

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



Icon of the Publican and Pharisee



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

1260 Stevens Avenue, Arbutus, MD 21227-2644

www.patronagechurch.com / Facebook: Patronagechurch
patronage.church@gmail.com

Office: (410) 247-4936

Administrator: Very Rev. Vasyl Symyon Phone: 412-713-4520
 Email: vasyl.symyon@gmail.com Cantor: Michael Kulka
 Rev. Deacon Anthony Kotlar, Sr. Cantor: Joseph Kotlar, Sr.
 Email: Kotlar@alum.mit.edu Cantor: Ann Marie Kotlar
 Office Assistant: Sharon Kotula; Email: d.kotula@comcast.net

Patronage Church at Hagerstown:

St. Ann Catholic Church: 1525 Oak Hill Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742

Contact: Adam and Lauren Myers: (301) 791-0930 / axxearp@yahoo.com

Next Liturgy: TBD

PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee 1.21.2024	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For: +David DiLeo From: Cathy & George Johnson
Sunday of the Prodigal Son 1.28.2024	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For: Living and Deceased Members of Our Parish

The Propers for today are on page 125, tone 1, then page 215, 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!

PARISH SOCIALS: A reminder that our socials are self-funded, and we rely on donations to pay for food, beverages, and paper products. Please be generous in supporting our socials. Thank you!

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.

ASSEMBLY OF THE BYANTINE 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.

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.

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.

“People are often unreasonable and self-centered.

Forgive them Anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you.

Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous.

Be happy anyway the good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

Do good. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough.

Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.”

- Mother Theresa

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) TRAINING: We currently have an AED unit in our social hall. If you would like to learn about this unit and how to use it, **please join Barbara Breeze and Kelley Wood (2 of our parishioner nurses) next Sunday, January 28th, after our 9am Liturgy.** They will demonstrate the use of our ZOLL AED Plus unit. We are encouraging everyone to attend, and learn how you can save a life with this easy-to-use device!

2023 TAX LETTERS: Please see Dennis Kotula to receive your 2023 tax letter after Divine Liturgy today. Any letters not picked up at our church will be put in the mail. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Vasyl.

HOLY WATER CONTAINERS: Bottles are available on the table if you would like to take some Holy Water home. **Plastic bottles with a cross on them are \$4/each and the glass decorated bottles are \$12.50/each (prices are marked on each container).** You can leave your payment in the basket. The undecorated glass jars on the bottom shelf are free.

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 over 40 cartridges, so far!**

2024 BYZAN-TEEN YOUTH RALLY: Mark your calendar, the next Byzan-teen Youth Rally will take place **June 27-29, 2024, at the University of San Diego, in California.** The theme is *“Walking with Jesus on the stormy waters of the modern sea of life.”* This rally provides Eastern Catholic faith formation and fraternity for all teens ages 13-17 (*must be 13 by November 1, 2024, and not have reached the age of 18 by June 30, 2024*) growing up in the Byzantine Catholic Tradition. Together with their peers, Byzan-teens actively engage in living, growing in, and promoting the Byzantine Catholic tradition. All Byzan-teens are given the opportunity to gather from across the country for the biennial national Byzan-teen Youth Rally. The registration deadline is Friday, May 31st. **If you are interested in attending, please see Fr. Vasyl, as soon as possible.**

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.



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 14, 2024:

Offertory: \$1,515.00

Theophany: \$125.00

Tithe.ly: \$190.00

ECL: \$75.00

Initial Offering: \$50.00

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).

THANK YOU:

1. **We appreciate everyone who stayed after Divine Liturgy last Sunday and took down and packed up our Christmas decorations** in both our Temple and social hall. Your efforts were greatly appreciated.
2. **Clyde Wood** repaired and replaced some of the extenders on our church and rectory downspouts on Monday. We appreciate his time, effort, and donation of supplies necessary to do the much-needed repairs.
3. **Dennis Kotula** shoveled the church/rectory sidewalks, steps, and driveway on Tuesday after the snowstorm. We appreciate his time and effort.
4. **Sarah Jane Roberts** is providing donuts for our social today. Her generosity is greatly appreciated.

HOLY WATER CONTAINERS: Bottles are available on the table if you would like to take some Holy Water home. **Plastic bottles with a cross on them are \$4/each and the glass decorated bottles are \$12.50/each (prices are marked on each container).** You can leave your payment in the basket. The undecorated glass jars on the bottom shelf are free.

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



Fill in the blanks with one of these words: repentance worship Publican God Lent fasting spiritual prayer Pharisee preparation others charity journey

The Sunday of the _____ and _____ is the first Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great _____. It marks the beginning of a time of _____ for the _____ journey of Lent, a time for Byzantine Catholics to draw closer to God through _____, _____, _____, and acts of _____. The theme of this parable is _____. Repentance is the door through which we enter Lent, the starting point of the _____ to Pascha. To repent is to be renewed and attain a fresh way of looking at our relationship with _____ and _____.

2024 EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION (ECF) PROGRAM: *Classes will take place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month through Sunday, June 9th.* We will break for summer, and resume on Catechetical Sunday, September 15, 2024. There are currently 15 students registered in our 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 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.***

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.

Faults of the Pharisee

Many are the faults of the Pharisee. First of all, he is boastful, and without sense, for he praises himself, even though the Sacred Scriptures cry aloud, "Let a neighbor praise you, and not your own mouth: a stranger and not your own lips" (Prov. 27:2). ... Our virtue, therefore, must not be contaminated with fault, but must be single-minded and blameless and free from all that can bring reproach. For what profit is there in fasting twice a week, if you so doing serve only as a pretext for ignorance and vanity, and if it makes you prideful, haughty and selfish? You tithe your possessions and make a boast of it; but in another way you provoke God's anger, by condemning men generally on this account and accusing others. And you yourself are puffed up, though not crowned by the divine decree for righteousness, but on the contrary, heap praises upon yourself. For I am not, he says, as the rest of mankind. Moderate yourself, O Pharisee: "Set a guard, O Lord, over your mouth, keep watch over the door of your lips" (Ps. 140:3).

You speak to God Who knows all things. Await the decree of the Judge. None of those skilled in the practice of wrestling ever crowns himself; nor does any man receive the crown of himself, but awaits the summons of the arbiter. Lower your pride, for arrogance is both accursed and hated by God. Although, therefore, you fast with puffed up mind, your so doing will not avail you; your labor will be unrewarded; for you have mingled dung with your perfume. Even according to the law of Moses a sacrifice that had a blemish was not capable of being offered to God; for it was said unto him, "Of sheep, and ox, that is offered for sacrifice, there must be no blemish therein" (Lev. 22:21). Since, therefore, your fasting is accompanied by pride, you must expect to hear God saying, this is not the fast that I have chosen (Cf Isa. 58:5) ... You offer tithes, but you wrong in another way Him Who is honored by you, in that you condemn men generally. This is an act foreign to the mind that fears God.

St. Cyril of Alexandria