

# SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Ἡ ΠΑΡΑΒΟΛὴ τοῦ Μεγάλου Δείπνου



*Icon of the Parable of the Great Feast*



## PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

1260 Stevens Avenue, Arbutus, MD 21227-2644

[www.patronagechurch.com](http://www.patronagechurch.com) / Facebook: Patronagechurch  
[patronage.church@gmail.com](mailto:patronage.church@gmail.com)

Office: (410) 247-4936

Administrator: Very Rev. Vasyl Symyon

Email: [vasyl.symyon@gmail.com](mailto:vasyl.symyon@gmail.com)

Phone: 412-713-4520

Rev. Deacon Anthony Kotlar, Sr.

Assistant: Sharon Kotula

Email: [d.kotula@comcast.net](mailto:d.kotula@comcast.net)

Cantor: Michael Kulka

Cantor: Joseph Kotlar, Sr.

Cantor: Ann Marie Kotlar

### 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](mailto:axxearp@yahoo.com)

Next Liturgy: TBD

### PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday of the Forefathers 12.17.2023	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For: +Michael & +Margaret Loncaric From: Anna Esquela
Saturday Before Christmas 12.23.2023	4:00pm	Divine Liturgy (satisfies Sunday obligation)	For: +Simeon Esquela From: Anna Esquela
Christmas Eve 12.24.2023	4:00pm	Compline with St. John Chrysostom Liturgy	For: Living and Deceased Members of our Parish
Christmas – Birth of Our Lord 12.25.2023	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For: Living and Deceased Members of our Parish

Today is **Sunday of the Forefathers.**

The Propers for today are on page 141, Tone 4, then page 281 in the teal Liturgy book.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** In preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Fr. Vasyl will be available to hear your confession on **Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, from 6:00 to 8:00pm** in our church. This will be in addition to his availability starting one hour prior to services and ending 15 minutes before the start of services, as usual.

**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 call either one. Their contact information is on page 1 of this bulletin.

**LITURGY INTENTIONS:** *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. 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.

**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: 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](http://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.

**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 for your contribution!

**BYZANTINE ICON PAINTING WORKSHOP (UPDATED INFORMATION):** Patronage Church is planning a Byzantine Icon Painting Workshop with Iconographer, Wayne Hajos. Wayne wrote many icons in our church. This workshop is an excellent opportunity for spiritual growth in our faith! Take advantage of this opportunity! **The class will be held on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, from 9am – 5pm, and Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30am – 7:30pm.** The class fee will be \$250 with all supplies included. No art experience is necessary, and we will paint an icon of our church's patron, the Theotokos to register, please send a deposit of \$50, by check, along with your name, and mail it to: Wayne Hajos, 400 Symphony Circle #555, Hunt Valley, MD 21030. The balance of \$200 will be due on the first day of class. Class size is limited to 20 students max, and will be first come, first serve! **Registration deadline is January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024!** If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Ross at [keviross@gmail.com](mailto:keviross@gmail.com), or by text/phone at 570-561-6540.

**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.

**PATRONAGE FREEZER SALE:** We have bags of a dozen pirohi of potato and cheese for sale at \$7.00 each, and 4 dozen bags at \$25.00 each. We also have bags of a dozen of farmer's cheese, sauerkraut, and cabbage for sale at \$7.00 each. Nut, poppy, and raspberry kolachi are also available for \$15.00 each. Please see Mary Demyan, if you are interested in purchasing any. Checks can be made payable to: Patronage Church, and cash is always acceptable.

## Schedule of Christmas Services 2023

### The Feast of the Nativity

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

**Saturday, December 23, 2023** – Vigil Divine Liturgy for Sunday Before Christmas: 4pm

**Sunday, December 24, 2023** – NO MORNING LITURGY

**Sunday, December 24, 2023** – Christmas Eve – Compline with St. John Chrysostom Liturgy: 4pm

**Monday, December 25, 2023** – Nativity of Our Lord – Divine Liturgy: 9am

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**GOD WITH US (Eastern Catholic Formation):** Sign up for these free new programs:

1. “The Dwelling Place” - this is a Family Formation Program powered by BYZI-KIDS. There are downloadable monthly lessons for all ages based on the themes for the Catechetical year. Visit [www.godwithusonline.org](http://www.godwithusonline.org) to sign up!
2. “Daily Biblical Reflection & Reflections” – immerse yourself daily in the Scriptures through Readings and Reflections from the Byzantine Christian Lectionaries. Visit [www.royaldoors.net](http://www.royaldoors.net) to sign up!

Reflection from Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA

By: Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM

Sisters of St. Basil the Great

“The many features of the Fourth Commandment”

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Now we move to the second part of the Decalogue. When you see (The Ten Commandments) pictured, usually One, Two, and Three are on one side and all the others are on the other side of a double tablet.

The right side all refer to relationships with one another, The first three centered on our God relationship and, of course, that’s the basis of the relation in a connection with other people.

“Honor your father and your mother.” So, this Covenant relationship invited by God is in the family context. It is an example of the love context that it needs to be in. After God, those who God has bested with authority for our good; first of all, the universal experience of a father and a mother.

Jesus Himself, when he came into this world, chose the framework of family born of a woman; a foster father is involved, and more importantly, Jesus shows us His relationship with his Heavenly Father, to Whom He speaks often He keeps calling us to do what He does – that is to live by the will and desires of the Father. What is good for us is described in that relationship.

So, the importance of this very first of the Commandments that talk about relationship with each other is about what makes goodness in a family: “Honor thy father and thy mother.” This goes on to mean the relationship that parents have to their children, as well as the children to their parents. The stronger, the better the society is.

That is one of the duties of families: to contribute to the betterment of society by living the way God teaches us to live. So, children know their parents’ respect, gratitude, just obedience and assistance. This builds a human harmony and it affects all of human life.

Parents also, though, have responsibilities for the education of their children in faith, in prayer, in virtues, and in education for a life in this world. They have the duty to provide as much as needed for the physical and spiritual welfare of the children. They all should respect the vocation that a child feels called to and help the in their Christ relationship, always.

The Fourth Commandment also talks about our relationship with authority in society, So there is obedience that is due, cooperation that is due; contributions that we citizens need to offer for the improvement and growth in society.

We have to think of the Holy Spirit to help us bring truth to society, to bring justice, build solidarity, respect freedom; all of these qualities It does imply also political involvement, taking care to offer your contribution and your best for the betterment of society.

Think about and look up the many features of the Fourth Commandment; “Honor thy father and thy mother.”

God bless you!

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**EASTERN CATHOLIC LIFE (ECL):** The ECL is the Eparchy of Passaic’s newspaper, which is published monthly. If you would like to subscribe to the ECL, or change your subscription, please email the church, and **let us know no later than January 28, 2024**. The subscription cost is \$15/year, and will be mailed to your home. Please make your check payable to: Patronage Church, and note that this is for the ECL.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Sunday, January 7, 2024, following our 11am Divine Liturgy,** we will be having a dinner in our social hall. Please plan on joining us! More details to follow.

**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. A packet of envelopes is mailed to you bi-monthly.

**2024 LITURGICAL CALENDARS:** On the table in the back of our Temple are the Liturgical calendars for 2024. Please take one!

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

# CHILDREN'S CORNER



**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, Nicholas Kotlar, 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, Missy Kakalec, 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:** (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733> – the link is also on our website)

**Patronage Church – December 10, 2023**  
**Offertory: \$2,159.04    Tithe.ly: \$180.00    Candles: \$89.00**

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

**CONGRATULATIONS REV. DEACON TONY:** It is with much gratitude and appreciation that we congratulate Rev. Deacon Tony Kotlar for reaching a milestone achievement on October 19, 2023, for 20 years of service to our church and God. May God grant Deacon Tony many more blessed years. Mnohaja l'ita!

**ANNUAL PATRONAGE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SALE:** Please consider purchasing a Poinsettia, if you haven't already done so. These flowers will be placed throughout our church and altar for Christmas, and may be taken after services. Each commemoration will be published in a special insert in our Christmas bulletin for each flower purchased. Forms can be found on the shelf in our Narthex. *Please make checks payable to: Patronage Church. Cash is also acceptable.* Thank you for supporting our Poinsettia flower sale!

**PATRONAGE SOCIAL:** Please join us after Divine Liturgy this morning for some refreshments and parish fellowship in our social hall.

**NEATH THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM – CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHOIR:** The Carpatho-Rusyn Society announced a Christmas program happening today, **December 17<sup>th</sup> from 2-3pm**. The St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church (Munhall, PA) Choir's 2023 musical presentation include selections from the Byzantine-Ruthenian tradition, as well as those from Eastern and Western Europe and North America. The free program will be live-streamed at <https://steliasmunhallpa.weebly.com>.

**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.

**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).

**EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION (ECF) PROGRAM:** Please mark your calendar with the following dates:

- **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** - ECF Confession
- **Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve Nativity presentation – please arrive at 3:45pm to set-up

Any questions, please contact Loui Villanueva at [villanuevaluxmundi@gmail.com](mailto:villanuevaluxmundi@gmail.com).

## *The Great Feast*

This familiar parable is read in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His incarnation. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God-man Jesus Christ comes into the world. He is, in fact, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets – the goal towards which they were all aiming. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event. As the parable tells us the King – that is God – has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us.

Today we begin in earnest to move toward the

feast of the birth of our Incarnate Savior Jesus Christ. Today we are called to see the great preparation that has gone into this event, to marvel at the great love and care of God for us that He would labor so long and with such great care for us. Today we look back at the whole of the history of the people of God and see that it is the history of God's preparation all leading to the moment when He would take flesh, become incarnate and enter the world as a child. We have been given an invitation to come and join the feast, to abandon the world and enter the Kingdom of God, to leave our own life and receive instead the Life of Christ. We have been invited, chosen by God – will we then accept the invitation and choose Him?