

Christ and the Law

When Christ says to him, “if you would enter life, keep the commandments,” the man expects him to add immediately, “My commandments.” “Which ones?” he asks. He was quite deceived in his expectation. For Christ did not answer him as he expected, but simply pointed him to the law.

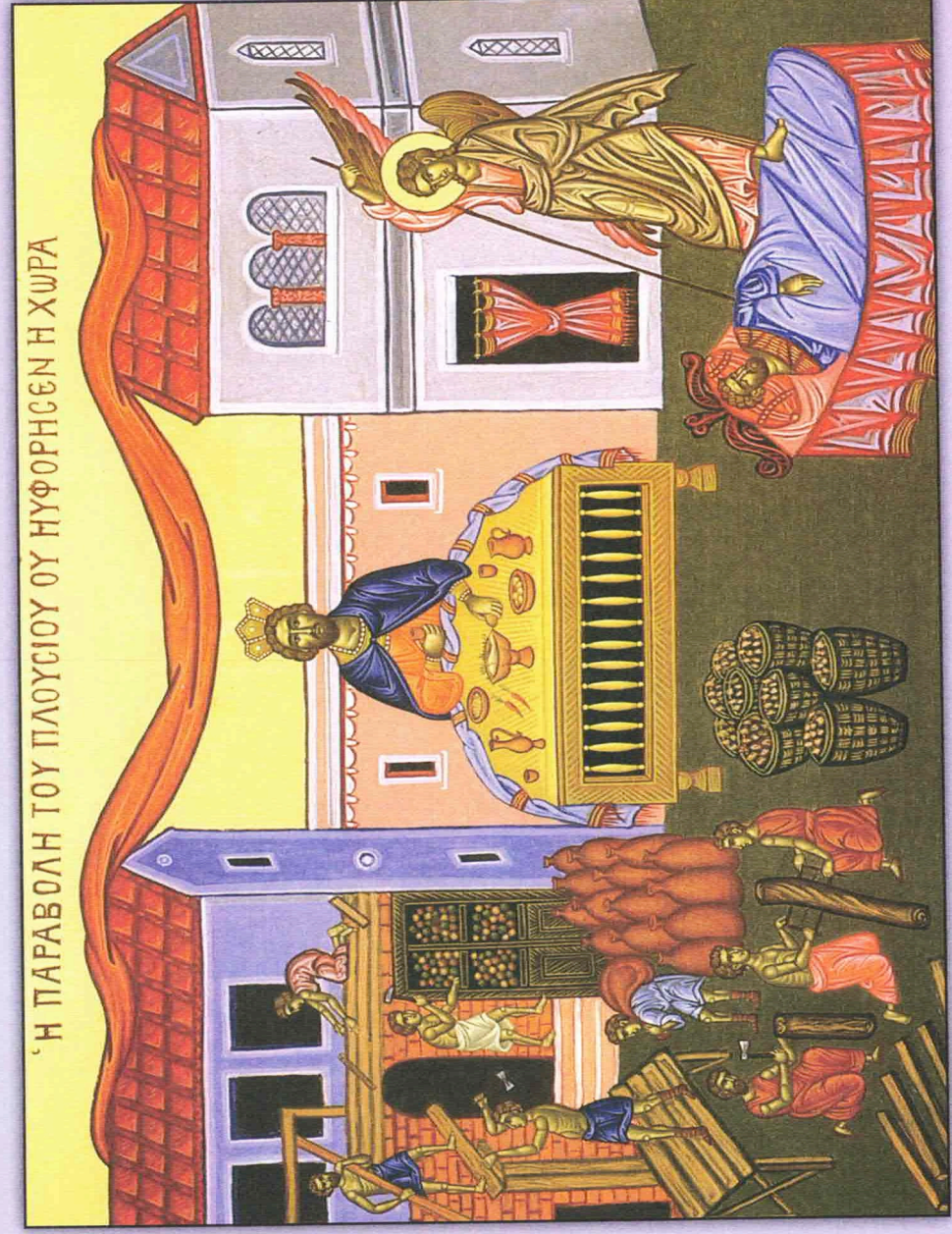
This is not because the law is perfection, for “no one is justified by the law,” as it is written, but because the life lived according to the law is a kind of introduction to the eternal life, briefly acquainting trainees to the things above. “For the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ.”

The law is the starting point for social justice. Christ is the perfection. For the beginning of good is to act justly, He says. Just action then is shown by the law, but goodness is shown by Christ. The law taught us to repay those who wish to harm us, as in “eye for eye, tooth for tooth.”

But Christ taught us to let go such balanced vengeance, with the view to the greater good, teaching that “if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if anyone would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well.”

St. Cyril of Alexandria

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21)



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

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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 13th, 20th, and 27th; at 4:00pm

PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
24 th Sunday After Pentecost 11.23.2025	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For the Repose of the Souls of: +Walter and +Sophie Bodaj Requested by: Deacon Anthony and Theresa Kotlar & Family
25 th Sunday After Pentecost 11.30.2025	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For the Repose of the Soul of: +Bob Persson From: Ann Bennett and Jackie Persson
Nicholas of Myra – Archbishop Saturday, 12.6.2025	4:00pm	Vigil Divine Liturgy Annointing/Mirovanije	For the Repose of the Soul of: +Very Rev. Conan Timoney Requested by: Patronage Church Parishioners

24th Sunday After Pentecost

Today's Propers are a handout located on the shelf in the Narthex.

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. Thank you for your help! *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).

EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION (ECF): Students in ECF will be practicing for our upcoming St. Nicholas play after Divine Liturgy today. Parents, along with your children, please gather in the back of our social hall. Children will be receiving their instructions and parts for the play. Those that have reading parts will need to practice at home for the play. If time allows, we would like to try and have children make another Christmas ornament. Thank you for your support!

SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL: Thank you to everyone who helped make yesterday's festival a success, including those that volunteered on days we made holupki and kolachi, donated baked goods for our bake table, those that made a monetary donation to help offset the expenses for our festival, peeled/chopped potatoes, setting up the hall, and other necessary tasks for our festival. More information on the proceeds from our festival will be forthcoming. ***We have items for sale that are left over from our festival in our social hall – check it out!***

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING: Save the date - next **Sunday, November 30th**, after Divine Liturgy, we will be decorating our church and social hall before the Feast of St. Nicholas. Please plan on joining us. We are in need of many volunteers.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER SALE: Our parish is once again sponsoring a Christmas Poinsettia sale. This is a fundraiser, and each Poinsettia plant is \$14.00. The flowers will be placed within the church and altar for Christmas Divine Liturgy. Each commemoration will be published in a special insert. Plants may be taken by the giver after Christmas Liturgy. An order form can be found on the shelf in the Narthex, or on our website. The deadline to place an order is **Sunday, December 14th**, and you can place your completed form either in our offertory basket, or mail it to the church. Please make checks payable to: Patronage Church. Cash will also be accepted. Thank you for your support!

“THE CALL OF THE DISCIPLES” PILGRIM VOCATION ICON PROGRAM: Week #8– 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.

ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION: St. Nicholas is the Patron Saint of the Byzantine Catholic Church. Please join us on **Saturday, December 6th**, as Fr. Vasyi will be celebrating the Feast of Nicholas of Myra Archbishop with Divine Liturgy starting at 4:00pm, followed by a St. Nicholas performance from our ECF students, a visit from St. Nicholas, himself, and a pot-luck dinner in our social hall. Please RSVP to Mary Demyan (mdemya1@verizon.net) no later than Sunday, November 30th, and let her know how many people from your family will be attending the pot-luck dinner, and what dish you will be bringing. We want to ensure we have enough seating and food for everyone. **Please note that there are no scheduled services on Sunday, December 7th**. Any questions, please send our church an email.

ECF ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL SERVICE PROJECT: St. Nicholas spoke that: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." As we continue this annual St. Nicholas service project tradition, we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys and books for the Marine Corps Reserve "Toys for Tots" organization for disadvantaged children. A box is currently located in the cry room that you can place your donation in. **The last day to make a donation is Saturday, December 6th**. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Calvitt (gregcalvitt@gmail.com). Thank you for supporting this service project.

GIFT FROM ST. NICHOLAS: On the shelf in the Narthex are envelopes labeled, "**Gift from St. Nicholas.**" If you would like to make a donation for the seminarians in Uzhhorod, Ukraine, please use this envelope, if possible, and **return it to our church no later than Sunday, November 30th**. We will accept cash or a check made payable to: Patronage Church. Please note on the memo of your check that it is for: "Gift from St. Nicholas." You can place your donation in the offertory basket or it can be mailed to our church. Any questions, please contact Fr. Vasyi. Thank you for supporting the seminarians!

GREEK CATHOLIC UNION (GCU) – ST. NICHOLAS 2025

VIRTUALTHON: The GCU Board of Directors has once again instituted the St. Nicholas Virtualthon – a GCU community outreach event to benefit the Ss. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA. This is a matching funds event with the GCU Board pledging to match up to \$5,000 in total donations. If you would like to donate to this effort, please visit the GCU's website: www.gcuusa.com if you would like to pay by credit card. If you prefer to pay by check, please make payable and mail to: St. Nicholas Virtualthon, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009. Donations will be accepted through Saturday, December 6, 2025, 11:45pm. The GCU thanks you for supporting this event.

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 us a note, and we will add you!

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 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.

ADULT ENRICHMENT MINISTRY: Our next session will take place on **Sunday, December 14th**. Please join us in our social hall. Deacon Tony will continue his discussion on the Divine Liturgy. Everyone is welcome to attend!

ICONOGRAPHY CLASS: There are only a few available 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.

"OUR DAILY BREAD" CASSEROLE DONATIONS: Many thanks to those who made a casserole to benefit "Our Daily Bread." A total of 11 casseroles were collected, and donated from our church. Your efforts were greatly appreciated!

BISHOP'S APPEAL 2025: There are a few pamphlets available on the shelf in the Narthex if you did not receive a form in the mail. 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." Pledges and payments for this year's appeal will be accepted through June 30, 2026. Any contributions received after December 31, 2025, must be attributed to the 2026 tax year. Help us reach our parish's goal of \$9,800.00. Thank you for supporting the Eparchy of Passaic!



**The Nativity Fast
November 15 - December 24**

Children's Corner

Give thanks
to the Lord
for He is Good.
Psalm 118:1

START



FINISH



Christ is Born!

Please Join Us
for a

Nativity Fast Retreat

Patronage of the Mother of God
Byzantine Catholic Church
1265 Linden Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21227

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM, will help us prepare to celebrate the Birth of Our Lord, exploring Scripture, hymns and carols, and the prayers of the Byzantine Catholic Church.

Fr. Jerome grew up in St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church now in Flushing, Michigan, and has served Byzantine parishes in Pennsylvania. He currently lives at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington, DC.

At the conclusion of the retreat, **Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Nicholas** will be celebrated, followed by our annual **St. Nicholas celebration and pot-luck dinner.**

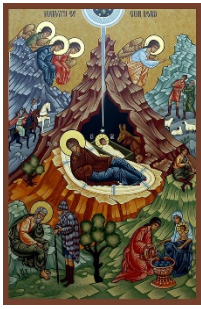
While families of all ages are warmly invited to Divine Liturgy and our St. Nicholas celebration, we respectfully suggest that the retreat is most appropriate for high-school age and up.

To help with our planning, please RSVP to nobby0116@gmail.com no later than **November 25, 2025**. Free-will donations will be gratefully accepted to help cover the cost of the retreat.

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. Vasyl Symyon.** Cash will also be accepted.

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).



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Our parish is once again sponsoring a Christmas poinsettia sale. The flowers will be placed within the church and altar for Christmas Divine Liturgy. Each commemoration will be published in a special insert of the Christmas Bulletin.

Plants may be taken by the giver after Christmas Liturgy. Please place the order form and payment in the offering basket or mail to the rectory by **Sunday, December 14th**. Make checks payable to *Patronage Church*.

Name of Giver: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Type of poinsettia (*check one*): \$14.00 each

Red ____ White ____ Pink ____ Marble ____

Name of Giver: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Type of poinsettia (*check one*): \$14.00 each

Red ____ White ____ Pink ____ Marble ____

TOTAL AMOUNT ORDERED ____ x \$14.00 = \$ _____