

SUNDAY OF ZACCHEUS



Icon of the Holy Fathers Athanasius and Cyril -- January 18th



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

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Next Liturgy: TBD

PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday of Zaccheus 1.14.2024	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Michael & +Margaret Konik From: Dan & Nancy Bobby
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee 1.21.2024	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For: +David DiLeo From: Cathy & George Johnson

The Propers for today are on page 161, tone 8, in the Divine Liturgy book.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 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 or contact either one.

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

EPISTLE READERS: If you are interested in chanting the Epistle, please see Joe Kotlar or Mike Kulka after Divine Liturgy. A schedule will be created, and the reading can be made available to you to practice ahead of time.

LITURGY INTENTIONS: It is a beautiful part of our Byzantine Catholic tradition to have the Divine Liturgy celebrated for a special intention or for health and God's blessings upon a living person, or for the repose of the soul of a deceased person. *Liturgy intention books and forms have been updated, and are now available on the bookrack in the Narthex. Forms can also be found on our website.* A donation or stipend is an offering made to the priest for the Divine Liturgy for such a request. **Checks should be made payable to: Fr. Vasyl Symyon.** You can either mail your Intention request to the rectory, or place it in the offertory basket in the back of our Temple. A special date may be requested, but they may not always be available. The date is assigned on a first come, first served basis, and are reserved upon receipt of the offering.

CROWNED IN LOVE – A Byzantine Pre-Cana Program: This is a zoom event scheduled for Saturday, February 10, 2024, from 9am – 4pm. Couples planning to marry before spring 2025, are urged to attend. The cost is \$75.00 payable to St. Michael's Cathedral Syncellate at time of registration. For more information, contact St. Michael's Cathedral Office at 973-777-2553 or passaiccathedral@gmail.com.

2023 BISHOP'S APPEAL: The Passaic Eparchy will accept pledges and payments through June 30, 2024. Any contributions received after December 31, 2023, must be attributed to the 2024 tax year. **All checks must be made payable to the Eparchy of Passaic**, and mailed to: Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, 445 Lackawanna Avenue, Woodland Park, NJ 07424. You may also pledge/donate online at: www.eparchyofpassaic.com. Our parish goal is \$9,800.00, and if we achieve or exceed this amount, our parish will receive a 40% refund of the total received. Contributions from the Hagerstown Mission will also be attributed to Patronage Church's total.

CHURCH ENVELOPES 2024: If you do not have church envelopes, and would like to receive them, please send the church an email, and let us know. Envelopes are mailed out bi-monthly. If you are using Tithe.ly to make donations to our church and no longer need envelopes, please let us know, as well. Thank you for your assistance in helping us update our parish records!

2024 PATRONAGE CENSUS: If you have not completed a parish census form, or have any changes to make to the 2023 form you submitted last year, the 2024 form is available on the bookrack in the Narthex. You can mail your completed form to our church, or drop it in the offertory basket. Please do so no later than **Sunday, February, 4th**. Thank you for your assistance in helping us to keep our parish records updated!

EASTERN CATHOLIC LIFE (ECL): If you would like to subscribe to the ECL, or change/update your subscription, please email the church, and let us know no later than **January 28, 2024**. We need to send an updated list to the Eparchy, and this information is needed to do so. The subscription cost is \$15/year and will be mailed to your home each month. Thank you for your assistance in helping us update our parish records!

PATRONAGE CHURCH SHOPPING BAGS FOR SALE: If you haven't purchased the church's new shopping bag, with the logo on it yet, they are \$5 per bag. Please see Mary Demyan, or Sharon Kotula, if you would like to purchase any.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Everyone will be receiving a financial statement for the year 2023, within the next few weeks. We will keep you posted when they are available.

Happy Moments,
Praise God

Difficult Moments,
Seek God

Quiet Moments,
Worship God

Painful Moments,
Trust God

Every Moment,
Thank God

NEW SPAM EMAIL: If you receive any emails from, “Fr. Vasyl Symyon,” asking to run errands or take care of something for him, do not click on them or reply. Please be aware that these emails are scams. You can check the email address where it is coming from to be sure.

ASSEMBLY OF THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AMERICA: If you were unable to attend the event at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, NJ, in November 2023, you can now view the speakers [Lectures from The Byzantine Assembly in Hillsborough](#) on Youtube. There were 285 people who attended this event from 25 states. The next Assembly will take place in the State of Illinois in 2025.

PRINTER CARTRIDGES: We are collecting used printer cartridges to recycle, and earn rewards to help pay for new cartridges we use to print our weekly bulletins and Liturgical information. You can place your cartridges in the labeled box in the cry room. **Many thanks to those who have contributed – we’ve collected 40 cartridges, so far!**

GREEK CATHOLIC UNION (GCU) 2024 ART & PHOTO CONTEST: The theme is, “Family Fun!” The contest runs from January 1st– April 8th, 2024. For more information, you can contact Chris Chamberlain at 724-495-3400, x3810 or events@GCUusa.com. Entries should be mailed to: GCU Art Contest, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009. **There is a limit of one entry per member, and all contestants must have been a GCU member for one year. Winners will receive a gift card from either Walmart, Target, Amazon, or Best Buy!**

1. If you are 12 or younger, enter your artwork! Submission must be original on paper or art board (maximum size 12’X18”). Include a short description of your art, name, age, address, phone number, and email address on the back of your submission. Age divisions are: age 6 & under, ages 7-9 and ages 10-12.
2. If you are 13 and up (age divisions are: 13-21 and age 22 and older) enter your photo! Include a short description, name, age, address, phone number, and email address with your submission. Photos that include identifiable people require a model release. The model release form is available for download at GCUusa.com/events.

PIROHI SALE: We have bags of a dozen pirohi of potato and cheese for sale at \$7.00 and 4 dozen bags at \$25.00. We also have bags of a dozen pirohi of farmer’s cheese, sauerkraut, and cabbage for sale at \$7.00 each. Please see Mary Demyan, or Sharon Kotula, if you are interested in purchasing any.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE HOUSE OF PRAYER: The following events will take place at Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer, 510 W. Main Street, Uniontown, PA. To register for a program, or more information, please call 724-438-7149, or email hpmsm@verizon.net.

1. **Thursday Morning Bible Study: “Identifying Lesser Known Prophets of the Passion”** with Sister Melita Marie, OSBM. In-person and virtual event will take place 10:30am – noon, February 22nd and 29th, and March 7th and 14th. Offering: \$20 per session. Registration due: February 19th.
2. **Overnight Silent Retreat for Women** with Sister Carol, OSBM. In-person event will take place 7pm, Friday, February 23rd, till after lunch, Saturday, February 24th. Offering: \$40 per session. Registration due: February 19th.
3. **Men’s Evening of Recollection**, Thursday, February 29th from 6:30 – 8:00pm. In-person event. Offering: \$35 per session. Registration due: February 19th.
4. **Tuesday Morning Reading Series: “Living in an Icon”** with Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM. In-person event, and will take place 10:30am – 11:30am, April 9th, 17th, 23rd, and 30th. Offering: \$20 per session. Registration due: April 2nd.

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, Sandy Sabo Rabuse, Matthew Skovran, Mike Skovran, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Veronica Ruszin, Anna Martin, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Howard Guba, Albert Ondrish, 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!**

STEWARDSHIP: Patronage Church

January 7, 2024:

Offertory: \$1,708.00

Theophany: \$100.00

Tithe.ly: \$170.00

ECL: \$105.00

Initial Offering: \$68.00

Candles: \$42.50

You honor God and our Church by continuing to tithe each week. A collection basket is on the table in the back of our Temple for your weekly donation. You may also mail in your donation, or donate online at: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>. The link is also on our website. **“Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth” (Dt. 8:18).**

CONGRATULATIONS FR. VASYL: Last Sunday, we had a surprise celebration for Fr. Vasyl’s 10th anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood. And, yes, he was surprised! **May God grant to his servant, Fr. Vasyl, many happy and blessed years! Mnohaja i Blahaja Lita!**

END OF OUR CHRISTMAS SEASON - HELP NEEDED: We will be taking down and boxing up our Christmas decorations in both our Temple and social hall. **Everyone is asked to help.** We will also have some refreshments available in our social hall after Liturgy.

2024 BYZANTEEN YOUTH RALLY: Mark your calendar, the next Byzanteen Youth Rally will take place **June 27-29, 2024, in San Diego, California.** This rally provides Eastern Catholic faith formation and fraternity for all teens ages 13-18 growing up in the Byzantine Catholic Tradition. Together with their peers, Byzanteens actively engage in living, growing in, and promoting the Byzantine Catholic tradition. All Byzanteens are given the opportunity to gather from across the country for the biennial national Byzanteen Youth Rally. More details to follow.

2024 ALTAR SERVER CONGRESS: The date of this year’s Altar Server Congress has not been decided yet, but will, again, take place at the Carpathian Village, Cresco, PA. More details to follow.

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

Zacchaeus Met Jesus Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be right to left, up and down or diagonally.



COLLECTOR	JERICO	TAX
CROWD	JESUS	TREE
HOUSE	LOVE	ZACCHAEUS
	SINNER	

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2024 EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION (ECF) PROGRAM: Classes will take place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month beginning today, January 14th, through Sunday, June 9th. We will break for summer, and resume on Catechetical Sunday, September 15, 2024. There are currently 15 students registered in the program. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Ross, keviross@gmail.com, or Loui Villaneuva, villanuevaluxmundi@yahoo.com.

THE BYZANTINE RITE 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 2, 2024. 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 form, and the names will be mentioned at the services held for the deceased on All Souls Saturday. ***Please remember to write the names legibly.*** Members of the family are encouraged to attend these services on the All Souls Saturdays services, for by your presence and personal prayers, it strengthens the bond with your departed loved ones, and indeed keeps their memory eternal! **VIČNAJA PAMJAT!** ***You can find a “Hramoty” form either on our website, or on the shelf in the Narthex.*** If you receive church envelopes, you can also use the envelope that was mailed to you. All forms and/or envelopes can either be mailed to our church, or dropped in the collection basket. ***Please submit your “Hramoty” list no later than Sunday, January 28th, in order to have them included in the booklet.***

A TRADITION IN THE BYZANTINE CHURCH - THE BLESSING OF CANDLES ON THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE: ***On Friday, February 2nd, we will also have The Blessing of Candles.*** In our churches today, the Presence of a burning vigil-light indicates the Real Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist on the altar. St. John the Evangelist presented Our Lord Jesus Christ to us in his gospel as the “Light of Life.” The burning candle presented to us at Baptism is a symbol of the new spiritual life we receive through the sacrament. Burning candles held by our altar servers, one on each side of the Gospel during the reading, reminds us that the teaching of Christ should enlighten us and guide us on our way to salvation as indicated by the words of Our Lord Himself. “I am the light of the world; anyone who follows Me will not be walking in the dark, but will have the light of life.” The burning candles in front of our holy icons should remind us of the light of the exemplary lives they lived and inspire us to model our lives after theirs in imitation of their “good works.” The ritual of the Church also prescribes that at least two candles be lit on the altar at all liturgical services. Burning candles in our churches remind us that our prayers should come from a heart burning with love of God and they should be directed toward heaven, where God abides in the “inaccessible light.” In this manner, candles make a positive contribution to the fervor of our prayers. The burning of a votive candle in church, besides its sacrificial value (donation), has also a symbolic meaning, namely, the continuation of our prayers after we leave the church.

The custom of blessing candles on the Feast of the Presentation was introduced to fill the “needs of the people.” In homes, the blessed candles are lighted and placed before a holy icon in time of serious sickness, distress, or the threat of a storm to implore Divine protection, as the family is gathered in prayer. The burning candle symbolizes the abiding presence of Jesus Christ in the midst of the Christian community as He, Himself, had promised: “Where two or three are gathered in My Name, there I am in their midst.” ***You are, therefore, welcome to bring your own candle(s) from home to have blessed, or we will have candles available for purchase.*** More details to follow.

NATIONAL PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE: This event will be held from Thursday afternoon, January 18th, through Friday morning, January 19, 2024, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The Opening Liturgy begins Thursday, January 18th, at 5pm, followed by a Holy Hour for Life starting at 7pm. The Closing Liturgy begins Friday at 8am. Please visit the 2024 National Prayer Vigil for Life website and the Frequently Asked Questions section on the USCCB website for complete information on the schedule and additional details.

2024 LITURGICAL CALENDAR: Our new calendar can be found on the table in the back of our Temple. Please take only one calendar per family. Thank you!

Athanasius and Cyril, Champions and Models

Saint Athanasius (Athanasios) is one of the great figures of Christianity. He is called the “champion of orthodoxy” as he resolutely opposed Arianism. Five times Athanasius was exiled for his defense of the doctrine of Christ’s divinity. During one period of his life, he enjoyed 10 years of relative peace – reading, writing and promoting the Christian life along the lines of the monastic ideal to which he was greatly devoted. His dogmatic and historical writings are almost all polemic, directed against every aspect of Arianism. Athanasius suffered many trials while he was bishop of Alexandria. He was given the grace to remain strong against what probably seemed at times to be insurmountable opposition. He defended the true faith for his flock, regardless of the cost to himself. In today’s world we are experiencing this same call to remain true to our faith, no matter what.

Saint Cyril’s importance for theology and Church history lies in his championing the cause of orthodoxy against the heresy of Nestorius. Nestorianism

implied that the humanity of Christ was a mere disguise. At the Council of Ephesus (431), Cyril condemned Nestorianism and proclaimed Mary truly the “God-bearer” – “Theotokos” (the mother of the one Person who is truly God and truly human). In the confusion that followed, Cyril was deposed and imprisoned for three months, after which he was welcomed back to Alexandria as a second Athanasius (the champion against Arianism).

Lives of the saints are valuable not only for the virtue they reveal but also for the less admirable qualities that also appear. Holiness is a gift of God to us as human beings. Life is a process. We respond to God’s gift, but sometimes with a lot of zigzagging. If Cyril had been more patient and diplomatic, the Nestorian Church might not have risen and maintained power so long. But even saints must grow out of immaturity, narrowness and selfishness. It is because they – and we – do grow, that we are truly saints, persons who live the life of God.