



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE
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 Cantor: Michael Kulka
 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, 1/2/2021, at 10am

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Location	Intention
Sunday 12/20	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Liturgy	Arbutus	In memory of +Eugene, Elizabeth, & Paul Kakalec Requested by: The Kakalec Family
Sunday 12/20	3:00am	Liturgy	Abingdon	For Living and Deceased Members of our Parish
Thursday 12/24	6:00pm	Vespers/ Liturgy	Arbutus	Christmas Eve For Living and Deceased Members of our Parish
Friday 12/25	9:00am	Liturgy	Arbutus	Christmas Day For Living and Deceased Members of our Parish
Saturday 12/26	11:15am	Liturgy	Arbutus	For Living and Deceased Members of our Parish
Sunday 12/27	9:00am	Liturgy	Arbutus	For Living and Deceased Members of our Parish

This is the ***Sunday Before Christmas – of the Ancestors***. Propers begin on page 141, then page 285, tone 4. Confession will take place 20 minutes before and immediately after Divine Liturgy.

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, and Paul Ruszin, Sr., Georgianna Kostak, & 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!*

DEAR BELIEVERS: I wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and hope everyone can come to Divine Liturgy. A book will be given to each family, as a present from our church, and you can pick one up at the end of Divine Liturgy beginning on Christmas Eve. Fr. Serhii

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Patronage: 12/13/20 - \$1,696.10
 November Tithely: \$725.00

NUMBER OF BELIEVERS:

Patronage: Matins - 14; Liturgy - 27

During these challenging times, 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).***

SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS: Fr. Serhii will be having Divine Liturgy, in Slavonic and English, on Saturday, 12/26/2020, at 11:15am for this feast day. Propers begin on page 294.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Today is the deadline if you would like to order a poinsettia and have a commemoration, listed in a special insert, in the Christmas bulletin. Orders forms are on the shelf in the Narthex.

LUNCHEON: Immediately following Divine Liturgy today, a takeout boxed lunch will be available in the church hall. *Donations will be happily accepted!* Please remember to follow social distancing guidelines.

2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL: Just a reminder, that you can still make a pledge for the *Bishop's Annual Appeal* through 12/31/2020. This year's campaign goal for Patronage Church is \$9,800. So far, we have received donations of \$5,800. If you are able to donate to the *Bishop's Annual Appeal*, visit their website, www.eparchyofpassaic.com, and click on PLEDGE NOW, or you can mail your pledge form/donation to: Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, Bishop's Annual Appeal, 445 Lackawanna Avenue, Woodland Park, NJ 07424. Contributions will be accepted through the fiscal year ending June, 2021.

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).***

Christos Razdajetsja! Slavite Jeho! Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

2021 LITURGICAL CALENDARS: If you haven't already picked up your 2021 calendar, they are available in the magazine rack, hanging on the wall, in the Narthex.

SPECIAL OFFER: Mount St. Macrina, in Uniontown, PA, experienced a loss of revenue in their Religious Gift Shop due COVID-19 restrictions. In gratitude for a donation of \$25 or more, they will send you a lovely ***Our Lady of Perpetual Help*** battery candle (7.5 inches tall). To place an order call 724-439-6180.

AN INSPIRATIONAL CHRISTMAS STORY: *The Gift of the Magi* is a short story by the American writer, William Sidney Porter, who used the pen name O. Henry. The story is about a young couple living in a tenement in the early 1900s. They are very poor, it is Christmas time, and each wants to get a gift for the other but they have little money and are just scraping by. Each has a prized possession, however: the husband Jim, a pocket watch and the wife Della, her beautiful long hair. They sell their prized possession to buy gifts for each other but the irony is that Jim sells his watch to buy Della a comb and brush she has wanted for her hair, and she sells her hair to buy a platinum pocket watch chain for Jim. In terms of economics and what is practical their gifts could be seen as misguided and useless. But their gifts demonstrate the far greater importance of sacrificial love. The birth of the Son of God in the flesh, which we prepare to celebrate, gives us the perfect example of that love, a love only reflected in the story. As O. Henry says in ending his story:

“The magi, as you know, were wise men—wonderfully wise men—who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents. Being wise, their gifts were no doubt wise ones, possibly bearing the privilege of exchange in case of duplication. And here I have lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house. But in a last word to the wise of these days let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the magi.”