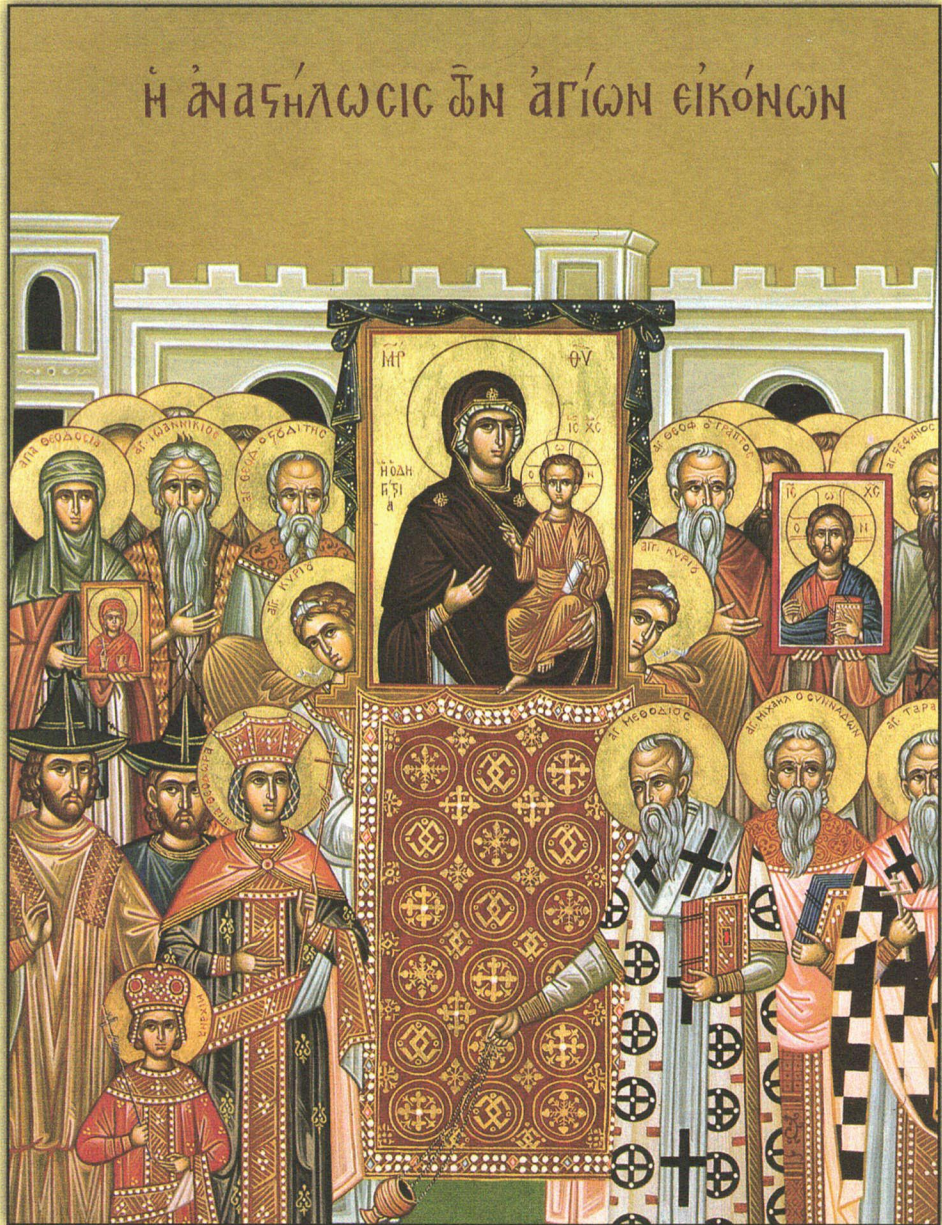


FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST  
SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

Ἡ ἀναζήλωσις τῶν ἁγίων εἰκόνων



*Icon of the Holy Images*



## PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

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 Rev. Deacon Anthony Kotlar, Sr. Cantor: Joseph Kotlar, Sr.  
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 Office Assistant: Sharon Kotula; Email: [d.kotula@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:axxearp@yahoo.com)

Next Liturgy: TBD

### PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast 2.18.2024	9:00am	Procession of Icons Divine Liturgy	For the Repose of the Soul of: +Philip Kotula From: M/M Dennis Kotula & Family
2 <sup>nd</sup> All Souls Friday, 2.23.2024	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy Followed by a Panachida	Reading of the Hramoty List
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast 2.25.2024	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For the Repose of the Souls of: +Michael & +Catherine Bluey From: Carol & Tim Herder
3 <sup>rd</sup> All Souls Friday, 3.1.2024	6:00opm	Presanctified Liturgy Followed by a Panachida	Reading of the Hramoty List

Today's Propers can be found on page 146, Tone 5, then page 220 in our Divine Liturgy Book.  
 Anaphora responses for the Liturgy of St. Basil is on page 100.

**MYSTERY OF REPENTANCE:** Confession is available beginning an hour before Divine Liturgy, and ending 15 minutes before the start of services.

*Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na viki! Glory to Jesus Christ, Glory forever!* **1**

**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.

**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 already contributed – we've now collected 68 cartridges, so far, and have earned \$120.00!**

**PIROHI and KOLACHI 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 Pirohi of farmer's cheese, sauerkraut, and cabbage for sale at \$7.00 each. Several varieties of Kolachi are available for \$16.00 each. Please see Mary Demyan if you are interested in purchasing any. Please help us clear our freezer!

**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 CHURCH SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL:** Please mark your calendar. Our next festival is scheduled for **Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 10:00am – 2:00pm**. To help reduce the expenses for our festival, we are currently looking for donations, and need the following: 35lbs of walnuts, 2 cases of bottled water, 2 cases of Coke minis, 2 cases of Sprite minis, 2 cases of Diet Coke minis, flour, sugar, and books of stamps. If you purchase any of these items, please turn in your receipt, so that we can have a more accurate accounting of our festival costs, as well as a fair representation of your individual donations. We will also accept any amount of cash donations. Any questions, please email Mary Demyan at [mdemya1@verizon.net](mailto:mdemya1@verizon.net). We will also need volunteers for the following dates:

- Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, after 9:00am Divine Liturgy** – stuff envelopes for our festival mailing
- Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00am** - cabbage preparation for holupki
- Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00am** - holupki making
- Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am** – cooking for the festival
- Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am** - kolachi baking, packaging, filling orders, and clean-up
- Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00am** - festival preparation and set-up
- Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00am – 2:00pm** - festival and clean-up

**FESTIVAL DONATION THANK YOU:** Many thanks to the following who have made a donation towards our upcoming Slavic Food Festival. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

1. **Kluski noodles** to make Holushki for the festival – Rose Paczkowski
2. **Monetary funds** to help pay for items needed for the festival – Charles Toth

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

1. We are looking for a volunteer(s) to assist in the sale and removal of a freezer in our social hall, which was replaced in November. The freezer is believed to be in repairable condition. Please see Dennis Kotula or Alex Demyan, if you can help.
2. We also need a volunteer(s) to polish the icon banners, before Pascha, that are attached to our 1<sup>st</sup> pews. Please let Fr. Vasyl know, if you are able to do this.

# Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic Fasting Regulations for the Great Fast 2024

***Abstinence:*** The law of Abstinence forbids the use of meat, permitting the use of eggs and dairy products. All the faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to abstain. Abstinence is to be observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays during the Holy Season of the Great Fast.

***Strict Abstinence:*** The law of Strict Abstinence (Fast) forbids the use of meat, eggs, and dairy products. All the adult faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to observe Strict Abstinence, and is to be observed on the First Day of the Great Fast, Pure Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, and on Great and Holy Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

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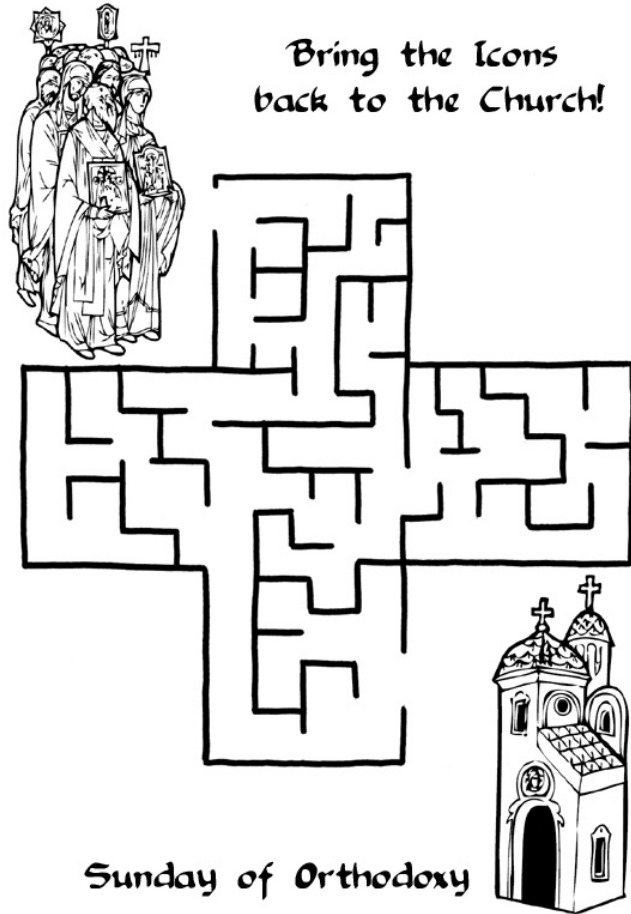
## **THE PRAYER OF ST. EPHREM:**

*Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter.*

*Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love.*

*Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen.*

## CHILDREN'S CORNER



Bring the Icons  
back to the Church!

Sunday of Orthodoxy

**2024 EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION (ECF) PROGRAM:** Please mark your calendar -

- **February 18<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday of Orthodoxy – Procession of Icons prior to the start of Divine Liturgy.
- **February 25<sup>th</sup>** – **Immediately after Divine Liturgy (around 10:15am)**, students will learn the recipe and practice creating the Prospora. Ruthenian Catholic families have a wonderful tradition of making the Prospora at home and offering the bread as a gift to the church. Please email Kevin Ross at [keviross@gmail.com](mailto:keviross@gmail.com), if you have any questions.
- **Classes will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month through Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.** We will break for summer, and resume on Catechetical Sunday, September 15, 2024. We currently have 15 students enrolled in our program. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Ross, [keviross@gmail.com](mailto:keviross@gmail.com), or Loui Villaneuva, [villanuevaluxmundi@yahoo.com](mailto:villanuevaluxmundi@yahoo.com).

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**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

**February 11, 2024:**

Offertory: \$1,454.00

Tithe.ly: \$225.00

Lent: \$145.00

Easter Flowers: \$20.00

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).*

**PARISH SOCIAL:** Please join us after Divine Liturgy this morning for refreshments in our social hall. All are welcome!

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST and the SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY:** Fr. Vasyl will be having a procession with our ECF students, and then blessing Icons before the start of the Divine Liturgy today. If you brought an icon from home to be blessed, you can pick it up after Liturgy.

**THE GREAT LENT A TRADITIONAL CUSTOM OF THE BYZANTINE RITE:** According to the Byzantine practice, the Great Fast begins seven weeks before Pascha, and ends on the Friday before the Saturday of Lazarus. The Great (Holy) Week, in the Byzantine Church, is considered as a “special week,” and is not included in the Forty-Days Fast. To learn more about this custom, visit [www.archpitt.org](http://www.archpitt.org), click on “Resources/About,” “Our Faith,” then “The Great Lent A Traditional Custom of the Byzantine Rite.”

**PRAYERFUL CONGRATULATIONS:** The servant of God, **Zachary Roberts**, husband of Sara Jane, and father of Landon and Nicholas, received the Mystery of Chrismation, yesterday, Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, in our church. God grant Zachary many blessed years! Mnohaja l'ita!

**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).

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

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## Reflection from Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA

By: Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM Sisters of St. Basil the Great

Glory to Jesus Christ!

We continue now with the Sixth Commandment: “Thou shall not commit adultery.”

It’s helpful to remember the Covenant atmosphere covering the relationship that is implied in the background of the Commandments; the first three being about that Covenant with God. If we claim that God is first in our lives, which is what the Commandments invite, then, indeed, we will show that God is first in our lives and we do things accordingly, like respect His name and go to worship together.

The last seven Commandments are about, you might say, “The Golden Rule.” How do we love one another? How do we respect this Covenant in which we share by the proper treatment of one another?

“Love” is especially the context of some of these Commandments. Here is the Sixth: “Thou shall not commit adultery.” A great honor is paid to marriage in the Church; to a loving relationship and the role of marriage as a way to build up both family and society.

God created us, man and woman, with equal dignity and He called us to acknowledge and accept our sexuality. We’re called to “chastity,” a word that would mean living love purely, living love for one another, according to one’s state in life.

Christ is the model of chastity and it is from Him we can receive as we pray for help to live this life. The Church acknowledges that growing in chastity is a lifelong process and the Sacrament of Confession is there to help us because we fall and rise up again and again.

The Church does not name certain things that are against the Commandments of love: fornication, pornography, sexual activity among people who are not married to each other.

The Marriage Covenant always call the people to faithful love and to not sin against the dignity of marriage. It’s very special. It’s an imitation of the Fatherhood of God, an imitation of love shared in the Holy Trinity. Adultery, therefore, would be against marriage and the Commandment. Divorce is also, as is polygamy and free union; in fact, any ways we make a marriage difficult to keep works against the Covenant and the bond.

In truth, certain things cannot be worked out and some marriages aren’t saved. However, the Church calls us to that highest expression of love, service, and imitation of our loving God; seek the Church’s help.

God bless you!

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### THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC LITURGICAL PRACTICE OF OBSERVING ALL SOULS SATURDAYS:

Please mark your calendar, and join us for the Second through Fifth “All Soul” services:

- The Second service for “All Souls,” will be held at 6:00pm, on **Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**, after Presanctified Liturgy
- The Third service for “All Souls,” will be held at 6:00pm, on **Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**, after Presanctified Liturgy
- The Fourth service for “All Souls,” will be held at 6:00pm, on **Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**, after Presanctified Liturgy
- The Fifth service for “All Souls,” will be held at 6:00pm, on **Friday May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Parishioners are encouraged to attend these services, for by your presence and personal prayers, it strengthens the bond with your departed loved ones, and indeed keeps their memory eternal! **VICNAJA PAMJAT’!**

**PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE:** Please join us for our Presanctified services during Lent:

- Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:00pm
- Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00pm
- Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm
- Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm
- Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00pm

**GOD WITH US - FREE ONLINE WEBINAR:** Every Great Lent the Byzantine Churches celebrate a unique form of weekday Liturgy known by name as, “The Presanctified Liturgy of Saint Gregory the Great.” But what is the meaning of this rite, especially in the context of the Fast? John Fr. James Bankston as they explore Fr. David Petras’ new book! This Byzantine bookshelf series, “**Now the Powers of Heaven – The Lenten Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts,**” is a 90-minute webinar, and will be held the **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of February and March, at 7:00pm.** Please visit [www.godwithusononline.org](http://www.godwithusononline.org), click on “online,” to register.

**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 are 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 it may not always be available. The date is assigned on a first come, first served basis, and are reserved upon receipt of the offering.

## *Icons Show the Human Face of God*

In recent months my Sunday reflections have frequently focused on our Christian brothers and sisters of the East. Wishing as it were to embrace their rich tradition of faith in a single glance, today I would like to refer once again to the sense of mystery which is apparent in their icons. The East and the West vie with each other to put their art at the service of the faith.

But from the East, where icons had to be defended with bloodshed in the iconoclast crisis of the eighth and ninth centuries, comes a particular call jealously to preserve the religious nature of this art. It is based on the mystery of the Incarnation, in which God chose to assume a human face. In the last analysis, sacred art seeks to transmit something of the mystery of that face.

This is why the East firmly insists on the spiritual qualities which must characterize the artist,

to whom Simeon of Thessalonica, the great defender of Tradition, addresses this important exhortation: "Teach with words, write with letters, paint with colors, in conformity with Tradition; the painting is true, as is the writing of books; and the grace of God is present in them, because what is represented there is holy."

By contemplating icons in the whole context of liturgical and ecclesial life, the Christian community is called to grow in its experience of God, and to become more and more a living icon of the communion of life between the Three Divine Persons.

*Pope John Paul II*

**For publications on Eastern spirituality, visit  
[www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)**