

Humility is the Mark of a Sinner

In the case of that Pharisee who was praying, the things he said were true. Since he was saying them out of pride and the tax collector was telling his sins with humility, the confession of sins of the last was more pleasing to God than the acknowledgment of the almsgiving of the first. It is more difficult to confess one's sins than one's righteousness. God looks on the one who carries a heavy burden. The tax collector therefore appeared to Him to have had more to bear than the Pharisee had. He went down more justified than the Pharisee did, only because of the fact he was humble. If this Pharisee had been sinful, his prayer would have added iniquity to iniquity, but the Lord purified the tax collector of his iniquity. If just by praying, the Pharisee's prayer provoked God's wrath, then as a result of that provocation, the prayer of the tax collector proved all the more potent.

St. Ephrem the Syrian

The stern Pharisee, who in his self pride not only boasted of himself but also discredited the tax collector in the presence of God, made his justice void by being guilty of pride. Instead of the Pharisee, the tax collector went down justified, because he had given glory to God, the Holy One. He did not dare lift his eyes but sought only to plead for mercy. He accused himself by his posture, by striking his breast, and by entertaining no other motive except propitiation. Be on your guard, therefore, and bear in mind this example of severe loss sustained through arrogance. The one guilty of insolent behavior suffered the loss of his justice and forfeited his reward to a humble man and a sinner because in his self-exaltation he did not await the judgment of God but pronounced it himself. Never place yourself above anyone, not even great sinners. Humility often saves a sinner who has committed many terrible transgressions.

St. Basil the Great

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



Icon of the Publican and Pharisee (Luke 18:10-14)



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: To be announced.

PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee 1.25.2026	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For the Health and Salvation of Parishioners
Three Holy Hierarchs Thursday, 1.29.2026	6:00pm	Vigil Divine Liturgy Anointing/Mirovanije	For the Health and Salvation of Parishioners
Sunday of the Prodigal Son and Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon 2.1.2026	9:00pm	Divine Liturgy The Blessing of Candles Anointing/Mirovanije	For the Health and Salvation of Parishioners
1st "All Souls" Friday, 2.6.2026	6:00pm	Vigil Divine Liturgy Panachida	Reading of the Hramoty

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

A handout with today's Propers can be found 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.

Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na viki! 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, 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, and +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).

EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION (ECF): Due to the inclement weather, classes originally scheduled for Sunday, January 25th, have been rescheduled for **Sunday, February 1st**. We hope you can attend!

ADULT ENRICHMENT: Due to the inclement weather, the session that was scheduled for Sunday, January 25th, has been rescheduled for **Sunday, February 1st**, after Divine Liturgy. The general focus for our sessions over the next several months will be on scripture readings and the Great Fast. We also plan on joining ECF on February 1st, for a special presentation by Deacon Tony on the Proskomedia (preparation of the Eucharistic gifts). Everyone is welcome to attend, and we look forward to seeing you!

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Mark your calendar - our next Slavic Food Festival is scheduled for **Saturday, March 28, 2025**, from 10:00am – 2:00pm. We will begin our preparation by making Holupki, and are in need of volunteers for the following dates: Cabbage Preparation - Friday, February 6th, at 9:00am; and Holupki Making: Saturday, February 7th, March 1st, at 9:00am. Please email Mary Demyan (mdemya1@verizon.net), and let her know if you are able to volunteer. This is the first of our two big fundraisers of the year, which helps support our church!

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.

A TRADITION IN THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - THE BLESSING OF CANDLES ON THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE: Next **Sunday, February 1st**, we will be celebrating this feast day, along with “The Blessing of Candles.” You are welcome to bring your own candle from home to have blessed, or we will have candles available for purchase on the table in the back of our church. Prices are marked on each candle. When you bring your candle to church, you can place it on the table in front of the first pew to be blessed, and can then take it home after Liturgy.

“Let us celebrate the feast (of the Presentation) in a solemn way, illuminating the mystery of the day with lights.” -St. Cyril of Alexandria

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC LITURGICAL PRACTICE OF OBSERVING ALL SOULS SATURDAYS: In the Byzantine Liturgical Year, there are five All Souls Saturdays – namely, Meat Fare Saturday, the Second, Third, and Fourth Saturdays of the Great Lent, and Pentecost Saturday. **Our first “All Souls” service will be held on Friday, February 6th, at 6:00pm.** Please make note that the other “All Souls” services will be held on **Friday, February 27th, March 6th, March 13th, and May 22nd, all at 6:00pm.** *Every year, we request that parishioners submit a list of their departed loved ones called a “Hramoty.”* These lists will be put into a booklet, and the names will be mentioned at all of the services held for the deceased on “All Souls.” Members of the family are also encouraged to attend these services on “All Souls,” for by your presence and personal prayers, it strengthens the bond with your departed loved ones, and indeed keeps their memory eternal! **VIČNAJA PAMJAT’!** A form is included in this bulletin. If you receive church envelopes, you can use the one marked “All Souls.” Please submit your form and/or envelope either by mailing it to our church, or placing it in the collection basket **no later than Sunday, January 25th.**

POT-LUCK SLAVIC/ETHNIC LUNCHEON: Save the date - please join us on the **Sunday of Meat Fare, February 8th**, after Divine Liturgy, for our annual Slavic/Ethnic luncheon. To ensure we will have enough food and seating for everyone, we ask that you please RSVP by emailing Mary Demyan at mdemya1@verizon.net, and let her know what Slavic/ethnic dish you will be bringing, and how many from your family will be attending. Thank you for your assistance!

2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Please see Dennis Kotula after Divine Liturgy today to pick up your 2025 financial statement.

PARISH CENSUS 2026: We are asking all parishioners to please help us maintain and keep current our church records and contact information, by completing a new **2026 parish census form**, which can be found on the shelf in the Narthex. Thank you!

Patronage of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church

HARAMOTY

“All Souls” Services - 2026

*Please list the names of your deceased relatives and friends.
These names will be read during the Petitions of the Litany.
(Please print clearly!)*

Submitted By: _____

Names: _____

Donation \$ _____

Checks should be made payable to: Very Rev. Vasyly Symyon

Please return your form by Sunday, January 25th.

Children's Corner - Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee



Read the **Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector** in the Bible (Luke 18: 9-14), then write next to each phrase if it was referring to the Publican or the Pharisee.

1. He said: God be merciful to me a sinner. _____
2. He would not lift his eyes to heaven. _____
3. God listened to this man. _____
4. He said: I give money to the temple. _____
5. God did not listen to this man. _____
6. He was proud. _____
7. He said: I fast twice a week. _____
8. He was humble. _____
9. He was proud. _____
10. He said: Thank you that I am not like this man. _____

The theme of this parable is repentance. Repentance is the door through which we enter the Great Fast, the starting-point and preparation for the journey to Pascha. By entering the Great Fast in humility and repentance, we can attain a deeper relationship with God asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

***"...for every one who exalts himself will be humbled,
but he who humbles himself will be exalted."***

BYZANTEEN YOUTH RALLY: The Intereparchial Youth Commission warmly invites all TEENS (ages 13 through high school) to join us at the 2026 ByzanTEEN Rally!

"Take Courage! I have overcome the world." — John 16:33

Get ready for four unforgettable days of faith, friends, and fun! The ByzanTEEN Rally will be held **July 9–12, 2026**, at **John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio** (Eparchy of Parma). Registration is open now! Your registration fee includes **all meals, housing, and programming:**

- Early Bird (before April 1): \$350
- Full Price (after April 1): \$380
- Sibling Discount (always): \$350

More details and registration forms will be available soon. We can't wait to celebrate, connect, and grow with you at the 2026 ByzanTeen Rally! ***If your child is interested in attending this rally, please see Fr. Vasyl.***

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).

Our Countdown to Great Lent Calendar 2026

Pre-Lenten Weeks of Preparation

Get ready! Here comes the Great Fast!

Start here!

23/30

It's not just about food! Prepare your prayer plan too! Will you attend Presanctified Liturgy? Say the Jesus Prayer? etc?

22/29

Don't fall out of your tree! Make sure your plan is practical and safe. Discuss it with your parents and/or your Spiritual Father first.

21/28

When you climb YOUR tree this lent, will others try to pull you down? Surround yourself with supportive friends.

20/27

Make a plan for fasting and discuss it with your family. Try to do one more thing than you did last year!

19/26

Zacchaeus worked hard to see Jesus. Pray for the grace to make a good effort this Lent!

January - 18/25

Zacchaeus Sunday:

Establish your plan and get ready to climb! Review your eparchy's rules for fasting and discuss what this will look like in your home.

Ask your parents what they expect from you this lent. Make a Zacchaeus Tree Cinnamon Roll! See the recipe and instructions at ByziMom.com!



24/31

Remember to make a plan to give alms to those who are less fortunate! How will your family do that this lent?

January 25/February 1:

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee:

Work on humility and feast! Did you know that we are expected NOT to fast at all this week? Even on Friday! It's true! We need to practice humility by doing so, and also get rid of all the goodies in our pantries this week. Make Publican and Pharisee Cookies! See the recipe and instructions at ByziMom.com!



26/2

FEAST!

Begin to eat up the treats you have stored in your pantry and refrigerator so they won't tempt you.

27/3

FEAST!

Discuss with your family which foods are allowed and which are not during the fast, and why.

28/4

FEAST!

Which activities will you fast from and which will you begin to do during the fast?

29/5

FEAST!

Humility is also simplicity. Will you simplify your environment by taking down decorations in your house or your room for the fast?

30/6

FEAST!

The Pharisee boasted while the Publican humbled himself. Practice the Jesus Prayer today.

31/7

FEAST!

We all need to cultivate the virtue of humility, which means seeing ourselves as God does. Pray for this grace today.

February 1/8
Sunday of the Prodigal Son:

Work on mercy and forgive your neighbor. Remember, the son returned and fell prostrate before his father to beg forgiveness. We do this before our Heavenly Father too, when we make prostrations in prayer.



2/9

Do you know how to make prostrations like the Prodigal Son? You may want to practice them!

3/10

Is there someone who has made you angry? Show them forgiveness today to prepare for the fast.

4/11

The Prodigal son took his father for granted. Go to your parents today and tell them how much they mean to you.

5/12

The Prodigal Son was so hungry he longed to eat animal food. Make a plan to donate some food to those who are in need.

6/13

The Father rushed to greet his son when he repented. Be eager to forgive those when they ask you to do so.

7/14

Today is the first All Souls Saturday: Pray for the Departed!

Make a list of those departed of your family for whom you will pray this Lent



February 8/15

Sunday of Meatfare/Last Judgment:

What can you do for the least of your brethren? Listen carefully to this Gospel reading because it contains the answers to the very final, Final Exam of life! This is how we will be judged before God and it's important that we get it right. Make Lamb Cupcakes! See the recipe and instructions at ByziMom.com!

12/19

Bad habits imprison those who cultivate them. Do you have any bad habits that you want to be free from? Make a plan to work on those during the fast.

13/20

Make a card or say a prayer for those you know who are ill. Sometimes just knowing someone cares can help them heal and feel better.

14/21

Whatever you do for the least of your friends, you do for Jesus! Do a good deed for someone today.

February 15/22
Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday
The Great Fast begins tomorrow!

Ask forgiveness of everyone in your household so that you may begin the fast tomorrow with a clean and humble heart!

11/18

People who are ashamed often can't forgive themselves. Be quick to forget the shame of others and never bring it to anyone's attention.

10/17

Can you welcome any strangers in your church, school, group, or neighborhood?

9/16

People hunger and thirst for all sorts of things like love, patience, or understanding. How can you satisfy them?

М Л Е Т Т З С С С
П А Р К

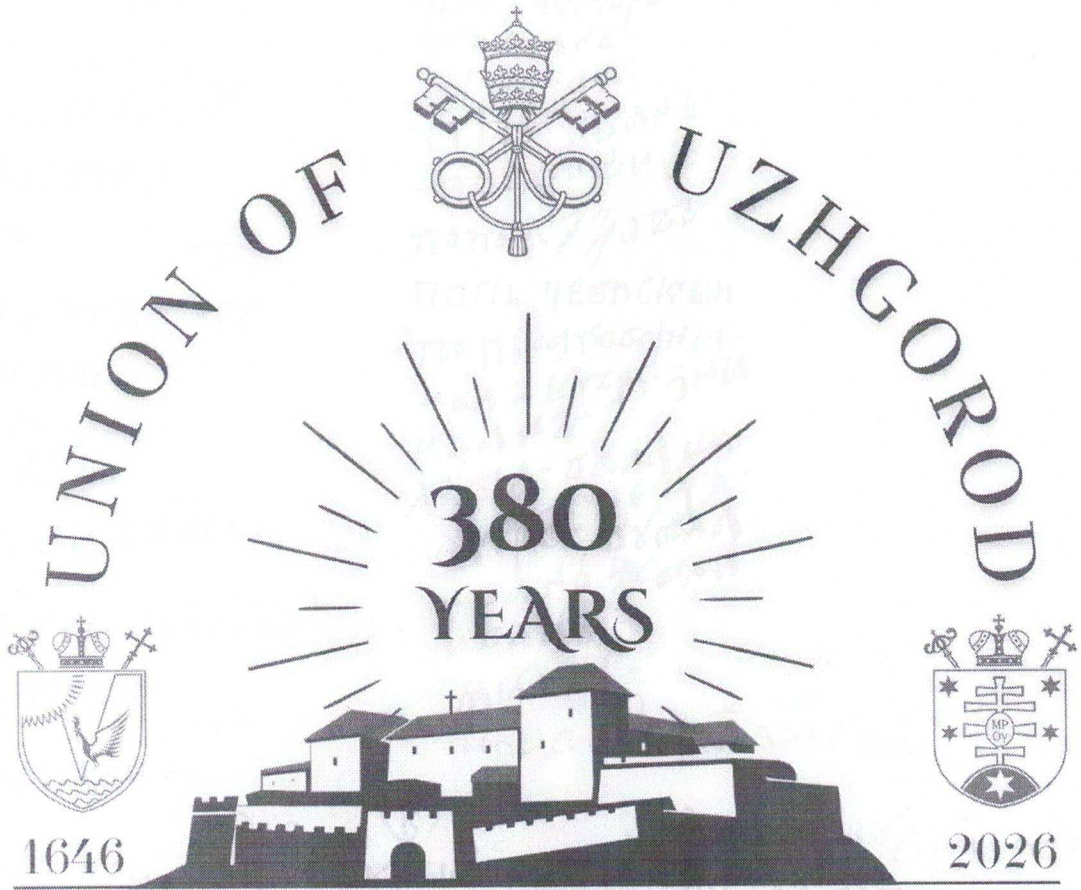
ПОПЕ ЧЕВНОСІУМ
ПО ПЬРІУТОСІНІ.
ИКА НЬ СЗРБІУМ

Save the Date

APRIL 15, 2026 | 2:00 P.M.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHAPEL, WOODLAND PARK, NJ

EPARCHY OF PASSAIC



**HEIRARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY
& CELEBRATION CONFERENCE**

М Л Е Т Т З С С С
П А Р К

ИКА НЬ СЗРБІУМ
ПО ПЬРІУТОСІНІ

CONFIDENTIAL

PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1260 Stevens Avenue, Baltimore (Arbutus), Maryland 21227

Parish Census: 2026

please print legibly

FAMILY LAST NAME: _____ Married: ___ Single: ___ Widowed: ___ Separated: ___ Divorced: ___

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

HUSBAND'S or SINGLE MALE'S GIVEN NAME: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____ Occupation: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Church of Baptism/Chrismation: _____ City: _____ State: _____

STATUS: ***Eastern Rite Tradition***

_____ Byzantine Ruthenian

(*please check* _____ Byzantine Ukrainian
One) _____ Byzantine Melkite

_____ Other Eastern Catholic
 Please specify: _____

_____ Eastern Orthodox
 Please specify: _____

Western Rite Tradition:

_____ Roman Catholic

_____ Protestant
 Please specify: _____

_____ Other
 Please specify: _____

Transfer of Rite Date: _____

Transfer of Rite Church: _____

WIFE'S or SINGLE FEMALE'S GIVEN NAME: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____ Occupation: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Church of Baptism/Chrismation: _____ City: _____ State: _____

STATUS: ***Eastern Rite Tradition***

_____ Byzantine Ruthenian

(*please check* _____ Byzantine Ukrainian
One) _____ Byzantine Melkite

_____ Other Eastern Catholic
 Please specify: _____

_____ Eastern Orthodox
 Please specify: _____

Western Rite Tradition:

_____ Roman Catholic

_____ Protestant
 Please specify: _____

_____ Other
 Please specify: _____

Transfer of Rite Date: _____

Transfer of Rite Church: _____

MARRIAGE: Date: _____ Church Name: _____ City: _____ State: _____

If widowed, give date of death of spouse: _____

If separated, give date of separation: _____

If divorced, give date of divorce: _____ Previously Married to: _____

CONFIDENTIAL

CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME (please attach another sheet of paper, with the following information, if you need to add additional names):

(1) NAME: _____ Date of Birth: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Church/Date of Baptism: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Date of Chrismation: _____ Date of First Communion: _____ Year in School: _____

(2) NAME: _____ Date of Birth: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Church/Date of Baptism: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Date of Chrismation: _____ Date of First Communion: _____ Year in School: _____

(3) NAME: _____ Date of Birth: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Church/Date of Baptism: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Date of Chrismation: _____ Date of First Communion: _____ Year in School: _____

(4) NAME: _____ Date of Birth: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Church/Date of Baptism: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Date of Chrismation: _____ Date of First Communion: _____ Year in School: _____

CHILDREN NOT LIVING AT HOME (please attach another sheet of paper, with the following information, if you need to add additional names):

(1) NAME: _____ Date of Birth: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Church/Date of Baptism: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Marriage Date: _____ Name of Spouse: _____ Location: _____

(2) NAME: _____ Date of Birth: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Church/Date of Baptism: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Marriage Date: _____ Name of Spouse: _____ Location: _____

(3) NAME: _____ Date of Birth: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Church/Date of Baptism: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Marriage Date: _____ Name of Spouse: _____ Location: _____

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Do you want to receive the Eastern Catholic Life (ECL) \$20/year (Y or N): _____ Do you want to receive Offertory Envelopes (Y or N): _____

Do you use Tithe.ly (Y or N): _____ Do you prefer to donate by Check/Cash Donation (Y or N): _____

Current involvement of Patronage Church organizations (list): _____

Areas of interest for involvement at Patronage Church: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____