



PA TRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE
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Deacon: Anthony Kotlar
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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
Next Liturgy: Sunday, March 14th at 3pm

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, March 20th at 10am

DIVINE LITURGY /MASS/ PATRONAGE CHURCH

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday 3.7.2021	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Fr. Thomas Mardaga Requested by: Clara Valeika
Thursday 3.11.2021	10:00am	Divine Liturgy	For Living and Deceased Members of the Parish
Friday 3.12.2021	6:30pm	Presanctified Liturgy+Panachida	Reading of the Hramoty
Sunday 3.14.2021	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Fr. Louis Mendalis Requested by: Clara Valeika

Confession will take place 20 minutes before or immediately after Divine Liturgy.

This is the **3rd Sunday of the Great Fast**. Propers begin on page 156, then 223; Tone 7.

PRAYER INTENTIONS – PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER: 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, Paul Ruszin, Sr., Georgianna Kostak, Betty Rankin, Clara Valeika, Cathy Valeika, and Greg Rudy

*May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician and Healer of souls and bodies,
 grant them peace and good health for many blessed years!*

CONTRIBUTIONS: 2/28/2021 - \$656.10
TITHELY: January - \$830.00 February - \$685.00

In spite of the pandemic, the maintenance of our church continues and bills still must be paid. Thanks to those who continue to support 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).**

IN BLESSED REPOSE: +Gene Kakalec, Jr. passed away on Thursday, March 4th. Funeral arrangements are as follows: Visitation at Ambrose Funeral Home in Arbutus on Wednesday, March 10th from 10-12am followed by a Panachida at 1pm at Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Cemetery in ElkrIDGE. Eternal Memory!

BYZANTEEN VIRTUAL EVENING OUT: This is the third in a series of events, scheduled for March 21st, leading up to this year's Byzanteen Youth Rally, July 1-4, 2021, entitled: **“5th Sunday of Lent, Saint Mary of Egypt – No matter what you have done, with a repentant heart and through the Grace of God you can be transformed.”** You can send an email to frdeacontom@gmail.com, if you have any questions. To register, please visit eparchyofpassaic.com.

GOD WITH US +ONLINE+: A virtual program entitled, **“More Spacious Than the Heavens, A Liturgical Study of the Annunciation,”** will be presented by **Rev. Sebastian Carnazzo**, on Monday, March 22 from 8-9pm. Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery that was planned from all eternity: The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces this grace...The Troparion of the Annunciation. You can register for this **free program** at EasternCatholic.org/Events. For those unable to participate, lectures are recorded and available on-demand, in the event library, currently offering many hours of adult faith formation in the Eastern Christian tradition.

4TH ALL SOULS: Please join us this Friday, March 12th, at 6:30pm, for the *All Souls* commemoration for the dead. We will have Divine Liturgy, followed by a Panachida (prayers for the deceased), with the reading of the Hramoty (names of our departed loved ones).

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME 2021: Don't forget to change your clocks ahead one hour **beginning 2am on Sunday, March 14th.**

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).**

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

ASK THE DEACON: *Where should we arrange Icons at home: Why the East is so important?*

ANSWER: Any place is alright. There is, however, a well-established and ancient tradition of Christians facing east when praying. Consequently, icons are preferentially placed on the east wall of a building such as an icon corner. We also see in our churches that the iconostasis is in the eastern part of the church. Liturgically, even if not physically so, everyone, priest, deacon, and people are considered to face east. The deacon is even directed to leave the altar through the north door and enter through the south door, thus, as facing east.

Since the time of the early Church, the eastward direction of Christian prayer has carried a strong significance, attested by the writings of the Church Fathers. In the 2nd century, Syrian Christians hung a Christian cross on the eastern wall of their house, symbolizing "their souls facing God, talking with him, and sharing their spirituality with the Lord." Two centuries later, Saint Basil the Great declared that one of the unwritten commandments of the Church was to pray facing east. Nearly all Christian apologetic tracts published in the 7th century A.D. in the Syriac and Arabic languages explicated that the reason that Christians prayed facing the east is because "the Garden of Eden was planted in the east (Genesis 2:8) and that at the end of time, at the second coming, the Messiah would approach Jerusalem from the east."

Throughout Christendom, believers have hung or painted a Christian cross, to which they prostrated in front of, on the eastern wall of their home in order to indicate the eastward direction of prayer, as an "expression of their undying belief in the coming again of Jesus was united to their conviction that the cross, 'the sign of the Son of Man,' would appear in the eastern heavens on his return (see Matthew 24:30)." We sometimes hear the expression that the priest has his back to the people but this is a wrong understanding. Rather everyone prays equally facing east; all are oriented. In a word, it is the Church's liturgical answer to the angels question posed to Peter and the Apostles at the Lord's holy Ascension: "Men of Galilee, why stand ye there looking into the heavens? This Christ will return to you as you have seen Him leave..." We are standing here gazing into the eastern heavens, watching and waiting for His return. -- Quoted excerpts are from Wikipedia and Dom Daniel Augustine Oppenheimer, CRNJ.