

I Will Pay You

And so our sins become greater, and not only from this but also from the benefits and honor which we enjoy from them. If you want to learn how our sins against God are like ten thousand talents, or more in fact, and even much more, I will try to show you briefly. But I fear, lest to those who are inclined to wickedness and love continually to sin, I should appear to provide them with still greater security; or that I might drive the meeker sort to despair, and that they should repeat the despairing question of the disciples: "Who then can be saved?"

... But nevertheless I will continue on in the hope that I may make those who pay attention more secure and more amenable. For those who suffer an incurable disease and feel no pain are untouched by these words and do not change from their natural wickedness and inertia. And even if in the future they derive from my words greater occasion for contempt, that should be attributed not to this kind of argument but to

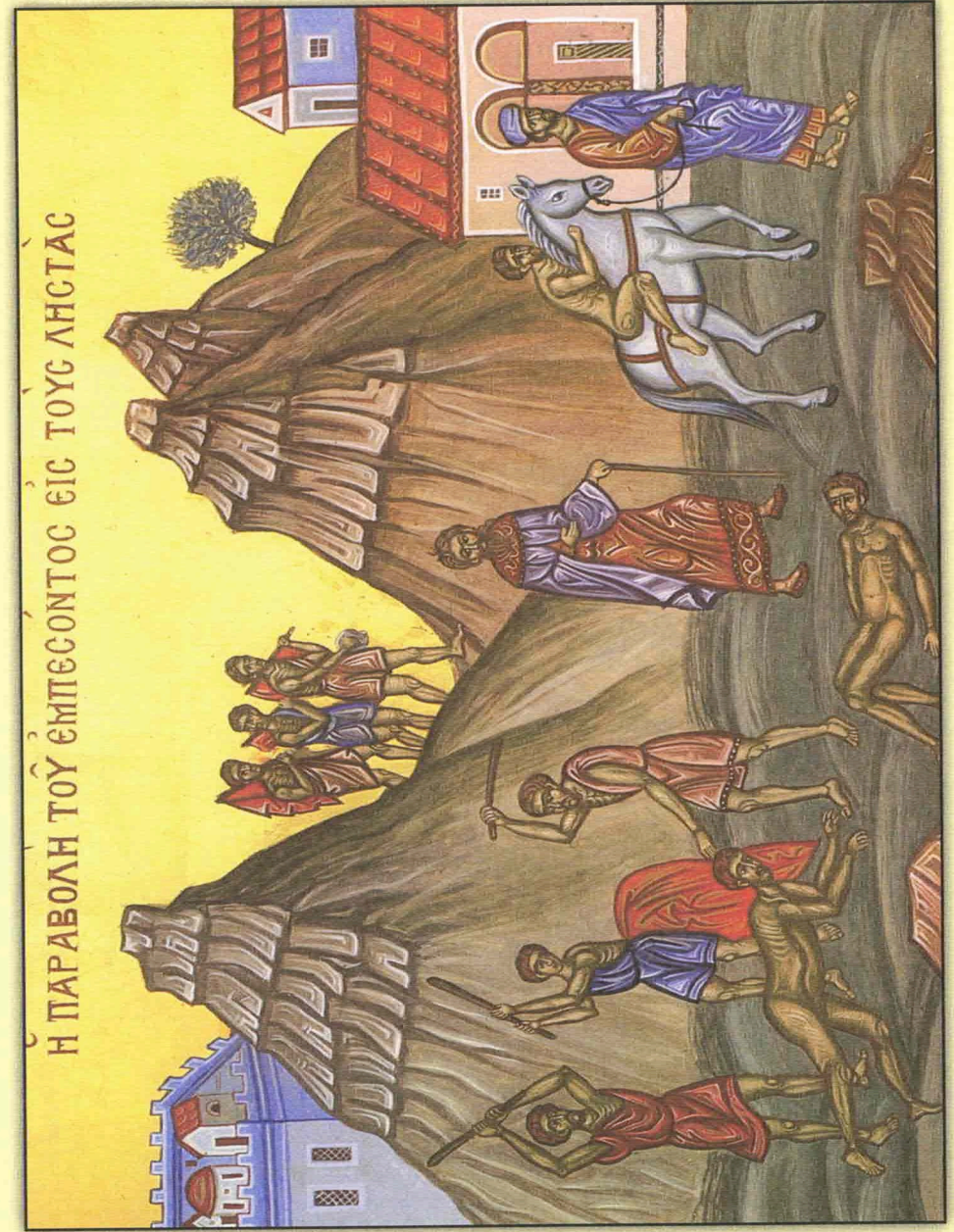
their own insensibility. What I will say ought to be able to arouse them if only they attend to it and let it prick their hearts.

And so it is necessary that I speak. In speaking of our sins, I will distinguish between those we commit against God and against other persons. I will set forth not each person's own but what are common. But then I will ask individuals to add their own sins according to an examination of their conscience. I will do this, having first set forth the good deeds of God to us. What then are God's good deeds? He created us from nothing; he made the whole visible world for us, the heaven, the sea, the earth, animals, plants and seeds.... He gave us a helpmate and set us over all the brute species, and He crowned us with glory and honor.

And yet after all this, when humanity turned out ungrateful toward its benefactor, He thought us worthy of an even greater gift – forgiveness.

St. John Chrysostom

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)



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 November 29th; December 13th, 20th, and 27th; at 4:00pm

PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
23 rd Sunday After Pentecost 11.16.2025	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For the Repose of the Souls of: +Sophia and +Anton Loncaric From: Anna Esquela
Entrance of the Theotokos Thursday, 11.20.2025	6:00pm	Vigil Divine Liturgy Anointing/Mirovanije	For the Repose of the Soul of: +Caroline Belensky From: Sharon and Dennis Kotula
24 th Sunday After Pentecost 11.23.2025	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For the Repose of the Souls of: +Walter and +Sophie Bodaj From: Deacon Anthony and Theresa Kotlar & Family

23rd 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 making ornaments in our social hall after Divine Liturgy today. Parents, your assistance is needed with helping your child, and cleaning up afterwards. Thank you for your help! All ornaments made will be used to decorate the tree in our social hall.

ADULT ENRICHMENT MINISTRY: Please join us after Liturgy today in our social hall. Deacon Tony will continue his discussion on the Divine Liturgy. Everyone is welcome to attend!

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 is included in this bulletin*, and the deadline to place an order is **Sunday, December 14th**. Order forms can be placed in our offertory basket, or mailed to our church. Please make checks payable to: Patronage Church. Cash will also be accepted. Thank you for your support!

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.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING: Save the date – **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.

ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION: St. Nicholas is the Patron Saint of the Byzantine Catholic Church. Please join us on **Saturday, December 6th**, as Fr. Vasyl 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 Monday, 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: At the entrance to our social hall, and 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. Vasyl. 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!

PATRONAGE CHURCH SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL: Our festival is on **Saturday, November 22nd**, from 10:00am – 2:00pm. This is one of our biggest fundraisers, and the proceeds help offset improvements/repair costs for both our church and rectory. Below is a list of things that will help benefit our festival:

1. If you would like to make a monetary donation to help offset the cost of purchasing supplies for our festival, please make your check payable to: Patronage Church, and note in the memo that it is for our festival. Cash will also be accepted. Your donation would be greatly appreciated!
2. We will be making Kolachi this **Wednesday, November 19th**, beginning at 9:00am (lunch will be provided). Lots of volunteers are needed!
3. Set-up for our festival will be on **Friday, November 21st**, beginning at 9:00am. Lots of volunteers are needed, as well as volunteers to peel/chop potatoes.
4. We need to fill our bake table with your pre-packaged/homemade baked good donations. Please also price your baked goods. Kelley Wood will be organizing our bake table. Any questions, please email Kelley at: m_k_wood@yahoo.com.
5. On **Saturday, November 22nd**, our festival is from 10:00am – 2:00pm. We need lots of volunteers for various tasks. If you are able to volunteer, please email Mary Demyan at mdemya1@verizon.net, and let her know.

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.

ICONOGRAPHY CLASS: There are only a few 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.

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!

Children's Corner

The Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos

Fill in the blanks using these words:

Joachim fasting scriptures altar Holies
descended Zacharias living Anna torches
21 praying 3 Temple Entrance

The Feast of the _____ of the Theotokos is celebrated on November _____. When Mary was _____ years old, her parents, _____ and _____ decided that the time had come to fulfill their promise and to offer her to the Lord. She was accompanied by several young girls carrying _____. When Mary arrived at the _____, she was greeted by the High Priest, _____, and the elders. Mary was brought by him into the Holy of _____. She was placed on the steps of the _____, and the grace of the Lord _____ upon her. The young Theotokos dwelled in the Holy of Holies for many years. By God's Grace, the young Theotokos was nourished spiritually by _____, _____, and reading _____. This way she prepared herself for becoming the _____ Temple of the Most-High, the Mother of the Son of God.



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 nbobby0116@gmail.com no later than November 25, 2025.** Free-will donations will be gratefully accepted to help cover the cost of the retreat.

“THE CALL OF THE DISCIPLES” PILGRIM VOCATION ICON PROGRAM: Week #7 – 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.

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).***

The Nativity Fast

Prayer-Fasting-Repentance



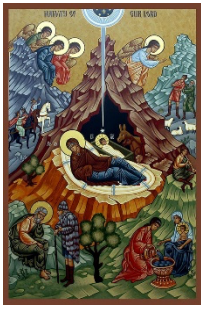
The Nativity Fast
November 15 - December 24

The Nativity Fast is a spiritual practice followed in Eastern Christian churches in preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ on December 25th. The fast period is a full 40 days corresponding to the full 40 days of the Great Lent fast.

The Nativity Fast anticipates a joyful event. It is a time of reserved joy in which practices of fasting and almsgiving are encouraged. Abstinance or fasting is suggested as a spiritual discipline, as an invitation and a response. It is our “yes” to being open to welcoming Christ.

As with any fast, a God-directed focus is the virtue behind the discipline. Fasting or abstaining is a powerful deliberate act when “supercharged” with other formative practices. The renewal of our minds and opening of our hearts can lead us to a closer personal relationship with God. Examples are almsgiving, acts of charity, receiving the Holy Mystery of Repentance (confession), engaging in Bible or religious groups like ECF or the Adult Enrichment Ministry, reading Scripture or religious books and articles, increased participation in the liturgical life of our parish community, and of course prayer.

We invite you to join us in this time of preparation. Look for a meaningful way to prepare your children for the Nativity. Included in this bulletin is a countdown calendar “My Journey through the Nativity Fast” (complements of Byzikids). This is a resource filled with daily activities, prayers, and acts of kindness to guide your family though the 40 days of the Nativity Fast. From secret good deeds to feast day traditions, each day offers a simple way to grow in faith and joy together. Let’s make this season a time of spiritual wonder, one day at a time.



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 = \$ _____