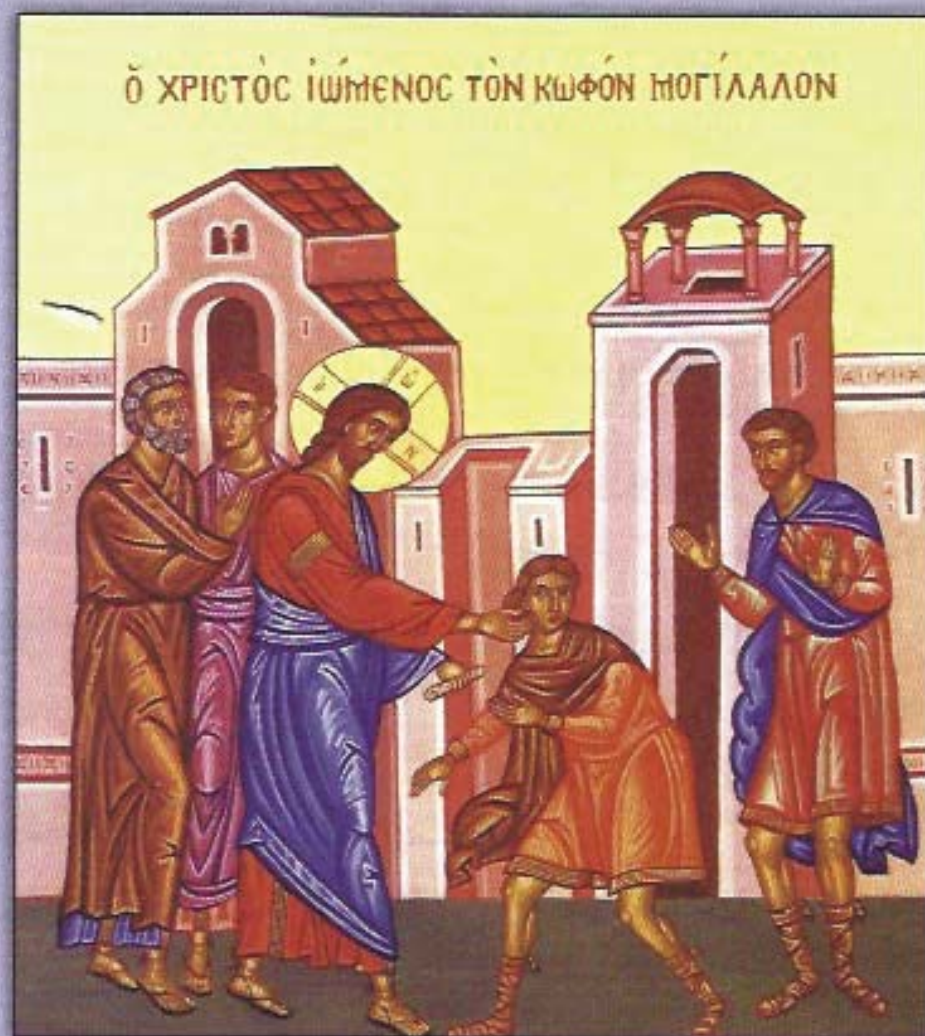


FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT EAST
SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS



Icon of the Healing of the Deaf Mute — Mark 9:17-31

Healer of Infirmities

The deaf-mute, of whose marvelous cure by our Lord we have heard, represents those members of the human race who merit being freed by divine grace from the error brought on by the devil's deceit. Man became deaf, unable to hear the word of life after, puffed up as he was against God, he listened to the serpent's deadly words; he was made mute and unable to declare the praises of his Maker from the time when he presumed to have a conversation with his seducer. Rightly did God close man's ears from hearing the praises of his Creator along with the angels — those ears which the unsuspected enemy by his speech had opened to hearing denunciation of this same Creator. Rightly did God close man's mouth from proclaiming the praises of his Creator along with the angels — that mouth which the proud deceiver had filled with his lies about the forbidden food, in order, as the devil said, to improve upon the work of

this same Creator. And alas, the unfortunate rebellion of the human race, which sprouted in a corrupt manner at the root, began to spread in a much more corrupt way in shoots from the branches, so that when our Lord came in the flesh, with the exception of a few of the faithful from among the Jews, almost the entire world, now deaf and mute, was wandering away from recognition and confession of the truth. But where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more. Our Lord came to the Sea of Galilee, where He knew that there was a disabled person whom He would heal. He came by his benevolent grace to the proud, disordered, and inconstant hearts of the nations, since He knew that among them were some who would be receptive to His grace.

St. Bede the Venerable

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

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Next Liturgy: Saturday, March 18th, at 10am

DIVINE LITURGY - PATRONAGE CHURCH

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday 3.19.2023	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	Living and Deceased Members of our Parish
Friday 3.24.2023	6:30pm	Divine Liturgy - Annunciation of the Theotokos	Living and Deceased Members of our Parish
Sunday 3.26.2023	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Divine Liturgy Mirovanije	Living and Deceased Members of our Parish

This is the **4th Sunday of the Great Fast – Venerable Father John Climacus.**

Propers: Tone 8, page 116 then page 226.

Music for St. Basil: page 96.

CONFESSION: Fr. Serhii is available 20 minutes before or immediately after Divine Liturgy.

MEN'S CLUB EASTER FLOWER SALE: Once again, we are sponsoring a flower sale for Easter. The flowers will be used to decorate the church and altar for Divine Liturgy on Pascha. Each donated flower will be published in a special insert of the Easter bulletin. Plants may be taken by the giver after Resurrection Liturgy. **All plants not taken by the giver will be replanted around the church property.** Forms can be found either in the Narthex, on the shelf, or on our website. Plants are \$12/each and you have a choice of ordering, Easter Lilies, Tulips, or Hyacinths. **Please return your order form and payment by either placing it in the offering basket or mailing it to the rectory by Palm Sunday, April 2nd.** Checks should be made payable to: **Patronage Men's Club.**

GOD WITH US +ONLINE+: A free virtual program entitled, **"The Incarnation and the Cross, Understanding Christ's Redemptive Act,"** presented by Rev. David Anderson, will take place tomorrow, Monday, March 20th, from 8-9pm. Fr. David will show us how the Great Feast of the Annunciation falls in the midst of the Great Fast and how they are integrally tied together, for they make up one redemptive act. You can register for this program at godwithusonline.org.

METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY: Most Rev. William Skurla, Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh, has invited all clergy and faithful to the Assembly of the Byzantine (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsboro, NJ, November 2-5, 2023. The theme of this Assembly is **"Living Our Faith, Moving Forward, Appreciating Our Past."** More details forthcoming. You can sign up for email updates at www.eparchyofpassaic.com.

"MAKING THE CITY A CHURCH" LECTURE SERIES: The Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA, is pleased to announce its 23rd annual academic lecture to be presented by Fr. John Baldovin, S.J., at 7pm on May 10, 2023. This live-streamed lecture, entitled, "Making the City a Church: Liturgical Processions in Constantinople from the Sixth to Tenth Centuries," is to study the mobile character of ancient Constantinopolitan Christian worship and the processions of Byzantine stations liturgy. This will shed light on the liturgy itself, popular piety, and the relation of liturgy to the surrounding culture. All are welcome to attend this lecture virtually via the Seminary website (www.bcs.edu). The lecture can also be accessed live or at a later time from archives on the B.C.S. YouTube channel. For more information, please contact Fr. Ivan Chirovsky 412-321-8383, x36, or by email: development@bcs.edu.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED: We are looking for a volunteer to take a bag of donated food, located in our cry room, to a local food pantry as soon as possible. If you can help out, please let Fr. Serhii know. Thank you!

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

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic Fasting Regulations for the Great Fast 2023

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.

- Strict Abstinence is to be observed on the First Day of the Great Fast, Pure Monday, February 20 and on Great and Holy Friday, April 7.

Meditation for the Fourth Week of the Great Fast

Dear Sisters and Brothers!

In many old churches we can see the image of an icon of St. John Listvychnyk. The composition of this icon is very interesting. The earth and sky are connected by a ladder, on which monks climb up, from above on the clouds, the Savior blesses everyone and puts a crown of glory on them. As a rule, this ladder is inclined at a 45 degree angle, but the last steps are much steeper, and the rungs are more widely spaced. This is a symbol that achieving spiritual perfection is extremely difficult. On the icon, around the ladder, we can see angels who help the monks climb up, but there are also demons who try to pull them down. Good and evil try to influence a person, directing him to salvation or destruction. From the time of the Fall to the present day, this spiritual war has not stopped for a moment.

Each of us is waging our own little spiritual war: every day, every hour, we make seemingly insignificant decisions, but these are the decisions that make up our lives. Every decision has its consequences, and all together lead us either to salvation or to destruction.

Prayer and fasting are powerful weapons against evil forces. It is not for nothing that Saint John Chrysostom wrote that there is nothing more terrifying to the devil than a person who strengthens his soul with fervent prayer and tames his body with strict fasting.

People pray in different ways: one prays long, another briefly and hastily, the third distorts God's words; some whisper, and others speak out loud, and it happens that someone babbles indiscriminately and without attention. Why do people pray like that? Because they do not understand what prayer is and what its benefits are.

Since ancient times, people prayed in different ways: with words, gestures, singing, shouting, sacrifices, dances, and rituals, but this brought little comfort and benefit. Only during the time of Jesus Christ, one of the apostles asked, "...Lord, teach us to pray..." (Lk. 11:1). Christ answered, "And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: Our Father..." (Mt. 6:7-9).

In our prayers, we ask that the Lord reign in our heart, destroy sin there, let us reject unworthy thoughts and deeds, inspire us to virtues and good deeds. Thus, we can say together with the Apostle Paul, "...it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me..." (Gal. 2:20).

One rich prince, while hunting in the forest, heard singing and, following the voice, saw a poor beggar. "Did you sing?" The rich man was surprised by the beggar's response. "Yes," confirmed the poor man. "How can you be cheerful and sing in need and sickness?" asked the prince. "Why don't I sing? Lord, despite all my troubles, I am cheerful, because I have God in my heart, and the sicker I am, the closer I am to Him. For that joy I cannot help but sing." Only a person who feels the presence of God Himself in his heart could answer in this way. Saint John Chrysostom expressed these feelings as follows: "You will take all my property, but you will not take away the grace of God; you will see my poverty, but you will not close the sky in front of me; you will kill my body, but you will not separate my soul from God."

Dear believers! Saint John Chrysostom also said, "Never inquire into God's intentions. Do not ask why God did or why He did not do something. It is enough to know that such was His Holy will. Let it rain or snow, be hot or cold, let the thunder rumble and lightning strike. Let God give or take away, and thank Him for everything, saying, 'Thy will be done.' This will be your best prayer."

SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL: Saturday, April 1st from 10am – 2pm: We will need numerous volunteers for kolachi baking and packaging, and clean up on Wednesday, March 29th, beginning at 9am. Volunteers will be needed to help prep for our festival on Friday, March 31st at 9am, and to work at our festival and cleaning up on April 1st. Drivers will also be needed to pick up our kolbasi order in Johnstown, PA, and pirohi/Pascha order in the Hazelton, PA area, as well. Please contact Mary Demyan at 410-591-5654 (text preferred) or mdemya1@verizon.net, if you are available to help. Please consider volunteering for the various tasks to help make our festival a success! You should be receiving our festival mailing shortly. If you do not receive one, let us know and we will be sure to add you to the mailing list. Extra order forms can be found in the Narthex on the shelf, on the social hall kitchen counter, or on our website. **The pre-order date deadline is Monday, March 27th**, and orders can either be submitted on our church website, mailed to the church rectory, or left in the collection basket in the back of our Temple.

FESTIVAL BAKED GOODS NEEDED: Gather up your favorite recipes and get the whole family involved! We are in need of your homemade baked goods for our festival, and would love to fill our bake table. **You can drop your donation off on either Friday (3/31) or Saturday (4/1) morning. It would also help to save time if your baked good donations were wrapped/packaged, and priced in sellable portions.** We appreciate your help!

2023 EPARCHIAL ALTAR SERVER CONGRESS: Registration for this year's Altar Server Congress, is now open! It will take place at the Carpathian Village, 802 Snow Hill Road, Cresco, PA, from Sunday, July 16th - Thursday, July 20th. Please visit eparchyofpassaic.com, click on "Youth and Young Adult Ministries," then "Altar Server Congress," for camper registration forms and further information. You can also contact Fr. Michael Salnicky at 570-595-3265, if you have any further questions. Please let Fr. Serhii know as soon as possible, if you are interested in attending. If you are enrolled in ECF, our church will cover the registration fee.

2023 BYZANTEEN EPARCHIAL YOUTH RALLY: This year's rally will take place on June 22nd – 25th. We are waiting on more details, but the ByzanTeen Rally 2023 participants must be age 13 by November 1, 2023, and not have reached the age of 18 by June 27, 2023. You can find both the rally's Teen and Chaperone Registration forms on the Eparchy's website at eparchyofpassaic.com, click on "Youth and Young Adult Ministries," then "Byzanteens Youth Ministry." If you are interested in attending this rally, please let Fr. Serhii know so he can make sure you receive any updates that he receives. If you are enrolled in ECF, our church will cover the registration fee.

CHILDREN'S CORNER



St. John Climacus taught us about the Christian virtues and their opposites, the passions. Match the virtues and passions. Draw a line from each virtue to its corresponding passion:

Virtue

Obedience
Repentance
Forgiveness
Silence
Self-Control
Purity
Generosity
Meekness
Humility

Passion

Self-Satisfaction
Hatred
Pride
Uncleanliness
Envy
Aggressiveness
Greed
Boastfulness
Disobedience

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. Serhii, and his family, Marge Dulina, Mike Skovran, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Nancy Erdek, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Anne Gupman, Anna Martin, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Georgianna Kostak, Sandra Suseck, Howard Guba, 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>)

Patronage Church (March 12, 2023):

Offertory: \$1,100.00
Tithe.ly: \$300.00
Festival Donation: \$100.00
Easter Flowers: \$86.00

Hagerstown Mission:

Tithe.ly: \$19.00

IN BLESSED REPOSE: +Fr. Joseph Borodach, (Uncle of Dr. Alex Demyan), fell asleep in the Lord on March 11th. He was ordained in 1960, and had been the parish priest at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Bradenville, PA, for almost 50 years. Interment will be at St. Mary's Cemetery in Dallas, PA. In Blessed repose, grant O Lord eternal rest to the soul of your servant, +Fr. Joseph, and render eternal his memory! *Vičnaja jemu pamjat'!*

HELP WANTED: We would like to have our 4 icon banners, that are attached to the front row pews, cleaned and polished before Easter Sunday. We also need someone to repair the baseboard trim in the entrance way to our social hall before our festival. If you are able to help with these projects, please let Fr. Serhii know as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance!

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).