

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST  
SAINT MARY OF EGYPT



*Icon of Saints Zozimos and Mary of Egypt*

*Whoever Wishes to be Great*

Blessed is he who, dwelling amidst many people, does not turn towards the many, but directs his whole heart to God. Blessed is he who purchases Christ with all his belongings and has, as his only possession, the cross, which he raises on high. Blessed is he who, administering his legal possessions, extends God's hand to those who are in need ...

Blessed is he who, having authority over the people, by holy and great sacrifices brings Christ to earthly folk. Blessed is the one, who, being a child of the flock, a most perfect nursing, keeps the place of the heavenly Christ. Blessed is he who, by his pure mind's forceful movements, beholds the brilliance of the heavenly lights. Blessed is he who honors the Lord by much-toiling hands: and, for many people, this is the law of life. All these things fill up the heavenly receptacles in which are

stored the fruit of our souls, while every individual virtue leads to a different place. For many are the mansions pertaining to different lives.

Blessed is he, whom the mighty Spirit has shown to be poor in passions, whoever leads a life of repentance; who can never get his fill of celestial food; who, by kindness, becomes inheritor of great things; who, by bowels of mercy, draws down God's great compassion, being a friend of peace and pure in heart; who, for the sake of the renowned Christ, has endured many sufferings, and will find great honor. Keep to the way of these people, whichever you prefer.

*St. Gregory the Theologian*

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





## 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](mailto:patronage.church@gmail.com)

Office: (410) 247-4936

Pastor: Reverend Serhii Deiak  
 frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com

Cell: (240) 644-2661

Assistant: Sharon Kotula  
 d.kotula@comcast.net

Deacon: Anthony Kotlar

Cantor: Michael Kulka

Cantor: Joseph Kotlar, Sr.

Cantor: AnnMarie 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: Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 10am

### DIVINE LITURGY - PATRONAGE CHURCH

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday 3.26.2023	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Divine Liturgy	Living and Deceased Members of our Parish
Sunday 4.2.2023	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Divine Liturgy Mirovanije	Living and Deceased Members of our Parish

This is the **5th Sunday of the Great Fast – Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel.**

See handout for Propers.

Music for St. Basil: page 96.

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

**GOD WITH US +ONLINE+:** The next free virtual program entitled, “*Dedicated to Fellowship, Serving Christ in One Another,*” presented by Rev. Michael O’Loughlin & Mother Natalia, will take place Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, from 8-9pm. For more information and to register for this program, visit [godwithusonline.org](http://godwithusonline.org).

**2023 BYZANTEEN EPARCHIAL YOUTH RALLY:** This year’s rally will take place on **June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>**. 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](http://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.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please visit [eparchyofpassaic.com](http://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 Salnick 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.

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:** Theosis in Action & the Eparchy of Passaic Present: “Poustinia,” an evening of encounter and hospitality in the light of the Byzantine East. The next event will take place on **April 29<sup>th</sup> from 7-10pm** at St. Mary’s Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, NJ. This event is open to all young adults ages 18-35. For more information, contact: [FatherTomByz@gmail.com](mailto:FatherTomByz@gmail.com) or on facebook.com/theosisinaction.

**YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS:** Bishop Kurt has given his blessing and endorsement to this organization. If you would like more information, you can visit their website, [www.youngcatholicprofessionals.org](http://www.youngcatholicprofessionals.org). Jennifer Baugh is the Founder & Executive Director.

**HELP WANTED:** We 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 this project, please let Fr. Serhii know as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance!

***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 Fifth Week of the Great Fast

Dear Sisters and Brothers!

Let us pay attention to what the Holy Gospel says, "Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who has perverting the people; and after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him; neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Behold, nothing deserving death has been done by him...'" (Lk. 23, 13-15).

Think about the following words of the Holy Gospel, "Pilate went out again, and said to them, 'Behold, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him.' So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!' When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, 'Crucify him, crucify him!' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him'" (Jn. 19, 4-6). Although the Apostle Paul said that the Gentiles did not have true love, but here it can be seen that Pilate, although a Gentile, had more than the Jews. This is evident from the fact that he had mercy on Jesus Christ. His scarred body moved Pilate's heart to compassion and mercy.

Until the last minute, Pilate thought Jesus was innocent. Therefore, he really wanted to free Jesus. But at the same time, he was afraid of the Jews. The Jews still sought the death of Jesus. Pilate said to them: What evil has He done? They shouted even louder, saying: Let Him be crucified. When Pilate saw that nothing would help, and the rebellion was increasing, he took water and washed his hands in front of the people, saying: I am not guilty of the blood of this righteous man, you see. And all the people said in response: His blood be on us and on our children. Then he released Barabbas to them, and Jesus, having scourged Him, handed him over to be crucified" (Mt. 23, 23-27).

In analyzing Pilate's actions, we can see that he is convinced of Jesus' innocence. He defends Him before the Jews, and intercedes for Him. But, he condemned Jesus to death, and gave Him to the Jews to be crucified. Despite his good heart, Pilate had a weak will. He was afraid of the Jews, and because of that fear, he submitted to their malice. Pilate was a true image of many people. Because there are many people who would like to be kind. They speak very well about Christian virtues, but they themselves sin, their will is weak, unable to resist temptation.

The evil Pilate thought that when he washed his hands with water, he would shield himself from the judgment of the just God. How many people are there who do not follow the voice of their conscience. Conscience tells them to follow the true path, even if they have to lose their lives because of it, but they do not listen. They indulge in serious sins with a light heart, and drown out the voice of conscience with fun and luxury. And in front of people, they show off exemplary virtues. And so very often they pretend to be honest, but in reality, they are great sinners.

And now look closely at those wicked Jews, their malice has blinded them so much that they themselves voluntarily exact God's vengeance and God's punishment upon themselves. They judge themselves. "His blood be on us and on our children!"

And what does Jesus Christ say about this? He is silent, but His Most Holy Heart aches for that injustice and malice that calls to heaven for revenge.

Dear believers! The crime committed by the Jews against Jesus Christ was punished terribly. For almost 40 years, Jerusalem was headed by the Roman leader, Titus. It was on the Jewish Passover, where approximately three million people were gathered, and the Romans attacked. There was an unprecedented famine in the city. Mothers killed their own children and ate them. Different factions fought with each other. Houses and streets were filled with corpses. Many Jews wanted to escape, but the Romans were ordered to crucify them. And so, six thousand were crucified. After a fierce struggle, the Romans captured the city and set fire to the Temple. Priests threw themselves into the fire, more than a million Jews were killed, and the city was destroyed. Almost a million were taken into captivity; 30 able-bodied Jews were sold for one silver. Titus, the Gentile, looking at all this, called out, "The Lord God has destroyed the Jews and their city."

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**SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL - Next Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 10am – 2pm:** We will need numerous volunteers for kolachi baking and packaging, and clean up this **Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at 9am. Volunteers will also be needed to help prep for our festival on **Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**, at 9am, and to work at our festival and cleaning up on **April 1<sup>st</sup>**. Please contact Mary Demyan at 410-591-5654 (text preferred) or [mdemya1@verizon.net](mailto:mdemya1@verizon.net), if you are available to help. Please consider volunteering for the various tasks to help make our festival a success! **The pre-order date deadline is tomorrow, Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**. Order forms can be found in the Narthex on the shelf, on the social hall kitchen counter, or on our website, and 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. ***Many thanks to those who also volunteered to be a driver and pick up our various orders in Pennsylvania this week.***

**FESTIVAL BAKED GOODS NEEDED:** Please consider donating some of your homemade baked goods to our festival. We need 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!

**MEN'S CLUB EASTER FLOWER SALE:** Next **Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**, is the deadline for ordering flowers for Pascha. The Men's Club is sponsoring this sale, and 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 as an insert in the bulletin, 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 no later than Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Checks should be made payable to: Patronage Men's Club. Thank you for supporting this flower sale!**

## CHILDREN'S CORNER



1. The angel visited the Theotokos on the Feast of the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We celebrate this feast day on \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The name of the angel is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Mother of God is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

**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, Lisa 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> – the link is also on our website)

**Patronage Church (March 19, 2023):      Hagerstown Mission (March 18, 2023):**

Donation amounts will be printed in next week's bulletin.

**PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY:** Next week is Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Palms and pussywillows will be blessed during Liturgy and distributed to parishioners.

**STIPEND CAMPAIGN:** Bishop Kurt is “re-newing” the Stipend Campaign for the Priests in Mukachevo. Included with this bulletin is a letter from Bishop Kurt, and an intention request form. If you would like to submit an intention, please fill out the form and make your check payable to: “Eparchy of Passaic.” Please mail the completed form and your check to: Eparchy of Passaic, 445 Lackawanna Ave., Woodland Park, NJ, 07424. Thank you for your support

**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!

**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).*





OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
March 21, 2023

Dear friends,

I pray that you and your family are safe, and I pray that you are experiencing a grace filled Great Lent and we will celebrate the Easter in a beautiful manner together this year.

Bishop Nil Lushchak, the bishop of our mother church in Mukachevo, Uzhhorod, has sent a heartfelt plea for more stipends for priests. The priests are giving away their own food and money to care for refugees and still have families of their own to feed and clothe. They also care for women with families whose husbands have been killed. The cost of heating has skyrocketed because of missile attacks on the utilities. Many priests with families receive no salary, only stipends. I would very much like to continue helping these priests through this difficult time. I believe that stipends for Divine Liturgies have many advantages. Here are some key points:

- 1) A stipend for a Divine Liturgy goes directly to the priest. No one is allowed to take a fee or percentage from the stipend by Church law.
- 2) The Eparchy of Passaic will pay the administrative costs, so that 100% goes to a priest and his family who need the help.
- 3) Your name will not be sent with the stipend. Only the nature of the request and initials of the person to be prayed for.
- 4) People in need are happier if they can do something in return for their assistance.
- 5) Prayers for the dead are an ancient and laudable custom.
- 6) Prayers for a sinner will not be wasted. God hears them and answers them at the best time.
- 7) In other European countries, the government pays the priests, not so in our mother eparchy.
- 8) There is no limit to the number of liturgies you may request, stipend forms are available online or through your pastor.
- 9) NB Stipends are not tax deductible. You will receive a thank you, but not a "tax letter".

If you choose to participate, God will bless you doubly, for the prayers and also for helping those in need. I commend you to the care of the all holy Mother of God.

Your servant,

Most Rev. Kurt Burnette  
Bishop of Passaic

Please use form below to list the name or initials of the person you would like Divine Liturgy offered for.  
 You may also list the intention, such as illness, deceased, or their relationship to you, mother, son etc.

Divine Liturgy to be offered for	Intention (Optional)	Number of Liturgies	Stipend	Total Donation
			X \$20.00	
			X \$20.00	
			X \$20.00	
			X \$20.00	
			X \$20.00	
			X \$20.00	
			X \$20.00	
			X \$20.00	
			X \$20.00	
			X \$20.00	

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to "Eparchy of Passaic". The full amount will be sent to a priest in Europe.  
 Mail this sheet and your check to Eparchy of Passaic, 445 Lackawanna Ave, Woodland Park, NJ 07424.  
 You will receive the same form in the mail soon, but you may use this one if you don't want to wait.  
 NB Stipends are not tax deductible, but you will receive a "Thank You" acknowledgement.**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_