



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

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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, April 25th 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, April 24th at 10am

DIVINE LITURGY – PATRONAGE CHURCH

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday 4.11.2021	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Divine Liturgy	For Living and Deceased Members of our Parish
Thursday 4.15.2021	10:00am	Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: Fr. John Pescock Requested by: Clara Valeika
Friday 4.16.2021	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy Slavonic	In Memory of: +Michael Griffin Requested by: Cathy & George Johnson
Sunday 4.18.2021	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	In Memory of: +Fr. James Bastress Requested by: Clara Valeika

This is **St. Thomas Sunday**.

The Divine Liturgy During Pascha booklet is located in the book rack in the pews.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Christós Voskrése! Voístinnu Voskrése!

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, Greg Rudy, and Clyde Wood

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

CONTRIBUTIONS: 4.4.2021 - \$2,910.50

In spite of the pandemic, the maintenance of our church continues and bills still must be paid. Thank you 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).**

WE WELCOME FR. JAMES FRASER: We are celebrating newly ordained Fr. Jim Fraser's first Divine Liturgy today. **Receiving a first blessing from a newly ordained priest carries special benefits.** God grant Fr. Fraser, and his family, many Blessed years! Na mnohaja l blahaja l'ita! A luncheon will follow in the church hall immediately following Divine Liturgy. Please continue to follow social distancing guidelines.

GOD WITH US +ONLINE+: For all catechists and parishioners, there is a virtual 10-week series program entitled, **“I Believe, A Study of the Creed of the Church,”** presented by **Rev. David Anderson**, beginning on Wednesdays, April 14 – June 16 from 8-9:30pm. Let the Creed be like a mirror for you. Look at yourself in it to see whether you really believe all that you claim to believe. And rejoice every day in your faith (Blessed Augustine). Join us as we dive deeply into the study of our saving faith. Please register, as soon as possible, 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.

BYZANTEEN VIRTUAL EVENING OUT: This is the fourth in a series of free events leading up to this year's ByzanTeen Youth Rally, entitled: **“Sunday of the Myrrbearing Women - Myrrbearers: Discipleship in Strength and Silence,”** scheduled for Sunday, April 18th, from 6:00-7:30pm, for ages 13-18. You can send an email to frdeacontom@gmail.com, if you have any questions. We encourage all of our ByzanTeens to virtually attend this event! Please visit www.eparchyofpassaic.com, click on *Ministry*, then *ByzanTeens Youth Ministry*, to **register by April 17th**, so that activities can be planned and to receive a link to the Zoom virtual meeting room.

2ND ANNUAL THEOLOGY OF THE BODY: Register today for this free **“Theology of the Body Virtual Conference,”** Friday, April 30th at 12pm – Sunday, May 2nd at Midnight, and will feature dozens of prominent speakers and artists showing how Theology of the Body applies to everyday life, how it will transform your prayer life, how it can bring healing of the deepest wounds in yourself and with others, and how it will bring your Catholic faith alive in new and brilliant ways. To register, visit www.tobvirtualconference.com.

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).

EASTER EGG HUNT: A reminder that there will be an Easter egg hunt, for all children, next ***Sunday, April 18th***, following the Divine Liturgy. If you brought a bag of wrapped candy to church to donate to the egg hunt, you can leave it on the shelf under the candle rack in the St. Nicholas Chapel. Many thanks for your contributions.

REFLECTIONS ON THOMAS SUNDAY BY: DEACON ANTHONY

Today's Gospel speaks to us about doubts and about faith. The icon for today's feast shows us what we have just heard in the Gospel: Thomas, who doubted, stretching out his hand to Jesus who has command him to approach and to believe. Our icons traditionally have a descriptive title written on them, and in this case, it is also a catchy phrase: *The Touching*. Here, obviously, Thomas reaches out to touch Jesus so that he may believe; but in doing this Thomas is also, in return, touched by the Lord. Many of us, many in the world, can see ourselves in the position of Thomas, wanting to touch our Lord and be touched by Him in return so that our faith may be strengthened and our fears and doubts put to rest.

How do we, living in these times, touch the Lord so that we can also be touched by Him? Jesus is not present to us today exactly as He was 2000 years ago, as represented in the holy icon. Yet we say in one of our greetings, and it is certainly true, that "Christ is among us!" And we respond emphatically, "He is and shall be!" Jesus is present with us today, as in "The Touching," in the sacred mysteries (the sacraments), in the Church, His Body, and His Spouse.

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*Christ is Risen from the dead! * By death he trampled Death; * and to those in the tombs * he granted life.*

*Christos voskrese iz mertvykh, * smertiju smert' poprav, * i suščym vo hrob'ich * život darovav.*
