

Invited to the Banquet

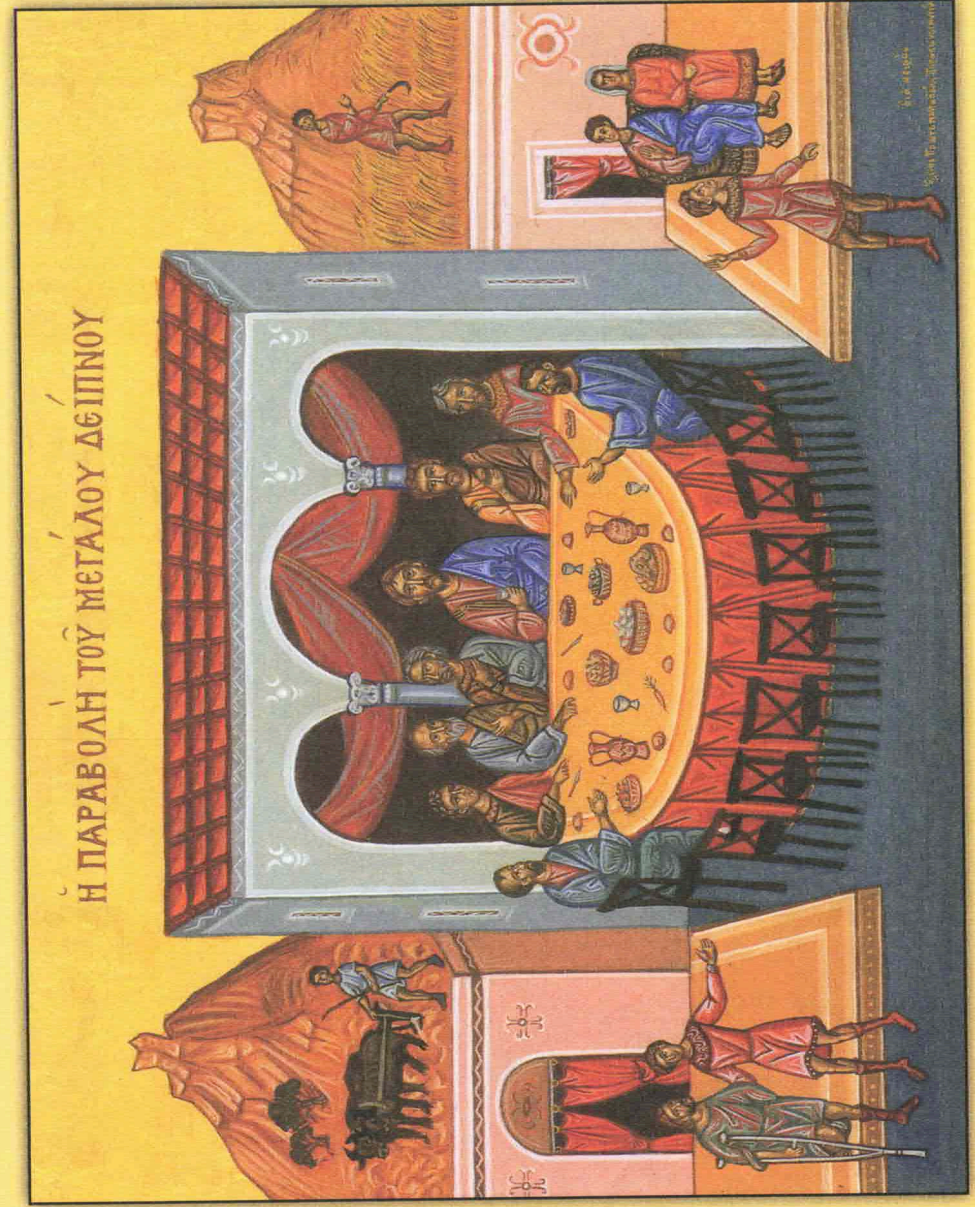
It is written in the Gospel: The Master sent out his servants to call them who wish to come, inviting them: "My banquet is ready." But those who were called began to excuse themselves, one saying: "I bought some yoke of oxen." Another: "I have married" (Luke 14:16ff). You see, he was ready who called, but the invited refused. They themselves were alone responsible in the way they answered.

Thus, so great is the dignity of Christians. Consider, the Lord has prepared for them the Kingdom and has called them to enter, but they have refused.

Concerning the gift that Christians will receive by way of their inheritance, one could rightly say that if anyone, from the time of Adam's creation to the end of the world, should battle against Satan and put up with afflictions, it would be nothing in comparison to the glory which he is to obtain. For he will reign forever together with Christ. Glory to Him who so loved such a person that He gave himself and His grace and entrusted himself to Him. Glory to His greatness!

Pseudo-Macarius

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS



Icon of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:16-24)



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 Phone: 412-713-4520
 Email: vasyl.symyon@gmail.com Cantor: Michael Kulka
 Rev. Deacon Anthony Kotlar, Sr. Cantor: Joseph Kotlar, Sr.
 Email: Kotlar@alum.mit.edu Cantor: Anne Marie Kotlar
 Office Assistant: Sharon Kotula; Email: d.kotula@comcast.net

Patronage Church at Hagerstown:

St. Augustine Catholic Church: 32 E. Potomac St., Williamsport, MD 21795

Contact: Adam and Lauren Myers: (301) 791-0930/axxearp@yahoo.com

Divine Liturgy Schedule: Saturday, December 20th, and 27th; at 4:00pm

PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday of the Forefathers 12.14.2025	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For the Repose of the Souls of: +Mary and +John Hardy Requested by: Anna Esquela
Sunday Before Christmas – of the Ancestors 12.21.2025	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For the Repose of the Soul of: +Caroline Belensky From: Linda and Jack Russell

Sunday of the Forefathers

Today's Propers can be found on page 130, Tone 2, then page 281, in the teal Divine Liturgy book.

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

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, and let us know, or contact either one personally.

Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na v'iki! Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

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, Greg Rudy, Charlie Toth, Larissa Toth, Tony Kotlar, Jr., Mary Hrinda, Michael Demyan, Michael Skovran, Mary Ann Ondrish, Betty Charlock, Elizabeth Hresko, John Hanyok, Ann Marie Elwell, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Joe Belensky, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Veronica Ruszin, Anna Martin, Joseph Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Howard Guba, Melanie Copper, Julie Wiegand, Natalie, Edin, +Walter Lourdes Najera Herder, Mark and Betsey Herder, our first responders, and all military service men and women throughout the world. Please help us keep our prayer list up to date. Let us know if we need to remove or add a name by sending an email to our church.

*May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician and Healer of souls and bodies,
grant them peace and good health for many blessed years!*

STEWARDSHIP: You honor God and our Church by continuing to tithe each week. An offertory basket is on the table in the back of our Temple for your weekly donation. You may also mail your donation to our church, or donate using Tithe.ly online at: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>. The link is also on the first page of our website.

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

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM: If your child would like to take part in our annual Christmas Eve program on **Wednesday, December 24th**, beginning at 4:00pm, please contact Sharon Kotula (d.kotula@comcast.net), and let her know **no later than today, Sunday, December 14th**. Booklets need to be copied, and will be handed out at practice after Divine Liturgy next Sunday, December 21st.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER SALE: Today is the last day to order Christmas Poinsettias. The flowers will be placed within the church and altar for Christmas Divine Liturgy. Each commemoration will be published in a special Christmas brochure. Plants may be taken by the giver after Christmas Liturgy. An order form can be found on the shelf in the Narthex. Each plant is \$14.00, and you can place your completed form in our offertory basket. Checks should be made payable to: Patronage Church. Cash will also be accepted. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser!

ECF ST. NICHOLAS SERVICE PROJECT: Many thanks to everyone who made a donation to benefit the Marine Corps Reserve “Toys for Tots” organization, and to Greg Calvitt for organizing this project. We filled 2 large boxes with toys and books, and were delivered to the organization this past week. Everyone's generosity was greatly appreciated!

“THE CALL OF THE DISCIPLES” PILGRIM VOCATION ICON PROGRAM: Week #11 – Every family is encouraged to sign-up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. By welcoming the icon into your home for one week, you become part of a powerful movement of prayer and discernment. Be a source of inspiration and grace in our parish community. Remember to bring the icon and prayer booklet to church the following week, and place it on the Tetrapod for the next family on the list. Any questions, please contact Fr. Vasyl.

UPDATE - BISHOP'S APPEAL 2025: The Bishop's Appeal 2025, began in October. Congratulations! We have now exceeded our goal of \$9,800.00! **God bless you for your generosity to our Eparchy.** You can still pledge to the Bishop's Appeal, and payments will be accepted through June 30, 2026. Any contributions received after December 31, 2025, must be attributed to the 2026 tax year. Checks must be made payable to: Eparchy of Passaic, and mailed to: 445 Lackawanna Avenue, Woodland Park, NJ 07424-2969. You can also pledge online at: www.eparchyofpassaic.com, then click on “Giving.” Pamphlets are still available in the Narthex.

FREEZER SALE: Help us clear our church freezer. Items for sale are: a variety of Pirohi at \$7/bag; smoked and fresh Kolbassi at \$6/bag, cheesecake (only 1 left) for \$15; and nut, poppy, and raspberry Kolachi at \$16/each. Please see Mary Demyan after Liturgy if you are interested in purchasing any. Quantities are limited!

ST. NICHOLAS MINISTRY – PATRONAGE GREETERS: A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the Narthex if you would like to volunteer to be a parish greeter welcoming new faces to our church community. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

EASTERN CATHOLIC LIFE (ECL): For those who are not familiar with the ECL, this is our Eparchy of Passaic's newspaper. We are in the process of updating our ECL subscription list for 2026. If you would like to either newly subscribe or renew your subscription to the ECL, please send the church an email, and let us know by **Sunday, January 4th**, so that we can send our updated parish list to the Eparchy of Passaic. The cost is \$20/year, and checks should be made payable to: Patronage Church (please mark on the memo of your check that this is for the ECL). Cash will also be accepted. Those that receive church envelopes, can find a pink ECL envelope in the packet you received in the mail.

ICONOGRAPHY CLASS: There are only 2 slots left for our Iconography Class scheduled for **February 27th, 28th, and March 1, 2026**, at Patronage Church. If you are interested in participating, please contact Kevin Ross (keviross@gmail.com), as soon as possible. The total cost for this Iconography class is \$250, with \$50 due immediately to hold your registration, and \$200 due on the date of the first class.

GCU - 2025-2026 SCHOLARSHIP: The GCU is now accepting applications for the GCU Scholarship Awards. All applications must be completed online, and applicants must be a GCU member as of December 31, 2024, with a permanent life insurance certificate or annuity with a balance of \$2,000 or more, to be considered for the award. For complete information on scholarships available, requirements and to apply for the award, please visit www.gcuusa.com, and click on "Scholarships-Learn More" link. Applications for the 2025-26 scholarship will be available through December 31, 2025.

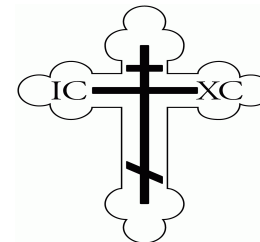
PATRONAGE CHURCH COMMUNICATION: Parishioners are encouraged to stay informed by regularly checking the bulletin and website for updates on upcoming parish events and important announcements. Your active participation and attention help foster a stronger community, and ensures everyone is aware of changes and opportunities within our parish. *Also, if you are not on our email list, please send our church a note, and we will add you!*

ADULT ENRICHMENT MINISTRY: Our next session will take place after Divine Liturgy today. Everyone is welcome to attend!

SUBMITTING A LITURGY INTENTION: This is a beautiful part of our Byzantine Catholic tradition to have the Divine Liturgy celebrated for the repose of the soul of a departed loved one, or for the health and personal intentions of an individual. If you would like to request a specific date, please do so as soon as possible, as the dates assigned are on a first come, first serve basis, and are reserved upon receipt of the offering. *The stipend for the Divine Liturgy Intention is a suggested donation of at least \$20.* However, please know that if you are unable to pay the stipend, your Liturgy request will be honored. Forms are available either on our website, or on the bookrack in the Narthex. Completed forms can be placed in the offertory basket or mailed to our church. ***Checks should be made payable to: Very Rev. Vasyi Symyon.*** Cash will also be accepted.

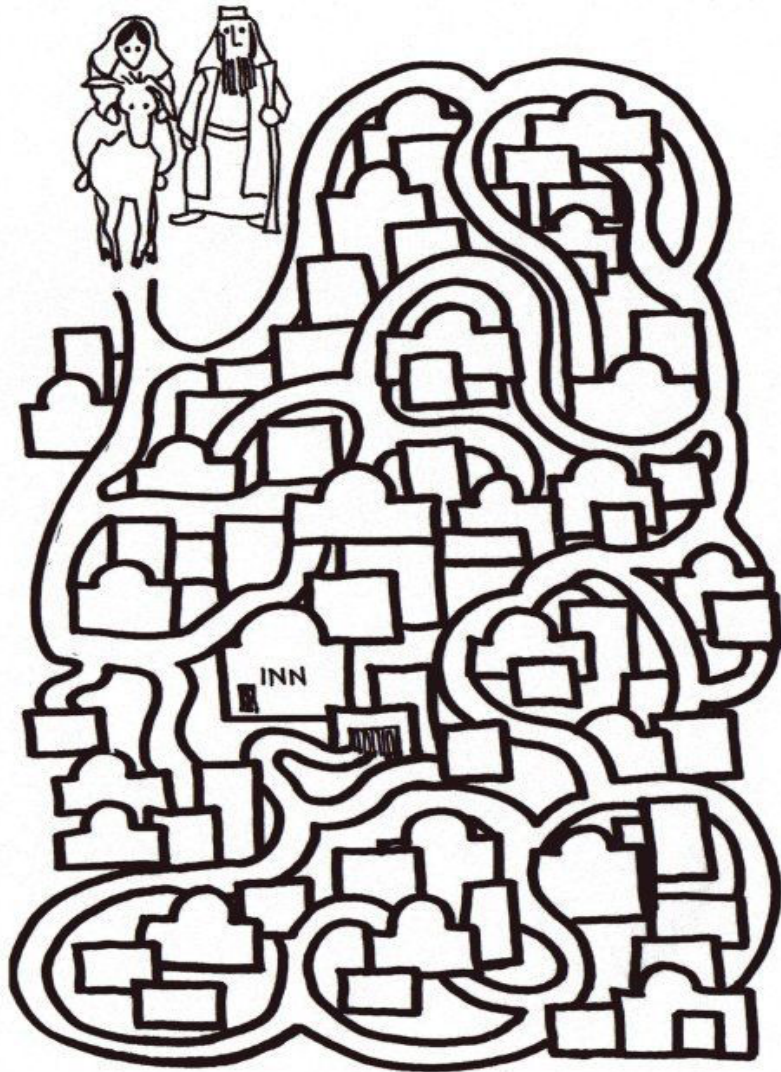
DECREE ON THE HOLY MYSTERY OF REPENTANCE: Bishop Kurt Burnette issued a Decree, dated May 1, 2025, regarding cell phones and electronic devices in locations where the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession) is held. The Bishop's order: ***"All cell phones, both belonging to the priest or to a penitent must be left outside the confessional or be powered off. It is not enough to have it silenced. The same care should be exercised around other electronic devices that respond to audio commands or contain microphones such as smart speakers and other devices. Speakers that respond to verbal commands should never be near the confessional. A sign stating this rule will be prominently posted where the Mystery is celebrated with regularity."***

BYZANTINE YOUTH RALLY: The Byzantine Youth Rally provides Eastern Catholic faith formation and fraternity for all teens (ages 13-18) growing up in the Byzantine Catholic tradition. Together with their peers, youth actively engage in living, growing in, and promoting the Byzantine Catholic tradition. All youth are given the opportunity to gather from across the country for our biennial national Byzantine Youth Rally. It's a great opportunity to make new friends, form lasting relationships, pray, grow spiritually, listen to inspiring talks from our Byzantine leaders, support one another in the Faith, and just have fun. The next Rally will take place **July 9-12, 2026**, in Cleveland, Ohio. Save the date! More details will be available in a future bulletin.



Children's Corner

Help Mary and Joseph find their way, on their journey to Bethlehem.

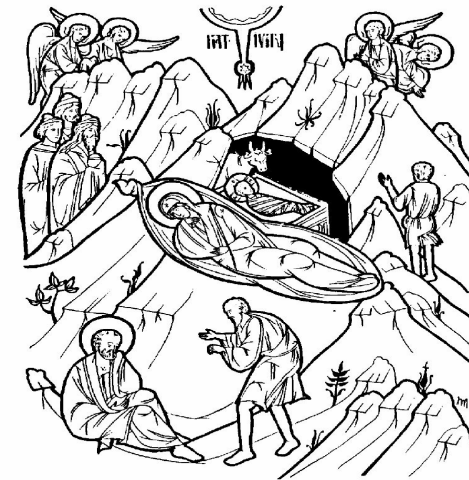


Schedule of Christmas Services 2025

The Feast of the Nativity

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Christos Razdajetsja! Slavite Jeho!



Wednesday, December 24, 2025 – Christmas Eve –

Compline with St. John Chrysostom Liturgy: 4pm

Thursday, December 25, 2025 – Nativity of Our Lord –

Divine Liturgy: 9am

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, registration is the OFFICIAL way to join our church.*** Simply complete a census form that is located on the bookrack in the Narthex, or on our website, and either mail it to the church, or place it in the offertory basket in the back of our Temple. On-line 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).