, they did not know the true God. Pagan people worshiped soulless idols, various gods made of stone or wood. Some pagans sacrificed innocent children, and hoped for blessings and deliverance from the idol for such a brutal murder. In Plato's writings are the words of Socrates, "We must wait until the Supreme Being sends us from heaven a teacher who will teach us how to worship God." When Jesus Christ, the true light, began to preach heavenly science, then the prophecies were fulfilled. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined" (Isa. 9:2). God, who enters human history primarily through the Conception in the womb of the Virgin Mary in Nazareth, the birth in Bethlehem, the bringing to the temple in Jerusalem, chooses another place for the sermon that the prophet Isaiah speaks of in "Pagan Galilee" (Isa. 9:1).

The beginning of our Savior's sermon was, "...Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). We find many examples of the way of repentance in Scripture. In each case, repentance is an example of spiritual change and renunciation of sin.

The coming of Christ to earth is the appearance of the Great Light to people who hope for salvation. Everyone who accepts Christ as the Son of God is enlightened by God with wisdom and rewarded with His grace. "For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (2 Cor. 4:6).

A man fell into a deep abyss. Lying wounded, he died. Arriving friends tried, holding on to each other, to come down to help, and almost fell. Mercy came and lowered a ladder into the abyss, but it did not reach the bottom. Good deeds once done by man came and threw down the rope, but it was too short. Finally, repentance came and held out her hand. The man grabbed her and climbed out of the abyss. How did you do it - everyone was surprised. However, repentance never answered. She hurried to those who could still be saved.

Dear brothers and sisters! Today, on the Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross of the Lord, we hear the Gospel of the evangelist Mark, "For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life" (Mk. 8:36)? Let's think about it, no matter what a person achieves, if his soul does not grow spiritually in perfection, does not become more noble, or does not become enlightened, everything will be in vain. And now we are well aware of this, looking around, knowing that even material well-being cannot make people better and happier. He who lives only for himself will lose everything, but he who lovingly gives himself to the service of others, who knows how to share everything he has, he will gain even more. "Renounce yourself," means to look around and learn to see not only yourself with your sorrows and joys, difficulties and successes, but others who also have their joys and sorrows.

The cross helps to build a strong bond of faith, love, and trust with Christ. The veneration of the Lord's Cross invites us to follow Jesus confidently in life - to experience everything, to decide together with Him, as the Apostle Paul says, "I can do all things in him who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13).

Jesus remains in the world, in the Holy Eucharist, and is constantly with people, helping them in their fight against evil. The Lord has given us His cross, which is a powerful weapon in the fight against the devil. The Savior pointed out the mighty power of the cross to Emperor Constantine when he went to battle against Maxentius (325). It was a clear day. Caesar Constantine, and the whole army, saw in the sky a large cross, clear as the sun, and above the cross the inscription read: "By this you will win."

The cross of the Lord was dug up in Jerusalem. Christians wanted to see the Cross of the Lord, but due to the large number of people it was difficult for them to see it. Therefore, the Cross of the Lord was moved to a high place so that it could be seen by all. And the people, together with Bishop Macarius and the emperor's mother, St. Helena, prayed aloud, "Lord, have mercy."

The power of the Lord's Cross flowed to people and to the world. Since then, the persecution of Christians has ceased and the Christian faith has been given freedom. The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is commemorated in memory of this event.

Dear believers! We ask God that the power of the Lord's cross may help us carry our daily crosses of life, give us strength in patience, and comfort us in sorrow.

By the power of an honest and life-giving cross, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

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**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: 9.12.2021 - \$855.00 Abingdon Mission: 9.12.2021 - \$200.00  
Tithely: August, 2021 - \$1,030.00

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 and click on 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).**

**RECTORY LANDSCAPING:** A big thank you to **Karen Kernich** for cleaning up the flower beds in front of our rectory. The old bushes were removed and new azaleas were planted. Karen also planted purple pansies in the two concrete planters on the rectory front steps. The next job is to thin out the periwinkle growing in the flowerbed and mulch.

**RECTORY MAILBOX REPAIR NEEDED:** We are looking for someone to volunteer to stabilize the rectory mailbox post. If you would like to volunteer to repair it, please let Fr. Serhii know.

**CRAB FEAST:** Many thanks to **Dann Karlson** for organizing our parish crab feast and to all of those who donated items for Baba's Auction. ***We want to continue to make this crab feast a yearly event!***

**2021 "FALL" SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL:** Please mark your calendar for our next food festival – Saturday, November 20th, from 10am-2pm. Our festival will be for pre-orders/take-out only. Volunteers are needed beginning:

**Sunday, October 3, 2021,** after Liturgy – stuff envelopes for mailing with festival information

**Saturday, October 23, 2021,** at 9am – holupki making (volunteers are needed to help roll, cook, and clean-up)

**Wednesday, November 17, 2021,** at 9am – kolachi making (we plan on making 400+ kolachi and need as many volunteers as possible to help roll, bake, package them up, and help in clean-up)

**Saturday, November 20, 2021,** from 10am-2pm – volunteers needed to work the festival, as well as help is needed to clean up after the festival

Please contact Mary Demyan, [mdemya1@verison.net](mailto:mdemya1@verison.net) or 410-591-5654, if you are able to assist. Festival order forms and more information regarding pre-order dates will be available shortly, and will also be posted on our church's website and in our upcoming bulletins.

**2022 BUS TRIP:** *We are trying to see if there would be enough interest in taking a Saturday day trip.* We would be traveling by bus for an approximately 3-hour ride beginning with the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, PA. There would be a 1/2 hour guided tour with some time on your own to explore the grounds and a visit to the gift shop. Our next stop would be Mt. St. Macrina for a tour of the grounds and a visit to their gift shop. Then, a short drive to Fort Necessity and Jumonville, where there is a large cross that is lit up at night. The cost of this day trip would be approximately \$75.00 (depending on the number of people, the price could decrease). This cost only covers transportation and tip. We are also trying to plan this trip either the end of April or the beginning of May. More details will be worked out if there is enough interest. Please contact Mike Skovran at 410-979-4791, if you are interested.

**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.

**WE MISS YOU!** For those who are reading this bulletin either online or a copy you received in the mail, and if you have not been attending Liturgy at Patronage Church since the onset of COVID, we hope you will join us once again. Bishop Kurt revoked the dispensation on June 6<sup>th</sup>, regarding the Sunday precept or obligation to assist at Divine Liturgy. Watching the live-stream no longer fulfills the obligation to assist at Divine Liturgy. However, the Bishop reminds everyone that "just as before the pandemic, anyone is relieved of the obligation for serious reason such as sickness, immobility, fear, caring for someone else, to protect your own health, or the health of others."

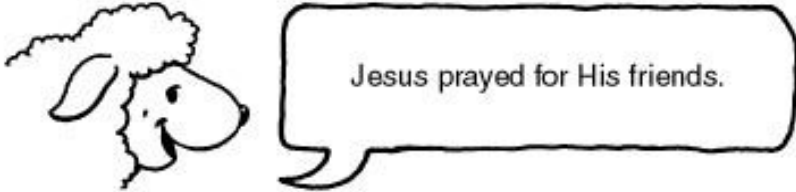
**EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION (ECF) FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM:** Last Sunday, students and parents received a special blessing as they embark on a new step in their journey toward Heaven. Keep them in your prayers, encourage the students, and their parents, in their studies, and ask God's enlightenment upon them as these parents who accepted the responsibility to teach them the Way of Our Lord through lessons and activities. A reminder, that our ECF Program, at this time, will continue as a homeschool program until further notice. Textbooks and materials will be distributed shortly. **It is also not too late to register, a child, for our ECF Program. Please send Fr. Serhii an email with your request.**

*"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6).*

**GOD WITH US ONLINE:** The first webinar of the next curriculum year will be "Rethinking Sunday School; The Problem and Practical Solutions, takes place Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 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. **It is not too late to register**, visit [www.godwithusonline.org](http://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.

**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](http://www.archpitt.org) for more information.

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



Use the code to find some of His words.

○ = A	◐ = E	◑ = I	◒ = M	▨ = Q	▩ = U	⊠ = Y
● = B	◕ = F	◔ = J	▧ = N	⊞ = R	▤ = V	■ = Z
◓ = C	◖ = G	◗ = K	▢ = O	⊟ = S	▥ = W	
◔ = D	⊗ = H	◙ = L	▣ = P	◐ = T	▦ = X	

He said, "

▣ ⊞ ▢ ◐ ◓ ◖ ◗

▩ ⊗ ◑ ◒ ◕ ⊠ ⊞ ◓ ◔ ◕

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