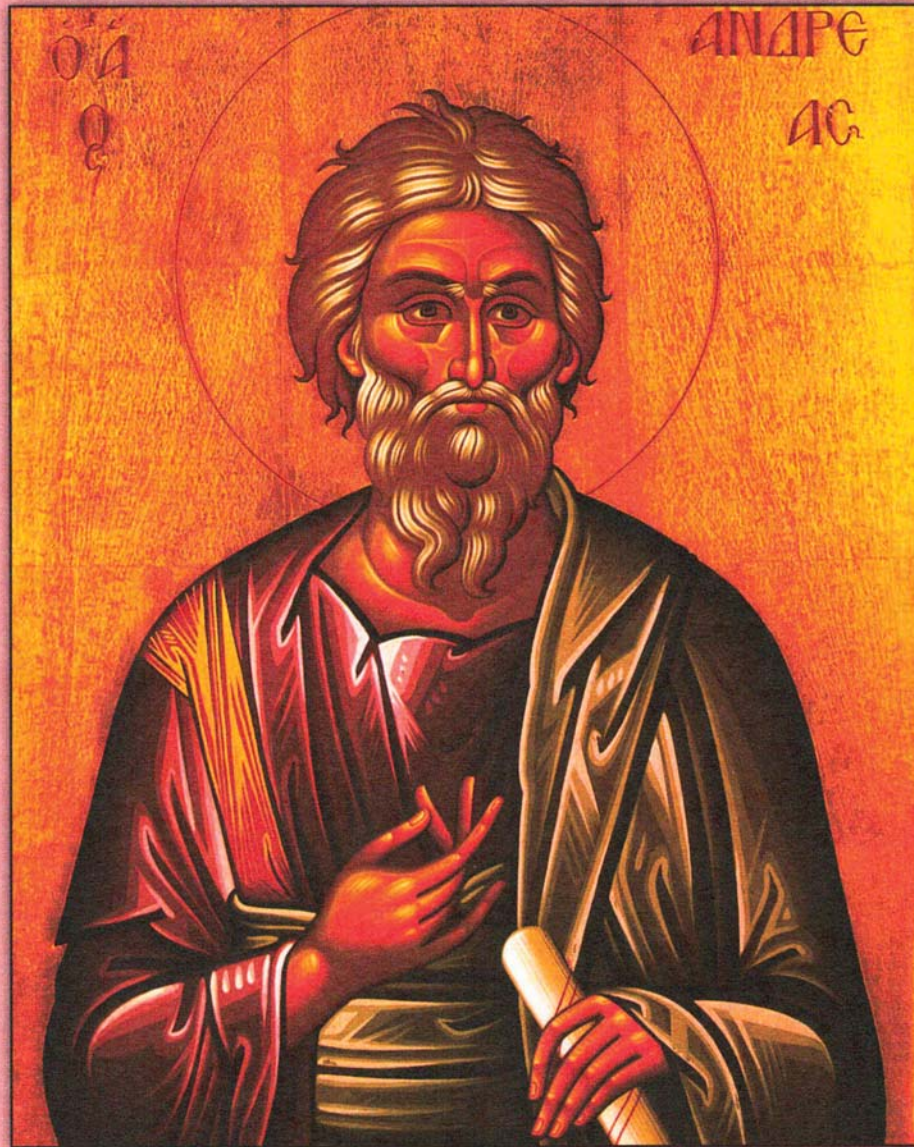


TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Andrew -- November 30th

Many Calls for the Chosen

The first call that shaped St. Andrew's life was the very timing and place of his birth. The second call that shaped Andrew's life came through John the Baptist. Andrew must have been an alert young man longing for the coming of the Messiah when he first heard the preaching of John. Andrew's third call came from Jesus himself. The fourth call that shaped Andrew's life was to follow Jesus, to be his disciple, a student in daily contact with Jesus, walking and talking with him, listening and learning from the Master, as from a Rabbi. The fifth call that changed Andrew's life was his selection by Jesus as one of the twelve apostles, to give witness, to preach, to bring others to Christ. Andrew, the student, was chosen to become a teacher sent by Christ. His sixth call came through pious Greeks at the Passover in Jerusalem. They wanted to see Jesus, to be introduced to him. The boy from Bethsaida began using his language skills, his un-

derstanding of Greek and Roman culture, to bring Gentiles to Jesus. St. Gregory Nazianzen, St. Jerome, and St. Paulinus tell us that after Pentecost Andrew became an apostle to people in the land of Greece, the bordering lands, and as tradition tells us, ultimately to Byzantium. The final call in Andrew's life was to martyrdom by crucifixion on an X shaped cross at Patras in Achaia.

Saint Andrew's vocation, and ours as well, wasn't given all at once, but gradually. Seven calls from the Lord built one upon the other throughout the course of his life. Andrew's response to each call gave new shape to his life and prepared him for the next gift of God. This courageous young man, by purity of heart and docile obedience to God's will became in St. Bede's words, "The Introducer to Christ." He introduced his brother to Jesus, and the Greeks and Scythians.



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

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Cantor: Michael Kulka

Cantor: Joseph Kotlar, Sr.

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

Next Liturgy: Sunday, December 19th, at 3pm

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, December 4th, at 10am

DIVINE LITURGY - PATRONAGE CHURCH

| Date | Time | Service | Intention |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Sunday 11.28.2021 | 8:45am 9:00am | Matins Divine Liturgy | In Memory of: +Brett Hughes Requested by: Kelley & Clyde Wood |
| Tuesday 11.30.21 | 9:00am | Divine Liturgy | In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert |
| Friday 12.03.21 | 9:00am | Divine Liturgy | In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert |
| Sunday 12.05.2021 | 11:00am 11:15am | Matins Divine Liturgy | In Memory of: +Fr. Conan Timoney Requested by: Sean Albert |

This is the *27th Sunday After Pentecost*.

Proper begin on page 130; Tone 2.

Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na viki! Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

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SUNDAY OBLIGATION: Bishop Kurt revoked the dispensation, regarding the Sunday precept or obligation to assist at Divine Liturgy, on June 6, 2021. Watching the live stream no longer fulfills the obligation to assist at Divine Liturgy. However, the Bishop reminds everyone that “just as before the pandemic, anyone is relieved of the obligation for serious reason such as sickness, immobility, fear, caring for someone else, to protect your own health, or the health of others.” Our parish continues to be cleaned and hand sanitizer is available throughout the church.

2021 BISHOP’S APPEAL: The Bishop’s Appeal began on November 1, 2021. Pledges and payments will be accepted through June 30, 2021. Any contributions received after December 31, 2021, must be attributed to the 2022 tax year. Our parish goal, for this year’s campaign, is \$9,800.00. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to: The Eparchy of Passaic, and mail it to: The Eparchy of Passaic, 445 Lackawanna Avenue, Woodland Park, NJ 07424. You can also make your pledge online at www.eparchyofpassaic.com and make either one payment or 5 monthly payments. All payment plans must be completed no later than June 30, 2022, to count toward our parish goal. You should be receiving your Bishop’s Appeal Pledge form shortly in the mail. If you don’t receive a pledge form in the mail, there are a few extra copies on the shelf in the Narthex.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Fr. Serhii is available 15 minutes before or immediately after Divine Liturgy to hear confession.

2022 LITURGICAL CALENDARS: Liturgical wall calendars for 2022, are available on the book rack in the Narthex. Please take one for use in your home.

GOD WITH US ONLINE: The **fourth free webinar** of this curriculum year will be, “*Rejoice All Ye Peoples; The Feasts of the Old Testament*.” This program takes place on Wednesdays, December 1st and 8th, from 8-9pm. Rev. Sebastian Carnazzo, Ph.D., will be the presenter. Join us as we prepare for the Nativity of the Lord, we turn to the Feasts of the Old Testament, seeking to understand how they foreshadowed the coming of Christ and paved the way for salvation, and the restoration of mankind to paradise. To register, visit www.godwithusonline.org.

BECOMING BYZANTINE: The Eparchy of Phoenix and Vineyard of the Lord Catholic Ministries are sponsoring a free webinar and video series on Byzantine Catholic faith, worship, and life based upon the “*Christ Our Pascha Catechism*.” Are you a Western Christian (Catholic or Protestant) who is interested in exploring the Byzantine Catholic faith for your own development in faith? Are you contemplating joining or have you recently joined a Byzantine or Greek Catholic parish? Are you a Byzantine Christian who wants to learn more about your own rich tradition? Visit [BECOMING BYZANTINE: An Introduction to Byzantine Catholicism](http://www.becomingbyzantine.org) for more information. Sessions will be held on the 4th Sunday of the month beginning September 26, 2021 through August, 2022, from 7-8:30pm.

“COME AND SEE:” With the holidays quickly approaching, why not share a book, produced by the Eparchy of Passaic, about our Byzantine church and its traditions. This makes a great gift and this book can also be an invitation to share with others who are in search of a new spiritual home, who may want to learn more about God, and also build a lasting personal relationship with Him. The cost is \$5/book and you can purchase a copy after Liturgy. Please see Sharon Kotula, if you are interested.

“May the Lord, who made heaven and earth, bless you” (Psalm 134:3).

FREEZER SALE: The following are available for purchase:

1. Frozen Pirohi – cost is \$7/dozen or a bag of 4 dozen/\$25.00
2. Frozen Kolachi - \$15 each (nut, raspberry, apricot, or poppy seed) – supply is limited

Please see Mary Demyan or Sharon Kotula if you are interested in purchasing any of the above items.

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Count

- Count your blessings instead of your crosses*
- Count your gains instead of your losses*
- Count your joys instead of your woes*
- Count your friends instead of your foes*
- Count your smiles instead of your tears*
- Count your courage instead of your fears*
- Count your full years instead of your lean*
- Count your kind deeds instead of your mean*
- Count your health instead of your wealth*
- Count on God instead of yourself*

Your Blessings

27th Sunday After Pentecost

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

One day, while preaching in the Jewish synagogue, on the Sabbath, the Savior saw a woman who had been hunched over for over eighteen years and could not straighten up because she had a spirit of infirmity. Despite the illness, the unfortunate woman did not stop coming to the synagogue. She went there with the hope that she would be comforted in her infirmity and healed.

Imagine a person who went to the synagogue 936 times (52 Saturdays for 18 years) and still no one knew her name. She was called, "hunched over," and saw in her the effect of God's punishment, curse, and obsession. Healing was the result of her stay in the synagogue, not the other way around. Unlike a bleeding woman, the hunched one did not seek healing, did not show initiative. The only precondition, for a miracle was her stay where Christ was.

The Lord, seeing the firm faith of the woman, took pity on her and, calling her said, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God." (Luke 13:12-13).

However, the head of that synagogue, like the Pharisees, was angry with the Savior for creating healing on the Sabbath, as a violation of the Law given by Moses. Knowing how sharply the Lord rebuked the Scribes and Pharisees for literally understanding and obeying the Old Testament law, the elder turned to the people, wanting to hear the support of those present. "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day" (Luke 13:14). But not out of jealousy of the Law, but out of envy, the chief rebuked both the woman and the Lord. Speaking of the healing of the woman on the holy day, he questioned the person of Jesus. By what power, he thought, did Jesus work miracles? If Divine, then why does He violate our customs and the God-given Law that says do nothing on the Sabbath? Does He not work His miracles by demonic power?" The Savior, realizing the treachery of his thoughts and words, exposed his false zeal for the "day of the Lord." "You hypocrites!" said Jesus, "does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it?" And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? (Luke 13:15-16).

By violating this law by God, including the fourth commandment of God, humanity becomes more and more dissatisfied with life. All who live on earth lack peace and love in their souls. And instead of seeking peace for our souls in the Lord, many seek it in unnecessary things. Nowadays, many people have lost the sense of holiness of Sunday or any other holy day. Whereas, every Sunday or holy day is a day of rest for both body and soul. At this time, it is easiest for the soul to gain peace and tranquility and draw closer to God. It is on such days that we should try to pray as much as possible and be in reverent union with God. And this is possible only when our soul is freed from the worries of life. Let us relieve ourselves of the burden of daily worries, cleanse the mind of unnecessary thoughts, and try to do good deeds that will be useful for the salvation of our souls.

Dear believers! Christ sees and understands the sad condition of modern humanity and every human being, so he has mercy on us and calls us with the words, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matt. 11: 28-29).

INTENTIONS – PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Our parishioners, the founders of our parish, our benefactors, those who are sick, those who cannot make it to church, also: Fr. Serhii, and his family, 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, Betty Rankin, Greg Rudy, our first responders, and all military service men and women throughout the world.

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: 11.21.2021 - \$690.50 Abingdon: 11.21.2021 - \$175.00

Thank you to those who continue to support 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 website and click on the Tithely link.

“Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth” (Dt. 8:18).

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Dear believers and especially, our children!

This week, we celebrated a very important holiday for our people - Thanksgiving. The name itself has a very deep meaning - "Gratitude." "Thanks" or "Gratitude," we write in capital letters on this day, because they are very symbolic for all of us.

The history of Thanksgiving shows us the importance of being together, in church, on this day. Only in the temple do we have the opportunity to meet families and to thank God, the Mother of God, the guardian angels, our land, and each other for the gift of life.

Analyzing the Holidays we celebrate in our Church, we can see that many of our believers stay at home with the demon-TV. This means that many people may be left alone in a few years.

I do not want to end my thoughts on a sad note. I will give as an example, "the spirit of Christmas." Every time I turn on the radio station with Christmas melodies, my soul is filled with tenderness and joy. At such moments, my soul is filled with peace, and my greatest desire is to share this peace with everyone around me. Our joy should not be hidden from others, it should be shared! "Be a light to the world!" says Christ.

Orthodox churches have a tradition of lighting many candles in front of the iconostasis and in front of the icons of saints. These candles symbolize each of us. Amidst the demonic fear that envelops us in darkness, let us remember that we can be light. Everyone's soul can be ignited by the fire of Divine love, and then fear will depart not only from us, but also from all who are near us.

Therefore, dear ones, let your light shine before men, so that everyone who sees your good deeds may glorify our Father in heaven.

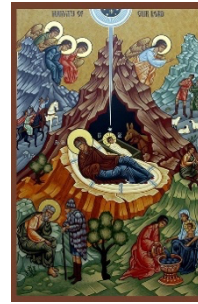
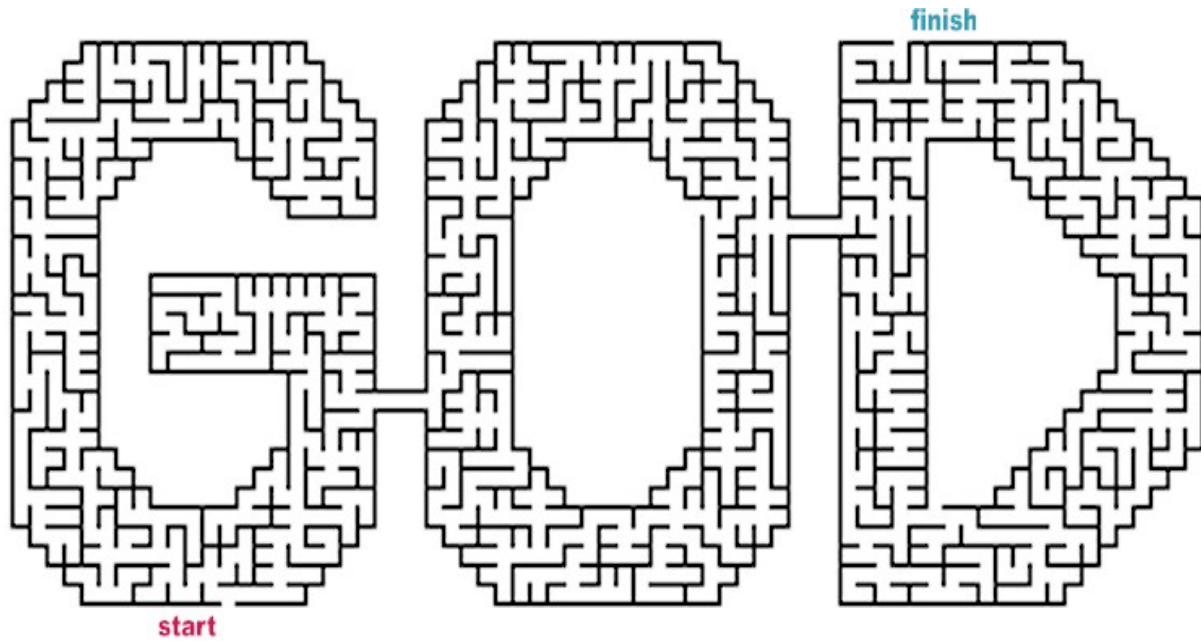
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DECORATING OUR TEMPLE/CHURCH HALL FOR CHRISTMAS: We will be decorating our Temple, as well as the church hall, for the upcoming Christmas season, and St. Nicholas, after Divine Liturgy this morning. Volunteers are needed – please consider helping us out!

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.***

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

CHILDREN'S CORNER



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 19th**. Make checks payable to: *Patronage Church*.

Name of Giver: _____
In Honor of: _____
In Memory of: _____

Type of poinsettia (*check one*): \$13.00 each
 Red ___ White ___ Pink ___ Marble ___

Name of Giver: _____
In Honor of: _____
In Memory of: _____

Type of poinsettia (*check one*): \$13.00 each
 Red ___ White ___ Pink ___ Marble ___

TOTAL AMOUNT ORDERED: ___ x \$13.00 = \$_____

EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION (ECF) PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN:

1. Please visit www.godwithusonline.org, and be sure to click on "Ruthenian," for this week's catechetical resources, including the Gospel summary and discussion questions, that you can use in your catechesis.
2. **On December 19th, Fr. Serhii will be hearing confession for the children in ECF, immediately after Divine Liturgy.** Children should gather in the front of church after Liturgy. Parents, please review the confession prayer with your children. If you need another confession pamphlet, please email the church and let Fr. Serhii know.

ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION: *Our parish will be celebrating the Feast of St. Nicholas on Sunday, December 5th, followed by a pot-luck luncheon and a visit from St. Nicholas*, in our church hall. Please sign-up on the bulletin board, in the Narthex today – we would like to know if your family (including the number of children) will be attending so we can plan accordingly. Many thanks!

HOLY HUMOR: A little boy told his father, "I slept in church today because I'm striving to be more like God, and on the seventh day He rested."