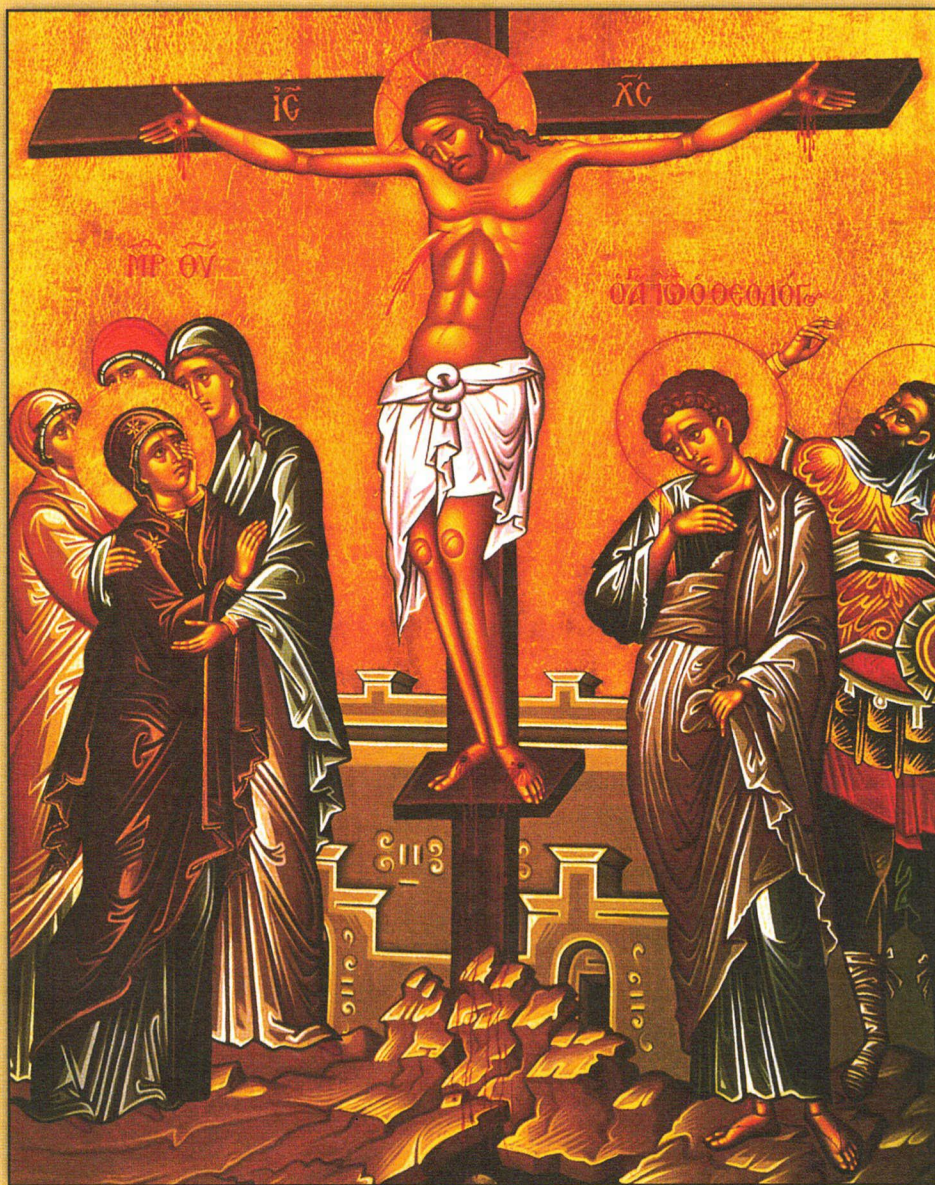


SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION
OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Crucifixion of Christ on the Cross



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
Office: (410) 247-4936

Administrator: Very Rev. Vasyl Symyon Cantor: Michael Kulka
 Email: vasyl.symyon@gmail.com Cantor: Joseph Kotlar, Sr.
 Phone: 412-713-4520 Cantor: Ann Marie Kotlar
 Rev. Deacon Anthony Kotlar, Sr.
 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
Next Liturgy: TBD

PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Saturday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross 9.16.2023	4:00pm	Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Michael & +Catherine Bluey From: Carol & Tim Herder
17 th Sunday After Pentecost 9.24.2023	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Phyllis Skovran From: Michael Skovran

Today is the **Saturday After the Exaltation of the Cross.**
 The Propers handout for today can be found on the table behind the last pew.

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

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

LITURGY INTENTIONS: If you would like to request an Intention, please either call or email Fr. Vasyl, and let him know. Intention forms are available on the bookrack, in the Narthex, or on our website. 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.

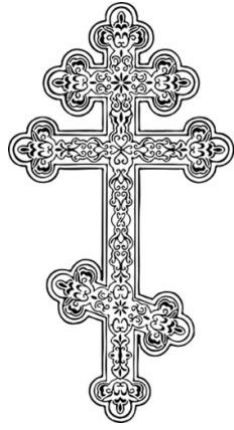
The Eparchy of Passaic is still accepting Stipends for Ukrainian priests. Stipend forms can be found on the bookrack in the Narthex, or on our church website. Make checks payable to: "Eparchy of Passaic." Our Eparchy will pay the administrative costs, so that 100% goes to a Ukrainian priest, and his family, who needs the help. Mail the Stipend sheet and your check to: Eparchy of Passaic, 445 Lackawanna Ave., Woodland Park, NJ 07424.

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. They 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.

The Carmelite Nuns also have a Monastery Pantry, which is open weekdays (not Sunday) from 10am – 4pm, if you happen to be in the area and want to stop by. Some of their products are also sold only online. Check it out - visit www.monasterypantry.com for more information. Your support is greatly appreciated!

METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY: Most Rev. William Skurla, Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh, has 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."* **What does the Byzantine Catholic Church mean to you? Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Basil Takach, the first Bishop of the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church in America. 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 30th. 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, and the email address is byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com. **Registration deadline is October 1st!**

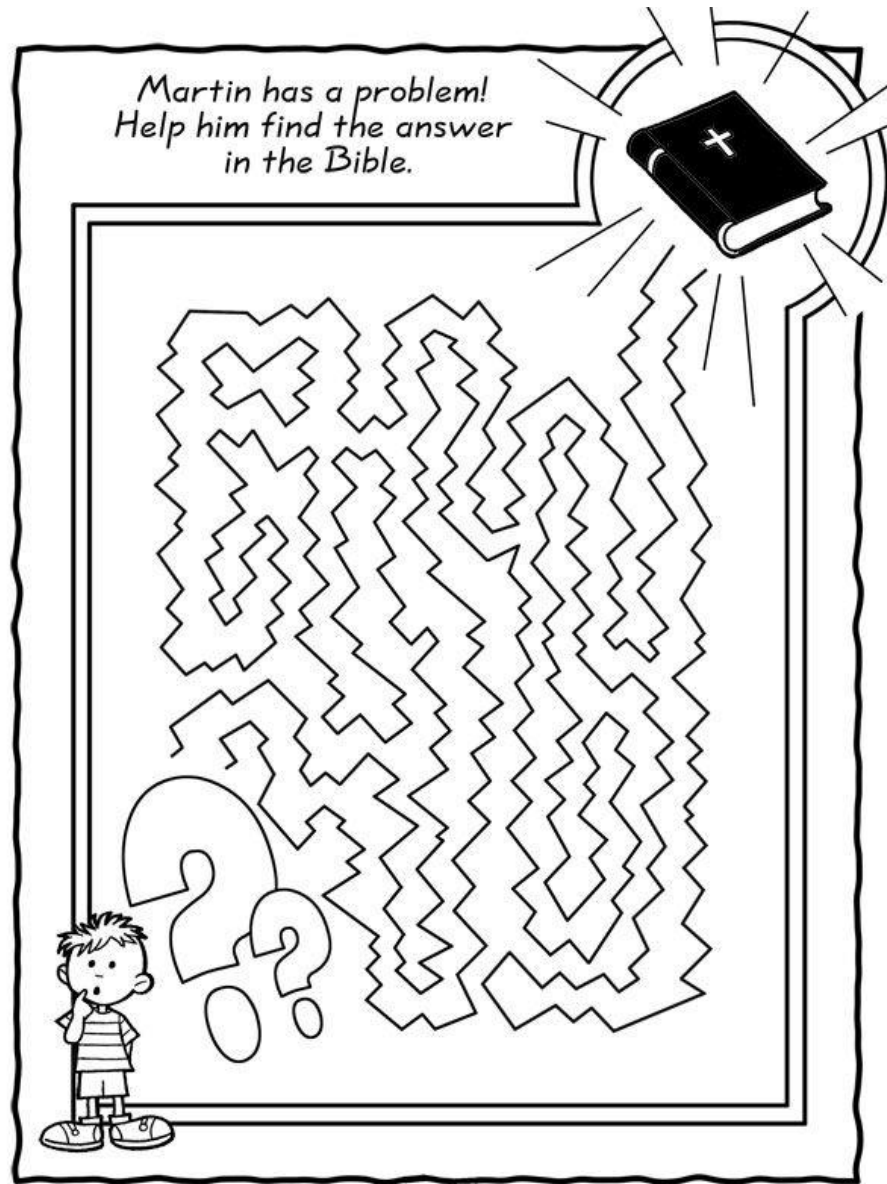
BYZANTINE ICON PAINTING WORKSHOP: Patronage Church is planning a Byzantine Icon Painting Workshop with Iconographer, Wayne Hajos, sometime in the beginning of 2024. Wayne was the Iconographer who wrote the icons in our Holy Place and below our choir loft many years ago. The class will be 4 days long (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 if you are interested along with any preference on dates/timing.** Class size is limited to 20 students. More details regarding payment, will be forthcoming.



Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness,
a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness.

- St. John Chrysostom

CHILDREN'S CORNER



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).

EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION (ECF) 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, **"The Church as Our Spiritual Home with God,"** focusing on the Church as the beautiful place of dwelling of God With Us. 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.

GOD WITH US ONLINE: A free live webinar, **"Stewards of the Mysteries; The Great Calling of Every Christian,"** will take place on **Wednesday, September 21st, from 8-9pm.** Most Rev. Nicholas Samra, will be the presenter. Stewardship is our active commitment to use all our time, talents, and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love. It is caring for the needs of others. It is offering oneself to God as He offered himself to us. To register, visit www.godwithusonline.org.

If you would like to view this week's resources, to use in your catechesis, please visit www.godwithusonline.org, click on "Resources," "Catechetical Resources," then "Ruthenian." You can also sign up if you would like to be put on their mailing list.

PARISH GREETER: At our last parish meeting, Deacon Tony brought up the idea of bringing back our church having a parish greeter in the Narthex prior to the beginning of services. Seeing a friendly face, when coming to our church, presents a welcoming environment. If you would like to volunteer, and welcome parishioners to our church, by passing out bulletins, and showing newcomers where our special liturgical booklets and Propers handouts are located, along with answering any questions they may have, please let Deacon Tony know. If a few parishioners volunteered, we could do this on a rotational basis, and perhaps you would only need to volunteer, to do this task, once a month. **Please consider volunteering!**

HELP WANTED - PATRONAGE CHURCH SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL - Saturday, November 18th: In order to continue with the success of our festivals, we will need many volunteers. If you have any questions or can volunteer, please contact Mary Demyan at mdemya1@verizon.net. Many hands make light work, so any help will be much appreciated. Please mark your calendar with the following festival dates/times:

Friday, October 6th, 9am – 12noon - cabbage preparation (boil and remove spine on cabbage leaves)
Saturday, October 7th, 9am – make balls, roll the balls in cabbage leaves, cook, and freeze Holupki
Wednesday, November 15th, 9am – make and package Kolachi
Friday, November 17th, 9am – set-up for festival (including peeling and cubing potatoes)
Saturday, November 18th, 10am – 2pm – festival (we will also need help in cleaning up afterwards)

DONATIONS NEEDED: In looking ahead to our upcoming Slavic Food Festival, and to help offset costs, we are currently asking for donations of walnuts. We will need 40 pounds. They are currently \$7.98 for a 3lb bag at Sam's Club, if you happen to be a member, and can purchase them there. If not, walnuts can be purchased at a store of your choice. If you do not want to shop, we will do the shopping for you with your donation of either cash or a check made payable to: Patronage Church. Thank you for any support you can provide! We are looking forward to another great festival!

PATRONAGE CRAB FEAST: Many thanks to Dann Karlson for organizing this event. Parishioners look forward to this every year!

Reflection from Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA

Honoring God's Name

By: Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM

The Second Commandment: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in Vain"

Glory to Jesus Christ!

We continue with the Commandments. Last month, the first one, "I am the Lord your God, you shall have no strange gods before me."

The second one, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain."

Just to give some context about names, all of us have heard about or witnessed fights among kids when someone has mocked his or her father or mother.

Why? Because we're sensitive to disrespect for those we love. Names are meaningful. They hold powerful emotions for us and they refer to persons, persons who are worthy of respect.

God's names – because we use many names for God; first of all, there is the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit – but we also call God Lord and many other precious names.

Their names should convey to us that sense of the sacred reflected in that First Commandment. And in the name is even God's presence. Therefore, we should use God's name only to bless, to praise, to glorify God and by the way, this includes also the names of the Mother of God and of the saints; all deserving high respect. Besides prayer, though, we do use God's name in other honorable ways. We make promises sometimes in God's name, in good faith. We take oaths in God's name. We have all witnessed someone swearing on a Bible and saying, "I swear to do this," and ending that with "So help me God." That's mighty serious.

But if a person swears a false oath – they're using God's name for wrong or he doesn't intend to keep this oath – or he makes an oath to do wrong, these are sins against the Second Commandment; taking God's name in vain. Along with that is perjury, blasphemy; using God's name in a magical way or any mocking way. These are sins against the Second Commandment, as well.

Along with this, let us consider our own names because they too are precious and need to be respected. Recognizing the dignity of every person is important. And the way we pronounce or use another person's name. Along with the name we respect their reputation, their personhood, their essence. For most of us, this name has been received in Holy Baptism. God recognizes this name for all eternity! He calls us each this name.

We begin our prayers in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. There is power in God's name. In the Eastern Christian tradition, we love and use the Jesus prayer, recognizing the power in the name of our Holy Savior.

So, I invite you to reflect on this – where does honoring God's name fit in your life?

May we all grow in praise and gratitude!

God bless you.

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 Belensky, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Veronica Ruszin, Anna Martin, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Howard Guba, Missy Kakalec, 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: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733> – the link is also on our website)

Patronage Church (9.10.2023):

Offertory: \$2,500.00

"Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth" (Dt. 8:18).

PANACHIDA SERVICE: Fr. Vasyl will be having a Panachida service for those, from our parish, who are interred at Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Cemetery, Elkridge, MD, on **Sunday, October 1st, after the 11am Divine Liturgy (please mark your calendar the time change of services on October 1st)**. The cemetery is only a few miles from our church. We hope you can join us! ***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.***

PATRONAGE FACEBOOK PAGE: If anyone has any pictures they would like to share of parish life, and have them posted on the church's Facebook page, please send them to Kevin Ross at keviross@gmail.com. Facebook is an excellent way for Patronage Church to show to inquirers that we are an active congregation! It also highlights the important work of our many volunteers in parish events/activities, as well as liturgical celebrations.

MID-ATLANTIC STATES SYNCOLLATE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: For those who submitted their names to receive an invitation for this event, at Epiphany Church in Annandale, VA, the celebration will take place on **Sunday, November 12th, at 10am**. Bishop Kurt will be in attendance and accompanied by Bishop Nil Luschak, OFM, Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy of Mukachevo. Bishop Nil will be in the United States because he is scheduled to be a speaker at the Metropolitan Church Assembly and then for the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-elect Robert Pipta, and Enthronement as Sixth Eparchial Bishop of Parma.

SOCIAL HALL FREEZER: We are in the process of replacing one of our social hall freezers in time for our church festival. It has been repaired multiple times, and has become unreliable. We will keep you updated as to when we get a new one installed. ***If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of this freezer, we would appreciate any amount you could give. Many thanks to those who have already made a donation!***

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).

Whatever Their Size, Carry Them

“Whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel’s will save it.” One who knew the meaning of Jesus’ words so well was Flannery O’Connor, the distinguished Catholic novelist who died in 1964 at the age of 39. From the age of 25 she lived with the knowledge she had a terminal disease, Lupus, – not to mention her sufferings from bone disintegration, shingles, anemia, and a tumor. Yet it was during fourteen years of sickness and suffering that she produced her greatest works of literary art. Her strong faith enabled her to say: “I have never been anywhere but sick. In a sense sickness is a place, more instructive than a long trip to Europe. Sickness before death is a very appropriate thing and I think those who don’t have it miss one of God’s mercies ...”

Those are strong words! How could a young woman call sickness one of God’s mercies? Yet Jesus’ words in the Gospel are just as strong: “If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his

cross, and follow in my steps.”

In some way Flannery O’Connor was able to accept the cross of her sickness and follow in the Lord’s footsteps. But she didn’t do it with a nice sweet smile on her face. She did it with strong courage and conviction. She realized that her own sickness was the very thing that helped her to look at life around her with the eyes of faith; and to translate that life into literary pages that would win her international fame as a writer. Each one of us is called upon to carry a cross in our life at some time. For some it may be the cross of emotional or spiritual suffering, rather than physical suffering. Sometimes there are big crosses, sometimes small. Whatever their size, Jesus calls upon us to carry them.

Visit www.ecpubs.com for more publications.