



## PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE  
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Cantor: Joseph Kotlar

### 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  
**Next Liturgy:** Saturday, 1/16/2021, at 10:00am

### ***DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE***

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

Date	Time	Service	Location	Intention
Sunday 1/3/2021	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Liturgy	Arbutus	In memory of: Michael Stashinko Requested by: The Kakalec Family
Sunday 1/3/2021	3:00pm	Liturgy	Abingdon	In memory of: Martha Nesser Requested by: Anna Esquela
Wednesday 1/6/2021	11:15am	Liturgy	Arbutus	<b>Theophany</b> For Living and Deceased Members of our Parish
Sunday 1/10/2021	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Liturgy	Arbutus	In memory of: Dorothy Benlock Requested by: Anna Esquela

This is the ***Sunday Before Theophany.***  
Propers begin on page 152, then page 309; Tone 8.

*Christ is Baptized!*

**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: 12/25/20 - \$1,200.00      12/27/20 - \$1,118.00

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).*

**DEAR BELIEVERS:** Congratulations on the New Year - 2021!

We live wonderful holidays, Christmas and New Year. Jesus was born in a cold stable, but enveloped in the love of the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. Born in the flesh, the Son of God sanctified family love. May Christmas be an opportunity for all of you to rediscover the family as the cradle of life and faith, a place of dialogue, forgiveness, and common joy. We had many different trials last year. At this historic beginning of the new year, we are all aware that there are serious economic and social imbalances across our planet, exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, and we need spiritual unity more than ever. I really want this time, of the pandemic, to end and go down in history. I encourage you to spend more time in prayer. Special thanks to those who watch our Divine Liturgies via Facebook. I wish you all good health, peace, and God's Blessing in the new year! Fr. Serhii

**HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION:** Theophany is a holyday of obligation for all Eastern Catholics. Water will be blessed at the 11:15am Divine Liturgy on 1/6/21. Many thanks to the children in ECF for decorating the jars.

**2021 LITURGY INTENTIONS:** Fr. Serhii is accepting Liturgy intention requests. Forms can be found in the Narthex or on our website under “News.” You can either mail your intention form to the rectory or drop it in the collection basket.

**ALL SOULS NAME SUBMISSIONS:** Enclosed, in this bulletin, and can also be found under “News” on our website, is a flyer to submit names to our “**All Souls**” list. The first of five All Souls Saturdays is February 6<sup>th</sup>. Please drop your completed list in the collection basket, or mail it to the rectory, no later than Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, so that we can update our list.

**EASTERN CATHOLIC LIFE (ECL) SUBSCRIPTION:** If you want to continue your subscription to the ECL for this monthly newspaper, or to newly subscribe, the yearly subscription is \$15.00. You can put your payment in the collection basket or mail it to the rectory. We need to send a list of subscribers to the Eparchy this week, and want to include those who are interested in a subscription. Please send us an email letting us know your wishes. Thank you for your help!

**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: *What is the feast of the Theophany?***

**ANSWER:** The feast of the Theophany, also especially in the West called Epiphany, is kept on January 6. "One of the most impressive ceremonies of the Byzantine Rite is the Solemn Blessing of the Water on the Feast of the Epiphany commemorating Christ's baptism in the River Jordan. The Epiphany, one of the most ancient and venerable festivities, originated in Palestine where it was celebrated with a vigil and special services on the spot where, according to Christian tradition, Our Lord was actually baptized.... The Greek word "epiphany" means manifestation and applied by the Christians to the life of Our Lord Jesus Christ, it specifically meant the manifestation of His divinity.... In Old Slavonic, the feast is called "Bohojavlenije," equivalent to the Greek "Theophany," which means the manifestation of the Godhead. This word, however, more clearly reflects the manifestation of the Blessed Trinity at Christ's baptism as poetically described in the troparion of the Feast.... Since the solemn blessing of the water takes place on Epiphany, the feast is also known as the Feast of the Blessing of Water, popularly called "Vodokschi," an abbreviated form of the Old Slavonic term, "Vodokresch," meaning the blessing of water. During the blessing of the water when the priest comes to the words, "GREAT ARE YOU, O LORD, AND WONDERFUL ARE YOUR WORKS, AND OUR WORDS ARE INSUFFICIENT TO PRAISE YOUR WONDERS," he blesses the water with the burning triple candle, the "Trojca," by dipping it into the water while saying the words... "The church is blessed with the newly blessed water every year, so should the homes of the faithful be yearly blessed to invoke God's blessings and protection on it and its inhabitants." [Quotes 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]

***PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF HOMES:*** *O God, our True Light and Savior, You have deigned to be baptized in the Jordan by John the Baptist to renew Mankind by the cleansing water of regeneration (Tit. 3:5) and to enter under the roof of Zacchaeus, bringing salvation to him and his house (Lk. 19:9), now, You, O Lord, protect also all those who dwell in this house from all harm and injury; grant them Jordan's blessing, purification of soul and body, and good health; and hear all their supplications, which are for their salvation and life eternal. For blessed are You, O Lord, together with Your Eternal Father and Holy Spirit, now and forever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*