



**PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**  
**BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE**  
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**Patronage Church at Abingdon:**

Church of St. Francis (Stone Chapel)  
 1450 Abingdon Road, Abingdon, MD 21009  
**Contact:** Deacon Anthony and Theresa Kotlar: 410-734-6973

**Patronage Church at Hagerstown:**

St. Ann Catholic Church  
 1525 Oak Hill Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742  
**Contact:** Adam and Lauren Myers: 301-791-0930

***DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE***

Confession will take place 20 minutes before or immediately after Divine Liturgy.

Date	Time	Service	Location	Intention
Sunday 1/10/2021	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Liturgy	Arbutus	In memory of: Dorothy Benlock Requested by: Anna Esquela
Saturday 1/16/2021	10:00am	Liturgy	Hagerstown	In memory of: Helen Cesari Requested by: Anna Esquela
Sunday 1/17/2021	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Liturgy	Arbutus	In memory of: Eric Carl Selckman Requested by: M/M Kevin Keane
Sunday 1/17/2021	3:00pm	Liturgy	Abingdon	In memory of: Charles Gnateck Requested by: Anna Esquela

This is the ***Sunday After Theophany.***

*Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan! Christos Kreshdaetza! U'lordani!*

**PRAYER INTENTIONS – PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Fr. Sam Lupico, Keiko Suseck, Arlene Duda, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Nancy Erdek, Kay Dinko, Andy Turian, Doris Ruszin, Anne Gupman, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Anna Martin, Marge Dulina, Paul Ruszin, Sr., Georgianna Kostak, and Richard Cooley

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

**CONTRIBUTIONS:** Patronage: 1/3/2021- \$943.00  
 Abingdon: 1/3/2021- \$295.00  
 Hagerstown: 1/2/2021- \$ 70.00

We thank those who have contributed to our church and for your dedication to our parish. If you would like to make a donation, using our online giving account, please visit our church's website for the Tithely link. ***“Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth” (Dt. 8:18).***

**HOLY WATER:** Holy Water, was blessed on the feast of Theophany this past week and is available to take home. If you don't have a container, there are jars that were decorated by ECF children, to use.

**2020 DONATIONS/STATEMENTS:** If you would like to receive a donation statement for 2020, please send the church an email and let us know.

**2021 CHURCH ENVELOPES:** If you would like to receive church envelopes, please email your request to the church.

**HARAMOTY (ALL SOULS):** You can now submit names of deceased family and friends, for our All Souls services, on our website under ***“News.”*** These names will be read during the petitions of the litany at the All Souls services. Forms can also be found in the Narthex and can be left in the collection basket.

**MOUNT SAINT MACRINA HOUSE OF PRAYER:** A virtual online program, via zoom, entitled, ***“Tuesday Evening Reading Series - “Crossing the Desert: Learning to Let Go, See Clearly, and Live Simply,”*** will be presented by Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM, on February 18, 25; March 4, and 11, 2021 from 6:30-8pm. An offering of \$5.00 per session or \$15 for all four sessions is requested. For more information or to register for this program, by February 11, 2021, call 724-438-7149 or email [hpmsm@verizon.net](mailto:hpmsm@verizon.net).

**GOD WITH US ONLINE:** A free virtual 3-part series program entitled, ***“Partakers of the Divine Nature: A Patristic Study of Deification,”*** will be presented by Rev. Nathan Symeon Adams on Wednesdays, January 13, 20, and 27, 2021, from 8-9pm. The webinar will open at 7:45pm for some fun pre-class discussion. Visit [www.godwithusononline.org](http://www.godwithusononline.org) and click on the event to register.

**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](mailto:patronage.church@gmail.com).

***“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples” (Isaiah 56:7).***

**ASK THE DEACON: *How is Holy Water, the Jordan Water, blessed on Theophany, to be used by us?***

Our prayers for the feast tell us about this: [T]he celebrant, continuing the prayer, makes the sign of the cross in the water three times with his fingers, each time repeating the words: “THEREFORE ALSO NOW, O MASTER, SANCTIFY THIS WATER BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT.”

This liturgical gesture symbolizes the blessing of Jordan, as though Jesus Christ Himself comes and touches the waters in order that to all who are “sprinkled with it, drink of it, or wash with it” may bring” sanctification, healing, cleansing and blessing.” (cf. Prayer) After imparting the blessing of peace to the faithful, the celebrant immerses the holy cross (generally a wooden cross) into the water three times and each time intones the troparion, “ At Your baptism in the Jordan...” (which is completed by the cantor and the faithful).

Among the various petitions mentioned in the ceremony during the blessing of the water is the sanctification of homes. With this the Church imposes a duty and obligation upon the priests to bless the homes of the faithful entrusted to their pastoral care at the beginning of the New Year. Theologically speaking, the blessing of homes constitutes an invocative blessing, meaning that by his prayer and by the sprinkling of the Holy Water the priest invokes God’s protection upon the home and those living in it.

[Excerpted from Byzantine Leaflet Series #9 The Feast of The Epiphany of Our Lord with the Traditional Blessing of the Water and The Blessing of Homes]

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***“As for God, His Way is perfect, the word of The Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who takes refuge in Him.” (Psalm 18:30)***

## **CALLING ALL BYZANTEENS! REGISTER NOW**

**THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF BYZANTEEN VIRTUAL EVENINGS OUT:** This will serve as the Roadmap to the Byzanteen Youth Rally, Soaring on Eagle's Wings, in Emmitsburg, MD, in early July. The theme of this Virtual Evening Out is the ***"Sunday of Zacchaeus – approaching Jesus with a fear of God and with faith that we may have the courage to soar on eagle's wings,"*** is scheduled for next Sunday, 1/17/2021, from 6-7:30pm, for ages 13-18. The guest speaker to be announced. Please visit [www.eparchyofpassaic.com](http://www.eparchyofpassaic.com) and click on the link to **register by Saturday, January 16, 2021**. Registration information will allow the organizers to send you an email with the link to the virtual meeting room on the evening of the 13th, and help them plan activities such as virtual games. Any questions can be directed to [frdeacontom@gmail.com](mailto:frdeacontom@gmail.com). We encourage all of our ByzanTeens to virtually attend this event.

The following are the upcoming dates for the continuation in this series of Virtual Evenings Out for the ***Roadmap to the Byzanteen Youth Rally***:

- February 21<sup>st</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, the Sunday of Orthodoxy – Icons: Windows unto heaven can become mirrors reflecting Christ within you
- March 21<sup>st</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Saint Mary of Egypt – No matter what you have done, with a repentant heart and through the Grace of God you can be transformed
- April 18<sup>th</sup>: Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women – Myrrhbearers: Discipleship in Strength and Silence
- May 16<sup>th</sup>: Pentecost - Birthday of the Church (or "The Power of the Holy Spirit" as an alternate subtitle)
- June 13<sup>th</sup>: Saints for All Time and in All Time - Soaring Like Eagles