

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS



Icon of the First Six Ecumenical Councils



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: Rev. Deacon
 William Szewczyk
 Cell: 301-254-0016
deacon@stgregoryofnyssa.net
 Assistant: Sharon Kotula
d.kotula@comcast.net

Rev. Deacon: Anthony Kotlar, Sr.
 Cantor: Michael Kulka
 Cantor: Joseph Kotlar, Sr.
 Cantor: Ann Marie 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

Next Liturgy: TBD

PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday of the Fathers of the Six Ecumenical Councils 7.16.2023	9:30am	Hymns from Matins followed by the Typika and Panachida	In Memory of: +Lisa Guba Requested by: Dennis & Sharon Kotula
8 th Sunday After Pentecost 7.23.2023	3:00pm	Divine Liturgy Panachida	In Memory of: +William & Martha Rudy (would have been their 65 th wedding anniversary on 7.12.2023) Requested by: The Kotula Family

This is the **Sunday of the Fathers of the Six Ecumenical Councils.**

Matins and Typika booklets are available on the table in the back of our Temple.
 Propers for today can be found on page 152, Tone 6, then page 341.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa Church: Sunday, July 16th, at 10am Matins, 10:15am Typika
 Sunday, July 23rd, at 10am Matins, 10:15am Typika

2023 GCU BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY AT KENNYWOOD AMUSEMENT PARK – 101

YEARS: Join the GCU on **Thursday, July 27, 2023**, from 11am – 9pm for unforgettable fun. The park is located in West Mifflin, PA. For tickets, or more information, please contact the Fraternal Communications Department at 1-800-722-4428 X3927, or email mkullen@GCUusa.com. You can also visit the GCU's website – www.gcuusa.com.

HERSHEY PARK, PA: GCU members can purchase discounted single visit tickets that can be used any day during the 2023 operating season at Hersheypark now through December 29, 2023. Tickets are \$35 and can be ordered at www.gcuusa.com. Any questions can be directed to Chris Chamberlain, at the GCU Home Office, at 1-724-495-3400 or cchamberlain@GCUusa.com.

FAMILY RETREAT DAY: Families are welcome to join us for a day full of personal reflection and fun for the whole family. This family retreat day will be held on **Saturday, August 12th**, at the Carpathian Village in Cresco, PA. There will be presentations for parents and children. There will also be games and crafts. Cost for this retreat is \$50 per family with 2 parents and 2 children. Each additional person is \$10 each. Please RSVP to Jon Aponick by emailing him at passaicfamilycamp@gmail.com.

THE DISCALCED CARMELITES OF SUGARLOAF, PA: Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla and Most Revered Kurt Burnette have both graciously accepted to officiate at a Pontifical Divine Liturgy, principal Service of our proposed Pilgrimage honoring Saint Therese of Lisieux. We hope for your presence at the *First Pilgrimage to Saint Therese of Lisieux, Saturday, September 30, 2023*, Holy Annunciation Monastery Grounds, 403 West County Road, Sugarloaf, PA. More details to follow.

METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY: Most Rev. William Skurla, Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh, have invited all clergy and faithful to the Assembly of the Byzantine (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 1900 Brooks Boulevard, Hillsboro, NJ, 08844, **November 2-5, 2023**. The theme of this Assembly is *"Living Our Faith, Moving Forward, Appreciating Our Past."* Registration is now open. The Assembly cost is \$250 for individuals and \$400 for couples. The fee includes meals, breaks, presentations, materials, and the gala on Saturday evening. The Maria Theresa Foundation will underwrite the registration fees of individuals and couples between the ages of 18 and 35. Special rates for hotel accommodations have been arranged at the Hilton Garden Inn, 500 Promenade Boulevard, Bridgewater, NJ, 08807, and is a 15-minute drive to St. Mary's Church. Hotel registration deadline is September 30th. For more information, contact the Assembly coordinators, Fr. Ed Cimbala, at 212-677-0516 or Fr. Yuriy Oros at 609-394-5004. The assembly website is byzantineassembly2023.org, and the email is byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com.

EPARCHY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Bishop Kurt will celebrate a Divine Liturgy for the intention of couples celebrating a five-year anniversary of a wedding year ending in an eight or a three. **This will take place in mid-November.** The specific date has not been determined. The liturgy will be celebrated in Annandale, VA, at Epiphany of our Lord, followed by a sit-down dinner. If you were not married at Patronage and were married in a year ending with a 3 or an 8, please let Deacon Bill know so that you can receive an invitation.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND & JORDAN: Don't miss this trip of a lifetime. Hosted by Fr. Ed Cimbala. Visit Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Mt. Nebo, Madaba, Amman, Petra, Jericho, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem, **January 21-31, 2024**. For more information, please contact Fr. Ed at 908-872-2928 or fredcimbala@gmail.com.

Dear Believers of St. Gregory and Patronage Churches!

Each of you received my email this week. I briefly described my impressions of the war in Ukraine and my stay outside the US. My greatest desire is to return to Maryland. Every day, I remember our Mission in Hagerstown. As early as this month, I planned to start worshiping there every week.

Hagerstown believers donated \$2,900 for the purchase of a minibus for a charity fund in Ukraine. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Dear ones, more than a month has passed since you were left without a priest. As I write such letters, I always feel sad that I am not with you. Thank you all, again, for everything you have done for me and my family.

With prayers for each of you,

Fr. Serhii Deiak

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

CHILDREN'S CORNER

People of the Bible

K	Q	F	Q	N	I	V	S	H	D	R	A	M	B	G
E	M	C	O	K	O	G	R	A	Z	N	X	L	M	H
E	V	P	Y	J	A	M	H	J	M	Q	E	Z	N	S
R	L	P	A	B	A	J	O	I	M	S	I	Z	D	T
S	S	M	R	N	B	Y	G	L	A	A	O	J	A	R
D	E	I	J	O	R	N	F	E	O	N	R	N	V	E
S	E	S	T	A	A	B	T	Y	U	S	H	Y	I	T
L	K	H	O	H	H	S	U	S	E	J	Y	Q	D	E
L	H	A	J	M	A	Q	W	T	U	E	H	Q	M	P
E	P	X	H	N	M	D	P	B	P	P	V	A	V	I
J	O	S	H	U	A	A	D	A	E	V	D	E	X	E
Z	H	R	M	J	U	K	W	S	U	A	C	D	X	A
J	O	H	N	L	T	T	O	W	E	H	T	T	A	M
U	L	H	T	U	R	J	G	B	N	P	D	L	P	C
T	Q	F	R	V	F	K	S	J	Y	J	T	T	O	I

ABRAHAM	ADAM	DAVID
ELIJAH	EVE	GABRIEL
JAMES	JESUS	JOHN
JOSEPH	JOSHUA	MARY
MATTHEW	MOSES	NOAH
PAUL	PETER	RUTH
SAMSON	SOLOMON	

www.hsm4kids.com

EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION (ECF) PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN: Catechetical Sunday is September 17th. Parents, we are encouraging you to register your children. Registration forms can either be found on the bookrack in the Narthex, or on our website. Please either mail your registration form(s) to the church, or place it in the offertory basket. More details to follow in upcoming bulletins.

ANNUAL PATRONAGE CHURCH CRAB FEAST: Mark your calendars – Saturday, September 16th. Join us for some fellowship and great food! We will also be having a church service prior to the Crab Feast. More details to follow in upcoming bulletins! If you would like to volunteer to assist with this event, please contact Dann Karlson at DS.Karlson@gmail.com, and let him know.

INTENTIONS: If you would like to request a Liturgy Intention, the Eparchy of Passaic is accepting Stipends for Ukrainian priests. Stipend forms can be found on the bookrack in the Narthex, or on our church website. Make checks payable to: “Eparchy of Passaic.” Our Eparchy will pay the administrative costs, so that 100% goes to a priest and his family who needs the help. Mail the Stipend sheet and your check to: Eparchy of Passaic, 445 Lackawanna Ave., Woodland Park, NJ 07424.

You can also request to have a Panachida or Moleben at Patronage Church. A form can be found in this bulletin, on the bookrack in the Narthex, or on our website. Donations help benefit our church. Checks can be made payable to: Patronage Church, and you can either mail your request to our church, or you can place a note in our offertory basket.

FREE BOOKS: We have 2 paperback books available in the Narthex: “Do Something Beautiful for God – The Essential Teachings of Mother Theresa,” and “Holy Moments – A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life.” You are welcome to take home a copy of each.

PATRONAGE FREEZER SALE: We have **pirohi** and **kolbassi** available for purchase after church services today. Please see Mary Demyan, if you would like to purchase any. Kolbassi tastes great cooked on the grill!

PARISH CENSUS: We are asking all parishioners to complete a census form. Please help us! Forms can either be found on the shelf in the Narthex, or on our website. We need to have accurate contact information, including mailing address, phone number, and email address. You can either place your completed census form in the offertory basket, or mail it to the church. If any of your information changes, at any time, please also let us know. Thank you, again, to those who have already completed a form.

ALL-OCCASION CARDS FOR SALE: Sister Seraphim Olsafsky, OSBM, from the Sisters of St. Basil, has turned some of her paintings into all-occasion cards and are being sold in a package of ten. 4 Birthday (2 of 2 designs), 2 Wellness, 2 Congratulations, and 2 Sympathy. Inside each card is an inspirational message and a verse from the Bible. *Vicnaja Pamjat!* is on the back of the sympathy card, and *Mnohaja L'ita! Blahaja L'ita!* is on the back of the wellness card. The cost is \$14.50 + shipping & handling. Each card is 4 1/4" X 5 1/2". The order form can be found at <https://sistersofstbasil.org/greeting-cards/>. Please consider purchasing some of these beautiful cards to benefit the Sisters of St. Basil.

“COME AND SEE:” Produced by the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, this is a resource which aims to share the “Good News” – the transforming message of the Gospel within the context of the Byzantine Catholic tradition, and was designed with a two-fold goal in mind: 1) to be beneficial to all the existing Byzantine Catholics, and serve as the ABCs about our church and tradition, and 2) it is also an invitation to all those who are in search of a new spiritual home, who want to learn more about God and build a lasting personal friendship with Him. It is an introduction about who are and what we believe and it aims to grow awareness and participation in the great Christian richness of our Byzantine tradition and speak about its practices. It is an invitation to a journey to experience the Mystery of God. **The cost of this book is only \$5.00**, and is located in the book rack in the Narthex. You can place your money in the marked envelope next to the books.

Reflection from Mount St. Macrina
Understanding the Ten Commandments
By: Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM

Glory to Jesus Christ!

A question: Can you recite the Ten Commandments?

Another question: Have you ever updated your understanding of the Commandments?

I've been thinking lately it would be perhaps good to do a series on the Commandments.

What are they? They're God's Truth but they're also natural law, which means human beings with functioning minds understand right and wrong naturally.

The Commandments were given to the People of God within the Covenant relationship We read about Moses and the People of God developing that Covenant and receiving the Commandments from God.

The Church continues to teach us about them and help us to come to a more certain and complete understanding of this natural law – the way to be faithful to God within the Covenant with our Creator.

The Church gives us guidance about the right and wrong and how to grow in the virtues of fidelity to God.

Are the Commandments obligations? Yes, always and everywhere. The Ten Commandments are engraved by God on the human heart.

In the Gospel, Jesus encounters a young man who asks, "What must I do to have eternal life?" Jesus' answer is: "If you would enter into this life, keep the Commandments." It's that direct.

The Ten Commandments and their basic content state grave obligations. For instance, the Eighth Commandment says, "You shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor." It also implies, "you shall not lie."

We know ruining a neighbor's reputation and well-being by our lying would be a much more-grave sin than a life we weren't sure we really told. Some are more serious and some are less serious. The guidance of the Church on how to be faithful in the Commandments is important for us to continue to learn.

What God commands, He makes possible by His grace. We're not being asked to do the impossible. We have to pray for guidance and we have to trust in that Grace.

Jesus summed up humankind's duties towards God in this saying: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and with all of your mind." This means the whole person: body, mind, spirit – dedicated to God's ways.

"This is our invitation. This is how we live true to our relationship with God. And Jesus further says: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

God bless you.

89th ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE: The Sisters of Saint Basil the Great, at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA, will host their annual pilgrimage in honor of our Lady of Perpetual Help over Labor Day Weekend. Beginning **Friday, September 1 - Monday, September 4, 2023**, you will have many opportunities for worship, seminars, fellowship, and much more. The Pilgrimage is the oldest and largest Byzantine Catholic Pilgrimage in the United States. The Sisters welcome all people of faith to share in this special ministry and in its many blessings. Save the dates and look for more information in upcoming bulletins.

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 Deiak, and his family, Mike Skovran, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Nancy Erdek, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Veronica Ruszin, Anna Martin, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Howard Guba, Catherine Nedel, 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 (July 9, 2023):

Offerory: \$1,105.00

Tithe.ly: \$156.00

Byzantine Missions: \$50.00

Candles: \$25.50

Hagerstown Mission (July 9, 2023):

Tithe.ly: \$19.00

ICE CREAM SOCIAL TODAY: Please join us in the social hall after services for some parish fellowship!

PATRONAGE SCHEDULE CHANGE: Fr. Yuriy Oros will be coming to Patronage Church on **Sunday, July 23rd**, to celebrate Divine Liturgy at 3pm, followed by the traditional blessing of vehicles for the Feast of the Prophet Elias (Elijah). So, bring your cars, motorcycles, bicycles, trucks, baby strollers, and chariots! **There will be no services at 9:30am on July 23rd.** We will be having a pot-luck dinner following services, so please bring your favorite dish, and join us for some parish fellowship! Fr. Yuriy is also willing to celebrate Divine Liturgy at Patronage Church, 2 times/month, at 3pm, beginning in August. Please let us know if you would prefer the first/third or the second/fourth Sundays. We will have a discussion at the conclusion of services today.

PILGRIMAGE PREPARATION DAY: The Sisters of St. Basil the Great are in need of volunteers on **Saturday, August 19th**, beginning at 9:30am, at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA., to help with the final preparations of the grounds for the September 1st – 5th Pilgrimage. Volunteers are asked to bring brooms, weed whackers, blowers, weeding tools, rakes, and clippers. Lunch will be provided. For further information or to register, please call Sister Joanne at 724-438-8644. The rain date is Saturday, August 26th.

SPAM EMAIL: *Just a reminder, please be aware of emails that could be scams.* Parishioners have received questionable emails from both Fr. Serhii and Deacon Bill. Verify the email address before you open anything you are unsure of.

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).

Sermon for the 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak..." (Rom. 15:1).

It is not easy for us to accept our weaknesses and limitations, let alone the weaknesses of others! We always want and expect others to do perfectly, but this is where all the danger lies. We want others to do perfectly where we ourselves are quite often not perfect.

Today, in the Gospel story, we hear how two blind men cry out to Christ, who is leaving the house of Jairus, asking for mercy. Jesus does not seem to hear their cries and goes straight to the house. However, the blind men are persistent. "When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' They say to him, 'Yes, Lord.' Then he touched their eyes, saying, 'According to your faith let it be done to you.' And their eyes were opened..." (Mt. 9:28-30). After that, Christ casts out the devil from the mute demon-possessed. People who witnessed these miracles were amazed and said that they had never seen such a thing; they understood that an ordinary person could not do such a thing.

Our Lord Jesus Christ came to earth to save immortal human souls. He came to open heaven for people. In the Creed, we acknowledge that the Son of God came down from heaven for us and our salvation. While on earth, the Lord forgives people's sins, tests their faith, and heals the soul and body.

Giving sight to the blind, speech to the mute, the return to life to a dead girl showed people that God has control over human weaknesses. Everything is in God's power, the main thing is for a person to believe, then God can give him everything he needs. The Lord says, "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened" (Mt. 7:7-8).

Unfortunately, modern man does not always reach for God and does not long for a meeting with Him, as these two evangelical blind men wanted. The world around us dazzles and entices us to the earthly, not the spiritual, so we see many physically sighted, but spiritually blind people around us.

Faith must be the sun that sanctifies the soul. Faith must be a physician for us that heals our sin-corrupted nature. To believe is to fully accept as truth what the Lord reveals to us. Trust in Him should be in the first place, and everything is possible for a believer.

Saint Ambrose gave the following teaching:

Christ is everything for us!

If you want to heal a wound, he is a doctor.

You are thirsty - it is the source.

The burden of sins oppresses you - he will justify you.

You need help - he is a force.

You are afraid of death - it is life.

If you want to reach heaven - it is the road.

You run away from the darkness - he is the light.

You are looking for food - it is food.

So, try it and see how good the Lord is.

Happy is the person who relies on him.

The church fathers, preaching about the miraculous healing in this Gospel story, say that people usually adhere to a "dogmatic" faith in life and rarely a living faith. It is because of this that the Lord asked the blind, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Do you profess your faith with your heart or your mind?" Living faith is acquired by the feat of constant prayer and purification of the heart. That is why so many people, not knowing about these things in spiritual life, spend their whole lives waiting for a miracle without doing anything for it on their part. Some of the fathers say that if a stagnant lake is not cleaned, it gradually overgrows and becomes a swamp, similarly, a lazy soul destroys all living things and dies itself. A hardworking soul is like a small stream that gradually turns into a full-flowing, big river that overcomes all obstacles on its way in order to connect with its final goal - the sea or the ocean. In a spiritual sense, it is important for every Christian to go through the whole earthly life and to prepare worthy to enter a happy Eternity.

Dear believers! The Savior said: "...Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Lk. 5:31-32). Today, from the Gospel reading, we heard about the healing of two blind men by the Lord Jesus Christ and the exorcism of a man possessed by an evil spirit. They also heard about other miracles, about which it is generally said that, "...Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity" (Matthew 9:35). All this applies not only to the events of the long past - it applies to the present, and to each of us. After all, the One who said, "...behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Mt. 28:20). He even now heals all our weaknesses, strengthens our strength, and validates our faith. But in order for us to be worthy of these gifts and God's mercy, we ourselves must be merciful and generous.

Therefore, we ask that the Merciful Lord grant us also sincere faith, and heal our heart blindness, the blindness of our sins and passions, which are especially possessed by our nations today.

Fr. Serhii Deiak

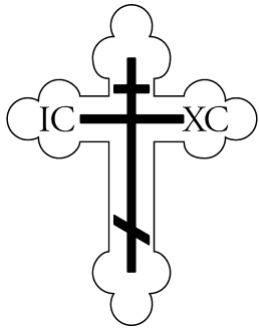
Authority of the Council - Authority of the Church

The authority of the Councils is based also on their ecclesiological grounding. A council is not an independent, autonomous body, additional, coming from outside, acting unilaterally. It is not the product of accidental circumstances in history and imposed afterwards. It is closely, or rather organically, related with the very essence of the Church. This body of Christ is a living organism, destined to grow, to face difficulties during this process, to be implanted in other regions of the world needing inculturation and a certain adaptation. Such embodiment and multifaceted ministry creates problems, tensions, even divisions and in spite of the good will of the local bishop and pastors, the convocation of as a major

assembly is considered as a natural instrument, salutary and indispensable. The official voice of the catholicity and the *koinonia* of all the other sister churches, in harmony and guided by the Spirit, would only provide the new assessments, possible remedies and solutions. The functioning of such a council was such that the opinions and requests at issue found expression from the very womb of the Church. Once the decision was made, the people had a part in receiving it and publicizing it (Acts 15:22) as is seen in the first assembly of Jerusalem.

Metropolitan Emilianos

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To view over 300 videos, visit www.oltv.tv



*PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH*

1260 Stevens Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21227

Rev. Deacon William Szewczyk, Administrator
Rev. Deacon Tony Kotlar, Sr.

Intention request for a Panachida (for the deceased) or Moleben (for the health of) at:

PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Please fill out this form and mail it to Patronage Church, or place it in the offertory basket.

This is to request a Panachida or Moleben (circle one) for:

_____ (print name of the person enrolled)

_____ (specific date, if applicable)

Offering: _____
(Make check payable to: Patronage Church)

Name of person requesting the Intention:

Address of person requesting the Intention:

Email address and/or phone number of person requesting the Intention

PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION (ECF) FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM REGISTRATION
2023-2024

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

PRE-K THRU 12TH GRADE

Parent's Name(s): _____ Email Address: _____

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone # _____ Mother's Cell # _____ Father's Cell # _____

Student's Full Name	Date of Birth	Grade	Name/County of School Attending
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-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----

Allergies or Other Information: _____

Student's Full Name	Date/Place of Baptism	Date/Place of Chrismation	Date/Place of Eucharist
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Emergency Contact (Name/Phone #): _____

Please return this registration form to Patronage Church by 9/3/2023.