

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST



Icon of the Descent into Hades



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

Office: (410) 247-4936

Administrator: Very Rev. Vasyl Symyon Phone: 412-713-4520
 Email: vasyl.symyon@gmail.com Cantor: Michael Kulka
 Rev. Deacon Anthony Kotlar, Sr. Cantor: Joseph Kotlar, Sr.
 Email: Kotlar@alum.mit.edu Cantor: Ann Marie Kotlar
 Office Assistant: Sharon Kotula; Email: d.kotula@comcast.net
<https://eparchyofpassaic.com/giving.html>

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

Divine Liturgy Schedule: Saturday, April 13th, at 7:00pm and Saturday, April 27th, at 7:00pm

PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Resurrection of our Lord – Pascha Sunday, 3.31.2024	8:00am	Resurrection Matins/ Procession Divine Liturgy Blessing of Paschal Food	For living and deceased parishioners of our church
Bright Monday 4.1.2024	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For living and deceased parishioners of our church
St. Thomas Sunday 4.7.2024	11:00am	Divine Liturgy	For living and deceased parishioners of our church

Resurrection of Our Lord - Pascha – Propers are included in these booklets.

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

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Christós Voskrése! Voístinnu Voskrése!

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.

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. **We currently have some dates open, if you would like to request an intention!**

1924 CENTENNIAL 2024 - Establishment of the Byzantine Ruthenian Church Exarchate in the United States. The Ruthenian Exarchate was established on February 25, 1924. Pope Pius XI appointed Most Reverend Basil Takach, D.D., as the first Byzantine-Ruthenian Bishop in the United States on May 20, 1924. He arrived at New York Harbor on August 13, 1924, on the liner RMS Mauretania and offered a Moleben of Thanksgiving at St. Mary of the Protection Church, New York City. A **Jubilee Weekend Celebration will take place October 12-13, 2024, in Washington D.C. and Annandale, VA.** More details to follow.

PICK UP YOUR PANS FOR "OUR DAILY BREAD" CASSEROLE DONATIONS: You can find aluminum pans and recipes on the kitchen counter in our social hall for this project. Additional information can be found on the flyer posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex, and in our social hall. Any questions, please contact either Greg Calvitt (gregcalvitt@gmail.com) or Mike Skovran (michaelskovran@gmail.com). **The first casserole collection date is Sunday, April 21st.**

PRINTER CARTRIDGES: We continue to collect 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 87 cartridges, so far!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

1. The **rubber baseboard, in the entrance way to our social hall, needs to be re-glued, or replaced.**
2. The **air conditioner filters in the church and social hall need to be cleaned** before the warm weather comes, and we need to turn them on.
3. The **aluminum trim on the eaves of the rectory** needs to be repaired. A few pieces came down during a storm.
4. We need to **add a hand rail to the steps** between the rectory and church, as well as one in front of the church coming up the steps from the sidewalk.

If you are able to take care or manage any of these projects, please contact Dennis Kotula (410-227-6246).

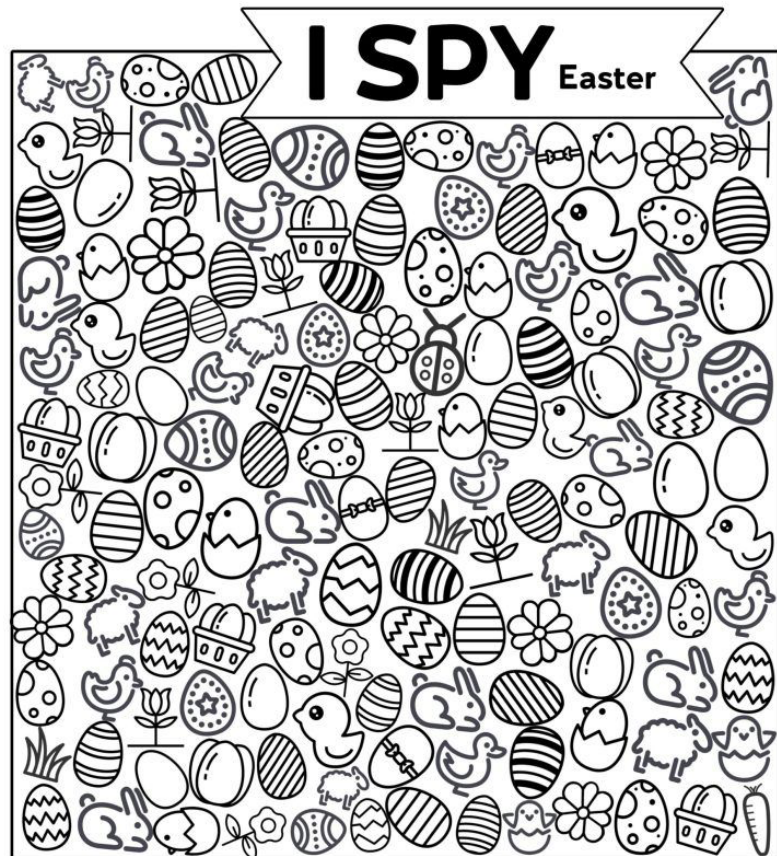


Dear Believers,

May this Pascha be for us a Passover-transition from our old life to our "New Life!"
May every one of us arise to the "New Life" in Jesus Christ!
May it be an Easter in which you grow stronger in your daily desire to follow and live for our risen Lord and Savior!
O glorious Easter Day! A day when fear, sin and death no longer exist!
A day when death is conquered! A day when sin is trampled!
A day when everyone joyfully can shout: Christ is risen and the angels rejoice.
Christ is risen and life is freed from the ancestral curse.
Christ is risen and the graves and tombs empty their dead.
For Christ, now risen from the dead, has become the Leader and Reviver of those who have fallen asleep.
To Him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

Very Rev. Vasyl Symyon

CHILDREN'S CORNER



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| 2 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| 3 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 3 |

papertraildesign.com

EPARCHY OF PASSAIC YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS: Registration is now open for the following camps, and will take place at the Carpathian Village, 802 Snow Hill Road, Cresco, PA 18326. Visit www.eparchyofpassaic.com, click on "Youth and Young Adult Ministries," then "Youth Summer Camps" to download the forms. If you have any questions regarding Camp Theotokos or Camp Saint Nicholas, please contact Maria Kovach - camptheotokos@gmail.com, Jon Aponik - passaicyouthcamps@gmail.com, or Fr. Teras Lovska. If you are interested in attending a camp, please let Fr. Vasyl know. More information is forthcoming.

- Altar Server Congress:** July 21-25, 2024 – open to Altar Servers; cost is unknown at this time
- Camp Theotokos:** July 14-18, 2024 – open to girls ages 6-17; cost is \$175.00
- Camp Saint Nicholas** (pre-teen co-ed): August 11-15, 2024 – open to boys and girls ages 6-12; cost is \$175.00

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, Matthew Skovran, Mike Skovran, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Caroline and Joe Belensky, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Veronica Ruszin, Anna Martin, Joseph Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, HowardGuba, 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: March 24, 2024

Offertory: \$1,275.04 Tithe.ly: \$375.00
 Easter Flowers: \$154.00 Easter: \$50.00
 Religious Articles: \$470.00

Hagerstown Mission: March 23, 2024

Offertory: \$129.00

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).*

ANNUAL ST. THOMAS SUNDAY PARISH DINNER: Next *Sunday, April 7th, Divine Liturgy will be a 11:00am*, followed by a pot-luck dinner. Bring a dish, and join us!

CARPATHO-RUSYN SOCIETY: A free 4-class **Genealogy Course** is being offered that will enable both beginners and more advanced genealogy researchers to find success as they document their family history. Classes will be held on **Sundays, April 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm**. Class 1 looks at the basics for getting started – genealogy software on the market, how to organize information, and taking the first steps into family history research. Class 2 covers tips for successful research, plus an in-depth look at our unique Carpatho-Rusyn history and its records. Class 3 reviews the vast number of resources available online. Class 4 will be a special question & answer session with our instructors. To register for this exciting series of Zoom classes, visit <https://c-rs.org/event-5660883>. **Registration closes April 5th!** If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Jarrow at sjarrow@c-rs.org.

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 20th, 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 or on facebook.com/theosisinaction.

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. We receive the Body and Blood of Christ in our mouth by spoon; please DO NOT stick out your tongue. All Catholics may receive the Eucharist if you are in good-standing and prepared. If you would like to be added to our parish email list, send us an email at patronage.church@gmail.com. If you want to make us your home church, parish registration is the OFFICIAL way we join a church. Simply complete a census form that is located either on the bookrack in the Narthex, or can be found on our website, and either mail it to the church, or place it in the collection basket in the back of our Temple. Donation information can be found under “Stewardship” in this bulletin. *“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples” (Isaiah 56:7).*

DID YOU EVERY WONDER WHY:

- 1. we place a Pascha (Artos) on the tomb after Resurrection Matins?** “Artos” is Greek and means “bread.” It reminds us that the Lord Jesus is the “Bread of Life.” As He said, “I am the living Bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh” (John 6:51). This loaf of leavened bread that is blessed during services remains in the church, at the tomb, throughout Bright Week, recalling Christ, the Bread of Life, among His Apostles. It is customary that the bread is distributed to the faithful on St. Thomas Sunday. Today, Artos is still a symbol of the invisible presence of Christ in our lives.
- 2. we see the letters “XB” during the Paschal season, and what do they represent?** The Easter bread, Pascha, pronounced (Pa-ska), is a sweet yeast bread rich in eggs, butter, etc., and is symbolic of Christ Himself who is our True Bread. Usually, a round loaf baked with a golden crust decorated with a symbol indicative of Christ. Sometimes a cross of dough is placed on top encircled by a plait giving it a crowned effect or Greek abbreviation for the name of Christ. The letters XB indicate the Slavonic for “Christ is Risen.”
- 3. eggs are one of the most symbolic and beautiful Paschal-Easter customs?** It is the practice of preparing, giving, and eating eggs. Most seem to take for granted the idea of eggs at Holy Pascha. There is the fun in boiling and coloring them, even more enjoyment in giving them to relatives and friends, and cracking the eggs by hitting them one upon the other as the greeting of the Holy Feast is said: "Christ is Risen!" However, the real enjoyment of the Paschal eggs comes only when the symbolism is realized and its connection to Holy Pascha. The egg itself is a symbol of the Resurrection - while being dormant it contains a new life sealed within its walls. The idea of the egg as a symbol of fertility and of renewed life goes way back to the ancient Egyptians and Persians who had the custom of coloring and eating eggs during their spring festivities. This ancient idea of the significance of the egg as a symbol of new life readily became the symbol of the Resurrection of Christ to the people of the early Christian Church. In Christianity the Paschal egg represents the sealed tomb in which the Precious Body of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was placed after His Crucifixion - the shell being the sealed tomb having dormant life within its walls. **There are varied explanations of the significance of red eggs.** One is Mary Magdalene, after seeing the empty tomb on that first Pascha morning, went to the Roman Emperor to tell him the news of Christ's Resurrection. Although the emperor already knew, he challenged her that he would believe the claim if the eggs in a basket near him turned “red,” which they did instantaneously. Another one is the eggs turned “red” from the tears of the Virgin Mary at the foot of the cross.

GOD WITH US - FREE ONLINE WEBINARS: You can register for the following events, or if you missed an event, there are hundreds of hours of free pre-recorded webinars, series, conferences, and lectures for inquirers, the faithful, and catechists which are available in video and audio format. Please visit www.godwithusonline.org, click on “online,” and choose which webinar you would like to register for, or view one of the archived events.

- The Bible is full of stories of women who have borne witness to their faith and courage in challenging and pivotal moments in salvation history. These women inspire and model for us the call to holiness and greatness in the life of the Church. Join Biblical scholar, Dr. Sandra Collins, as we explore their stories! This live webinar, “**Great Women of the Bible – Inspiring Women of Faith & Models of Holiness,**” will be held on **Thursday, April 11th and Thursday, April 25th.**
- Explore the influences that formed, in the cauldron of first-millennium Constantinople, the Byzantine Church and its unique and profound perspective on the great truths of our Christian faith by reading Archbishop Joseph Raya’s text with Fr. Deacons Anthony Dragani and Robert Klesko! This Byzantine Bookshelf Series 90-minute webinar, “**Byzantine Church & Culture – The Grace, Splendor, History, & Culture of Byzantium,**” will be take place on **Monday, April 22nd, at 7:00pm.** **3**

- People who desire communion with God can discover how the Postinia powerfully fulfills their yearning by reading Catherine Doherty’s spiritual classic! In it we are invited to leave the noise and harried pace to enter a place of silence and solitude in the heart! Please join Fr. Michael Winn and Fr. Deacon Robert Klesko for this 90-minute webinar, “**Postinia: The Desert – Encountering God in Silence, Solitude & Prayer,**” on **Monday, May 20th, at 7:00pm.**

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC LITURGICAL PRACTICE OF OBSERVING ALL SOULS SATURDAYS: Mark your calendar - the fifth and final service this year for “All Souls,” will be held at 6:00pm, on **Friday May 17th.** 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! **VIČNAJA PAMJAT’!**

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ukrainianeggcessories.com

THE SYMBOLISM OF COLOUR

Traditional Ukrainian eggs (also known as *pysanky*) were dyed in many colours, and each colour had a meaning.

What colours are not on the list below? What meaning would you give them?

- WHITE:** purity, light, birth
- YELLOW:** sun, stars, moon, harvest, warmth, youth, happiness
- ORANGE:** endurance, strength, ambition
- RED:** happiness, hope, passion, sun
- BLUE:** sky, air, good health
- GREEN:** spring, hope, freshness, renewal
- BROWN:** mother earth
- BLACK:** darkest time before dawn, eternity, respect for the dead



- ❖ **Katie's +Parents and Rich's +Dad** from the McClelland Family (Hyacinth)
- ❖ **+Marge Dulina** from Steve Dulina (Easter Lily)
- ❖ **+George Dulina** from Steve Dulina (Tulip)

Vicnaja Pamjat

IN HONOR OF

- ❖ **Our children, Natasha, Alexandra, and Nicholas; their spouses, Grayson, Jonathan, and Molly; and our grandchildren, Tommy, Isla, Callie, Charlotte, and Brody,** from Dennis & Sharon Kotula (Hyacinth)
- ❖ **Dennis and Robin Bartko** from Mary Beth Bartko (Hyacinth)
- ❖ **Granddaughters Olivia and Eden** from Bill & Dana Tomcanin (Easter Lily)
- ❖ **Grandsons Jeremiah, Milo, James, Jack, and George** from Bill & Dana Tomcanin (Hyacinth)
- ❖ **Our children, their spouses, and our grandchildren** from Deacon Tony & Theresa Kotlar (2 Daffodils)
- ❖ **Our grandsons Aiden, Dylan, and Brooks** from C.J. & Kelley Wood (Hyacinth)
- ❖ **Joey, Ali, and Bradley Kotlar** from Joe Kotlar, Sr. (Easter Lily, Tulip, and Daffodil)
- ❖ **Fr. Vasyl Symyon** from a friend (Tulip)
- ❖ **Patricia Hansen** from the Hansen Family (Tulip)
- ❖ **Jocelyn McClelland** from the McClelland Family (Tulip)

Mnohaja l'ita!

**Christ is Risen!
Christos Voskrese!**

**Indeed He is Risen!
Voistinnu Voskrese!**



**PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
PASCHA 2024**

Easter flowers have been placed in our church to the Glory of our Risen Lord by the following:

IN MEMORY OF

- ❖ **+Paul Yackanicz and +Theresa Yackanicz** from Regina Yackanicz (Tulip)
- ❖ **+Josephine Kotch and +Thomas Kotch** from Regina Yackanicz (Easter Lily)
- ❖ **+Margaret Peles** from Barbara Breeze (Hyacinth)
- ❖ **+Peter Peles** from Barbara Breeze (Hyacinth)
- ❖ **+William and +Martha Rudy & +Philip and +Esther Kotula** from Dennis and Sharon Kotula & Family (Hyacinth)
- ❖ **+John and +Mary Toth** from Charles & Larissa Toth (Easter Lily)
- ❖ **+Anna and +Charles Luchock** from Charles & Larissa Toth (Tulip)
- ❖ **+Edward and +Gertrude Muiznieks** from Charles & Larissa Toth (Daffodil)
- ❖ **+Bob Elwell** from Ann Marie Elwell & Family (Tulip)
- ❖ **+Michael and +Anna Kuchta** from Ann Marie Elwell & Family (Tulip)
- ❖ **+Wasil and +Anna Rudy and +Rudy Family** from Ann Marie Elwell & Family (Hyacinth)
- ❖ **+Michael and +Julia Kuchta and +Kuchta Family** from Ann Marie Elwell & Family (Hyacinth)
- ❖ **+Margaret Houchins** from Rose Paczkowski (Hyacinth)
- ❖ **+Margaret Houchins** from Rose Paczkowski (Daffodil)
- ❖ **+Elizabeth, +George, and +Nicholas Bartko** from Mary Beth Bartko (Daffodil)
- ❖ **+Simeon Esquela** from Anna Esquela (Easter Lily)
- ❖ **+Michael and +Margaret Konik** from M/M Daniel Bobby (Daffodil)
- ❖ **+Michael and +Elizabeth Bobby** from M/M Daniel Bobby (Daffodil)
- ❖ **+Our Parents and +Grandparents** from Deacon Tony & Theresa Kotlar (2 Daffodils)
- ❖ **+Phyllis Skovran** from Michael Skovran (Tulip)
- ❖ **+John S. Skovran, +Anna Skovran, +Andrew Benlock, and +Dorothy Benlock** from Michael Skopvran (Tulip)
- ❖ **+Barbara McHale** from Mary & Jim Hrinda (Daffodil)
- ❖ **+Irene Hrinda** from Claudia & Greg Hrinda (Daffodil)
- ❖ **+James Roberts** from Zachary & Sarah Jane Roberts (Daffodil)
- ❖ **+Reynaldo Bautista** from Zachary & Sarah Jane Roberts (Tulip)
- ❖ **+Catherine and +Michael Bluey** from the Herder Family (Easter Lily)
- ❖ **+Don and +Louise Herder** from the Herder Family (Tulip)
- ❖ **+Catherine Sigler** from the Herder Family (Hyacinth)
- ❖ **+Karl R. Karlson** from the Karlson Family (Daffodil)
- ❖ **+Our Deceased Loved Ones** from The Karlson Family (Tulip)
- ❖ **+Christine Colorito** from Cathy & John Gunter (Hyacinth)
- ❖ **+Michael and +Ann Totin** from Cathy & John Gunter (Hyacinth)
- ❖ **+Grace Tignanelli** from the Sanderson Family (Tulip)
- ❖ **+Yeva Symyon** from a friend (Easter Lily)
- ❖ **+Pio Villanueva** from Loui Villanueva (2 Easter Lillies)
- ❖ **+Regina and +Charles Metcalf** from Sean Metcalf (Tulip)
- ❖ **+Rose and +George Kimmelshue** from Sean Metcalf (Daffodil)

Celebrating Holy and Great Pascha

Brethren, how fine a thing it is to move from festival to festival, from prayer to prayer, from holy day to holy day. The time is now at hand when we enter on a new beginning: the proclamation of the blessed Passover, in which the Lord was sacrificed. We feed as on the food of life, we constantly refresh our souls with His precious blood, as from a fountain. Yet we are always thirsting, burning to be satisfied. But He Himself is present for those who thirst and in His goodness invites them to the feast day. Our Savior repeats His words: If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

He quenched the thirst not only of those who came to him then. Whenever anyone seeks him He is freely admitted to the presence of the Savior. The grace of the feast is not restricted to one occasion. Its rays of glory never set. It is always at hand to enlighten the mind of those who desire it. Its power is always there for those whose minds have been enlightened and who meditate day and night on the holy Scriptures, like the one who is called blessed in the holy psalm: Blessed is the man who has not followed the counsel

of the wicked, or stood where sinners stand, or sat in the seat of the scornful, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

Moreover, my friends, the God who first established this feast for us allows us to celebrate it each year. He who gave up His Son to death for our salvation, from the same motive gives us this feast, which is commemorated every year. This feast guides us through the trials that meet us in this world. God now gives us the joy of salvation that shines out from this feast, as He brings us together to form one assembly, uniting us all in spirit in every place, allowing us to pray together and to offer common thanksgiving, as is our duty on the feast. Such is the wonder of His love: He gathers to this feast those who are far apart, and brings together in unity of faith those who may be physically separated from each other.

St. Athanasius the Great

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



BYZANTINE CATHOLIC SEMINARY
OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS
FORMING LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH

JOYFUL

LIGHT

Spring 2024

Joyful Light is a semi-annual publication of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius
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Episcopal Ordination and Enthronement of Bishop Robert M. Pipta



Seminary group photo
for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

On Wednesday, 8 November 2023, during the Divine Liturgy, after the Trisagion Hymn, Fr. Robert Pipta knelt before the Holy Table, touching his forehead to it. The co-consecrating bishops in succession from the Holy Apostles opened and laid the Gospel Book, with the writing facing him, to acknowledge that his special role as bishop is to preach and teach the Gospel, and to ordain others. As the three bishops placed their hands on his head and the Gospel Book, and said the Prayer of Consecration, the Holy Spirit descended upon Fr. Robert, imparting the grace of the Episcopate upon him; and thus, Bishop Robert was ordained, and enthroned, as the sixth Bishop of the Byzantine Ruthenian Eparchy of Parma, Ohio. He had previously served with faith and leadership as our Seminary's rector from 2014 to 2023. *May God grant to his newly ordained servant, Bishop Robert, peace, health and happiness for many years! Axios!*



**Metropolitan Archbishop
William Skurla
of Pittsburgh**

**Newly Ordained Bishop
Robert Pipta
of Parma**

**Bishop
Kurt Burnette
of Passaic**

MATCHING GIFTS

Do you work for (or are you retired from) a company with a matching gift program? If so, your gift (or that of your spouse) can, in most cases, be doubled, even tripled!

Please check with the company's Human Resources Department and see if this benefit is available.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive the *Joyful Light* newsletter electronically, please email your request to:
development@bcs.edu.

From our Rector

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear friends and benefactors:

Happy New Year! I write to you today to convey my best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy 2024 filled with faith, hope and God's continued blessings in your life.

As I begin my first New Year as the newly appointed Rector of our Seminary, I find myself counting the many blessings God has provided to me and to the Seminary through the years. I have been blessed with Archbishop William Skurla's trust to advance the Seminary's mission and sustain the legacies our former Rector and now Bishop of Parma, Robert Pipta and all the rectors who served before him since our Seminary's founding in 1950. I am blessed with many staff and faculty members with whom I have worked for many years and serve as the foundation of our collective success moving forward. And I am blessed by you and the many others who provide us with prayer and financial support to advance our important work in preparing individuals spiritually and intellectually to serve the Church and our Lord Jesus Christ. God's divine providence and guidance through the Holy Spirit's role in each of our lives drives our faith journey. Your gifts of prayer and financial support play a significant part in the Seminary's journey, and I am humble and grateful to greet the New Year by extending this sincere message of gratitude to you.

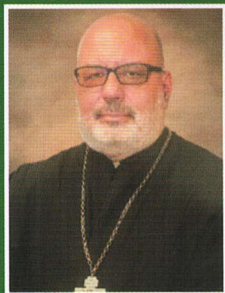
As my tenure advances, I will ardently strive to maintain contact with you and all our friends and supporters to share the news of our important work at the Seminary. I invite you to do the same and reach out to us and share the news in your life, especially during times when we can provide prayerful support when challenges arise.

Again, my best wishes to you and your family now and throughout the New Year. May God

bless you and I will continue to keep you in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Ron Barusefski
Rector



Faculty Doings

Fr. Thomas Bailey, OSB, Professor of Pastoral Practice and Dogmatics, was appointed as the Seminary's new *Director of Human Formation*, effective 1 January 2024.

Fr. Ronald C. Barusefski, JCD, Professor of Homiletics and Canon Law, *Rector of the B.C.S., Director of Community of Aspirants*, attended the annual convention of the Canon Law Society of America (CLSA) from October 7-12 in Milwaukee. He participated in seminars including "Canon Law and Seminary Administration: The New Ratio, PPF6, and the Code of Canon Law." He was also named a new member of the CLSA Eastern Canon Law Committee. His 2022 doctoral dissertation, "The Role of the Council of Hierarchs with special reference to the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church *sui iuris* in the United States," is now in publication and available through the Byzantine Seminary Press.

Fr. Hryhoriy (Gregory) Lozinsky, SSD, Adjunct Professor of Sacred Scripture, has published "Moses' Flight to Midian: Exodus 2:11-22 as a Case Study in Patristic Exegesis" in the edited volume *The Transendent Mystery of God's Word: A Critical Synthesis of Antioch and Alexandria*, eds. John Martens and Paul V. Niskanen (St Paul, MN: St Paul Seminary Press, 2024) and "Calendari e feste nel Pentateuco: studi recenti, problemi aperti e prospettive future," *Rivista Biblica Italiana* 72/4 (2024).

Matthew Miner, PhD, Professor of Philosophy and Moral Theology, has published "What You Don't Know Can Still Harm You: Memory and Docility as Virtues for Forming an Unformed Conscience." *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* 23.2 (Winter 2024); "The Role of John Poinot (John of St. Thomas) in the Thought of Jacques Maritain," an online article for the *Studia Poinotiana* Project by the University of Coimbra, Portugal; "Philosophy Born of Faith: The Case of the *Praeambula Fidei*," *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association* 97 (2023); "Catholic Theology Yesterday and Today: A Thomist's Response to Dr. Larry Chapp," *Catholic World Report*, 25 May, 2023. Last Fall, he also completed a series of catechetical articles for Ascension Press on the universal Catechism of the Catholic Church, as part of their Catechism in a Year podcast. He translated Jean-Hervé Nicolas, *Catholic Dogmatic Theology*, vol. 3 (*On the Church and the Sacraments*) with The Catholic University of America Press; and presented "Outline of Moral Catechesis Based on *Christ our Pascha*" for the Religious Education Office of the St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Parma, 5 December, 2023. He gave various podcasting and media interviews concerning topics related to his work to: *Catholic Culture Podcast*; *The Sacra Doctrina Project*; *The Open Door*; *Dogs with Torches*; *Kolbe Homeschooling Academy Podcast*; and several Catholic radio stations.

Fr. Stelyios Muksuris, PhD, Professor of Liturgical Theology and Languages, is currently completing his critical English translation of the *Archieratikon*, or bishop's pontifical, in use by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and her daughter churches throughout the world. The current Greek volume was composed and published by the late Metropolitan Panteleimon Rodopoulos of Tyroloi and Serention. The book, which will be published by Cherubim Press, is expected to be available during late summer or early fall 2024. In addition, Fr. Stelyios was appointed by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh to serve as his representative to the 1,700-year Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea (2025) for the Christian Associates of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

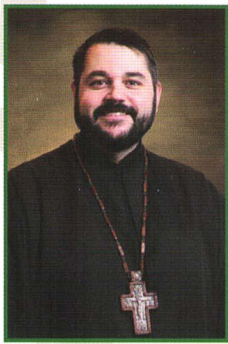
Fr. David Petras, SEOD, Professor (Emeritus) of Liturgy, has submitted "Now the Powers of Heaven" (Commentary on the Presanctified Divine Liturgy) for printing to God With Us Publications.

Abouna Justin Rose, PhD, Adjunct Professor of Patristics, continues to serve as Protosphyter of the Southern Region of the Diocese of Newton. He has been appointed Assistant Director of Vocations for the Southern Region and serves on the Melkite Identity Committee. He currently has an article in the peer review phase, "A Byzantine Catholic Monastic Federation: Where No One Has Gone Before."

Fr. Will Rupp, MDiv, Adjunct Professor of the Liturgical Practicum, was appointed a member of the Seminary faculty, effective 29 September, 2023.

Fr. Eduard Shestak, JCL, Adjunct Professor of Canon Law, was appointed a member of the Seminary faculty, effective 12 January, 2024.

Fr. Vitalii Stashkevych, SLD, Adjunct Professor of the Liturgical Practicum, was appointed a member of the Seminary faculty, effective 29 September 2023.



New Director of Human Formation

Fr. Thomas Bailey, OSB, was appointed as the new Director of Human Formation on January 1, 2024. He is a member of the Benedictine Community of Marmion Abbey in Aurora, Illinois. Fr. Thomas served as a professor in history and as Sophomore Human Formation Director at Conception Seminary College in Conception, Missouri from 2008 to 2018. He also served at St. Luke Byzantine Catholic Church, Sugar Creek, Missouri from 2010 to 2018. From there, Fr. Thomas moved to Rome where he served as the Prefect of Studies for the Pontifical Greek College from 2018 to 2021 and as Pro Rector from 2021-2023. In addition to his formation and teaching responsibilities, as Professor of Pastoral Practice and Dogmatics at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, he also serves as the administrator of St. Mary (Annunciation) Romanian Catholic Church in McKeesport, Pennsylvania.

Diaconate Ordinations



**Deacon Tyler Wisniewski,
June 4, 2023,
at the Cathedral of
St. John the Baptist,
Munhall, Pennsylvania**

**Deacon Thomas Donlin,
August 15, 2023,
at Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Byzantine Catholic Church,
Albuquerque, New Mexico**



**Deacon Nathaniel Tapsak,
August 21, 2023,
at Holy Ghost Byzantine
Catholic Church,
McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania**



“Theological Radicalism in a Time of Political Revolution”

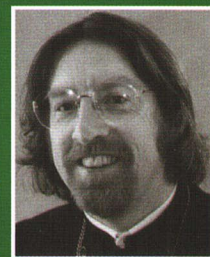
to be Livestreamed on 7 May, 2024

for the Byzantine Catholic Seminary’s Saints Cyril and Methodius Lecture Series!

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is pleased to announce its 24th annual academic lecture to be delivered by Fr. John McGuckin via livestream, entitled “Theological Radicalism in a Time of Political Revolution: the Case of St. Symeon the New Theologian (949-1022) in Constantinople”.

All are welcome to attend this lecture virtually on Tuesday, 7 May 2024 at 7:00 PM EDT 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.

The Very Rev. Professor John Anthony McGuckin, of Irish extraction, is an Archpriest of the Orthodox Church in the Patriarchate of Romania’s Archdiocese in Western Europe, Rector of St Gregory’s chapel in St. Anne’s on Sea, in North West England.



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Bishop Beyrouti Visit

On September 20, 2023, the new bishop for the Melkite Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Newton, Massachusetts, the Most Rev. Francois Beyrouti, celebrated a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy in the Seminary chapel as part of his visit. In addition, Bishop Beyrouti met with the Seminary Formation Staff and pledged a renewed relationship of cooperation and seminary formation between our Byzantine Catholic Churches.

ONLINE DONATIONS

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary welcomes online donations. Those who wish may go to www.bcs.edu and click on "Giving."



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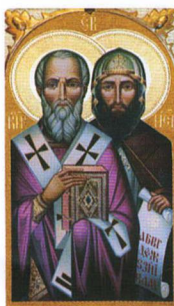
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and are governed by a Board of Directors under the leadership of the Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh.