

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos -- August 15th



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

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Next Liturgy: TBD

PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
11 th Sunday after Pentecost 8.13.2023	9:30pm Sunday	Hymns from Matins followed by the Typika and Panachida	In Memory of: +Marge Dulina Requested by: M/M Emmera Wheeler
12 th Sunday after Pentecost 8.19.2023	3:00pm Saturday (No Sunday service)	Divine Liturgy	For: Living and Deceased Members of our Parish

Today is the **11th Sunday after Pentecost.**

Proper for today can be found beginning on page 130, then page 347, in the green books.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa Church: Sunday, August 13th, at 10am Matins, 10:15am Typika
 Sunday, August 20th, at 10am Divine Liturgy

Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na viki! Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever! 1

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: On days that Fr. Yuriy comes to Patronage Church, he is available 20 minutes before or immediately after Divine Liturgy to hear confessions.

PARISH CENSUS: Final call! If you have not already done so, we are asking all parishioners to complete a parish census form by **Sunday, September 3rd**. 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.

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. Loui Villaneuva, will be the coordinator for the 2023-2024 school year.

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.

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 be celebrating a Divine Liturgy for the intention of couples celebrating a wedding anniversary of five-year increments. These have a wedding year ending in an eight or a three. **This celebration will take place in mid-November.** The specific date has not been determined. A liturgy will be celebrated in Annandale, VA, at Epiphany of our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church, followed by a sit-down dinner. Please let us know if you would like to receive an invitation by either adding your name to the sheet in the Narthex, or sending the church an email at patronage.church@gmail.com, no later than Sunday, August 20th. More information to follow.

Paul commands: 'Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the Traditions which you have been taught, whether by word or by our letter.' From this it is clear that they did not hand down everything by letter, but there is much also that was not written. Like that which was written, the unwritten too is worthy of belief. So let us regard the Tradition of the Church also as worthy of belief. Is it a Tradition? Seek no further.

St. John Chrysostom

Reflection from Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA
“The First Commandment Invites Us to a Deep Trust in the Living God”
By: Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM

*“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
You shall have no other gods before me.” (Exodus 20:2-3)*

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Some of us probably got our imagery about the giving of the Commandments from the movie, “The Ten Commandments.” Powerful God on the mountain coming down to speak to Moses and to tell him to take these rules, so to speak to the people.

Well, you may not be able to realize how much this is an invitation to the Covenant, to the deepest possible relationship, in this case, between God and humankind.

In fact, the imagery of a father and mother talking with their children might be a better framework for us to think about. “This is how life is going to be in our household” and in all these circumstances, it clarifies Who is the living God. God is trying to make that clear, as parents would do in family relationships. Who is the authority or the first deciders, so to speak.

In this Covenant, in the Book of Deuteronomy it says: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength.” That’s an invitation to faith, to hope, to love, to worship, to obedience, and to cooperation.

What does it mean? It means adoring the living God. God is the special one and worthy of adoration and worship, of our belief, of our trust.

It means that we would make promises to be faithful back to this God, Who is promising faithfulness to us. By promising we are accepting what blessings God give us and expecting more and offering our gratitude. So, it’s a living, loving relationship.

There are ways, as with all of the Commandments, that we can falter against this or outright sin. For instances, to seek other powers that ignore the living God or turn against the living God or turn against the living God in any way; treating something else other than God as more important as a guide in our lives. As a help in our lives, as an authority in our lives.

What is that false worship? Things like using various means to try to know the future that isn’t clear to us right now. Some people try to contact the dead. They’re guided by superstitions or magic or sorcery, idolatry. They seek divination; that’s been a part of history over time. Astrology and omens and clairvoyance and palm readers. Horoscopes, mediums; all of those kinds of things are ways of trying to circumvent the living God and not live in that faith and hope.

The First Commandment really invites us to a deep trust in the living God and a response; the response of faith, of hope, of love. When we do, it changes us. It makes us to be blessing, realizing our own blessings. And, as we mature in this, also to be blessing to others. In this way we are helping to raise others up in faith and hope and love. It’s a clear way to offer worship to the living God, in gratitude.

God bless you.

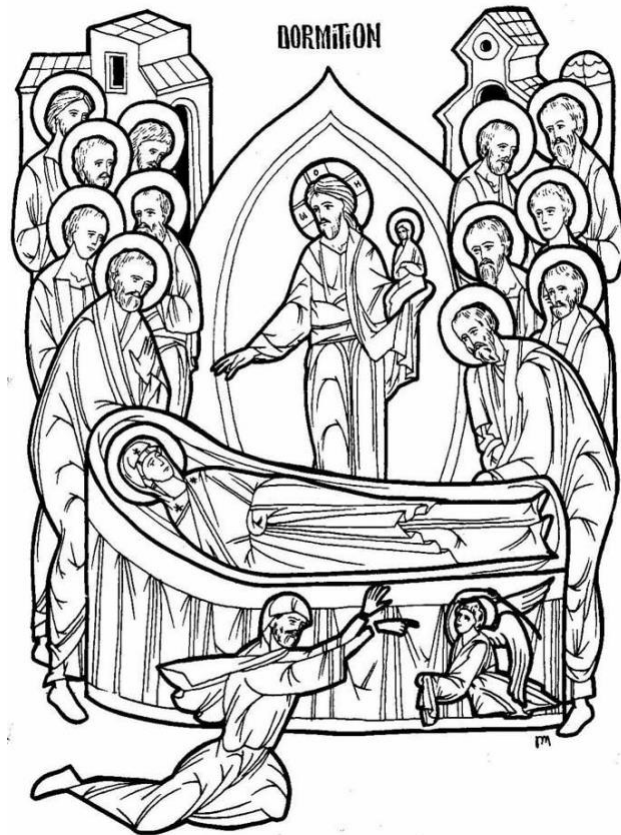
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BYZANTINE ICON PAINTING WORKSHOP: Patronage Church is planning a Byzantine Icon Painting Workshop with Iconographer, Wayne Hajos, sometime in the beginning of 2024. Wayne was the Iconographer who wrote the icons in our Holy Place and below our choir loft many years ago. The class will be 4 days long (9am - 4:30pm). The class fee will be \$275 with all supplies and lunch provided. No art experience necessary, and we will paint/write the icon of the Virgin Mary. We'd love to have our teenage parishioners (recommended minimum age is 15) participate in this great opportunity! At the moment, we are trying to pin down exact dates for the class, but are looking at a JAN, FEB, or MAR timeframe. We would also like to hear if you have a preference for doing the class in a single week (Wednesday - Saturday) or would prefer four consecutive Saturdays? Please email Kevin Ross at keviross@gmail.com if you are potentially interested along with any preference on dates/timing. Class size is limited to 20 students. More details regarding payment, will be forthcoming.

INTENTIONS: You now have a few options, if you would like to request an Intention:

1. On days Fr. Yuriy comes to Patronage Church, you can request a Liturgy Intention. Please make your check payable to: Fr. Yuriy Oros. Intention forms can be found on the bookrack in the Narthex, or on our church website. Please either place your request in the offertory basket, or mail it to the church rectory.
2. 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 Ukrainian 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.
3. You can also request to have a Panachida or Moleben at Patronage Church. A form can be found 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 rectory, or you can place your request in our offertory basket.

CHILDREN'S CORNER



1. We celebrate the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos on _____.
2. Standing over His mother is _____ holding her most pure soul.
3. The _____ is surrounded by the _____.
4. Through Christ, the Theotokos has become the _____ of all of the _____ of God, embracing us with divine _____.

Word Box: Christ mother August 15th children Apostles love Theotokos

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, Matthew Skovran, 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, 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 30, 2023):
Offertory: \$1,438.00
Tithe.ly: \$206.00
Freezer Sales: \$20.00

Hagerstown Mission (July 30, 2023):
Tithe.ly: \$19.00

PARISH MEETING/POT-LUCK LUNCHEON: Please join us after services today, in the social hall, for a pot-luck luncheon and parish meeting. Deacon Bill is planning on attending our meeting.

FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS: The feast day of the falling asleep (Dormition) of the Mother of God is on **August 15th**. Just as her nativity on September 8th occurs at the beginning of the church year, so her falling asleep happens at the end. Since she is the perfect disciple of Christ, it is only fitting that her life encompasses the church year. When the Theotokos fell asleep in the Lord, her body laid in a tomb near the Garden of Gethsemane. When the Apostle Thomas arrived three days later to venerate her body, Christ had already taken her up to heaven to be with Him, and the tomb was filled with flowers. Therefore, we bring flowers to church to honor this feast day.

PATRONAGE CHURCH SCHEDULE: Just a reminder to please refer to the most current bulletin for our church service's schedule. Specifically, **Fr. Yuriy Oros will be having Liturgy on Saturday, August 19th, at 3pm. There will be no church service on Sunday, August 20th.**

89TH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE – MOUNT ST. MACRINA, UNIONTOWN, PA: This biggest and oldest Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will be held **September 1st– 4th**. The Sisters of St. Basil the Great invite everyone to join them in honoring the Mother of God under the title of Theotokos: Loving Protectress of All. Visit www.sistersofstbasil.org to view the Pilgrimage schedule.

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).* 2

11th Sunday After Pentecost

"So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt." (Mt. 18:26-27).

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

In today's gospel, in the words of the servant, one can notice his blind pride, as he promises to return what cannot be paid. However, although the servant only asks for patience and postponement, which would not have saved him anyway, but would have made his situation even more difficult, he receives complete forgiveness, which is a manifestation of mercy: "For no human being will be justified in his sight by works of the law, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from law, although the law and the prophets bear witness to it, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction; since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as an expiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins" (Rom. 3:20-25).

In Judaism, sins were often perceived as debts to God: "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Sin is the guilt not so much of what was done wrongly to someone, but first of all of what should have been done, but was neglected. Sin is like a debt that consists of neglected duties or a lack of mercy and compassion. The rabbis said that on the day of judgment, God will judge his faithful not by how much evil they have done, but by how many good deeds they have not done, which they should or could have done.

Sins that imperceptibly accumulate and grow, like a debt that from a certain point can no longer be controlled, lead a person to lose his freedom, he ceases to belong to himself, and his slavery and helplessness become more and more hopeless. This is the state of man after the fall: the law was given for salvation from sin, but it became the cause of the fall, condemnation for transgression, and, as a result, even greater subjection to sin.

The behavior of the merciless moneylender is strikingly different from the merciful behavior of the king, moreover, it is marked by anger and cruelty caused by greed and avarice. It is pride, no matter how it manifests itself - in love of money, anger, self-love - that does not allow us to forgive, forgive our neighbors' faults or insults, even when they ask us for it, while we easily find excuses for our much greater transgressions.

"So... remembering the multitude of talents, let's try to forgive our neighbor for the few and light offenses, if only because of that. We must give an account for the fulfillment of the commandments assigned to us, but we are not able to fulfill everything no matter what we do. That's why God gave us

an easy and convenient way to fully pay all our debts - that is, to forget the insults" (St. John Chrysostom).

"Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me'" (Matthew 18:32).

Our relationship with God should be reflected in our relationship with our neighbors and vice versa: forgiveness and letting go of our sins should be reflected in compassion, patience, and willingness to forgive our neighbor. "And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me'" (Mt. 25:40).

God's mercy and the gift of forgiveness are Irrevocable, however, a person who does not know how to forgive will not be able to accept them either, and locks himself in the prison of his shocked self-love, being tortured by his own offenses.

"Listen, usurers, merciless and cruel! You are cruel not to others, but to yourself. When you bear malice, know that you bear it against yourself, and not against another, you burden yourself with sins, and not your neighbor..."

"If charity has not made you better, then it remains to correct you with punishment. Although the beneficence and gifts of God are unchanging, malice has become so strong that it has violated even this law" (St. John Chrysostom).

One woman was bitten by a rabid dog. She turned to the doctor when nothing else could be done. The sad doctor advised her to write a will and prepare for the inevitable. The woman asked for paper and a pen, after which she began to write a long list of names. When she wrote off one sheet and asked for another, the doctor remarked that she had chosen to mention too many people in her will. In response, the woman snorted: "Nothing like that. I'm writing a list of people I have to bite before I die."

Revenge seems sweet to many. Once, while a woman was paying in a supermarket, a television remote control fell out of her bag. Surprised, the salesman asked if she always carries a remote control in her bag. "No," the woman replied, "My husband simply refused to go shopping because he wanted to watch football."

The refusal to forgive is connected with the desire for revenge. But unforgiveness, like revenge itself, injures the avenger no less than the victim. It's like a child sitting on a park bench and screeching in a voice that's not his own. A man runs up and asks: "What happened?" "I sat on a bumblebee," the child said with tears in his voice. "Well, get up quickly," said the man. "I won't get up! He bit me, and I will strangle him in return," the boy replied. Spiritual healing begins when we get off the bench and stop hurting others.

Fr. Serhii Deiak

YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM MARYLAND IF



YOU THINK NEWSPAPERS MAKE A GOOD TABLECLOTH

**Join us for our annual
Patronage Crab Feast!**

*Open to the
parishioners of
St. Gregory's and
the Hagerstown
Mission too!*

Saturday, September 16, 2023

Divine Liturgy at 4:00 P.M.

Crab Feast immediately following

Price: **\$35** all you can eat and drink!

soda, water, beer, & wine provided

Teens 13-18 only **\$10!**

Children under 12 (and non-crab eaters) eat free!

****Please bring a side dish or a dessert****

RSVP by September 9th to Dann Karlson at: ds.karlson@gmail.com

Name _____

Number of Adults _____ x \$35.00 = \$ _____

Number of Teens _____ x \$10.00 = \$ _____

Number of Children under 12 (and non-crab eaters) _____

Make checks payable to Patronage Byzantine Catholic Church

Falling Asleep, You Have Not Forsaken the World

At the time of her death, so it is believed, the Mother of God was living in the house of St. John on Mount Zion. The Twelve were preaching the Gospel in different parts of the world. But so that they might see the Virgin once again before her death, all of them except Thomas were carried miraculously on clouds to the Holy City. Besides the Twelve, the Apostle Paul, together with the bishops Dionysios the Areopagite, Hierotheos, and Timothy, were also present at her bedside. As they stood round her, the Holy Virgin commended her spirit into the keeping of her Son and God. He Himself descended from heaven and took her soul up with Him in His arms. Led by Peter, the apostles sang funeral hymns in her honor, and carried her body down to the valley of Cedron, close to Gethsemane, where she laid in a tomb specially

prepared for her. The Jews tried to interrupt the funeral procession, one of them even attempting to upset the bier. His hands were cut off by an angel, but he was subsequently healed. Thomas arrived on the third day after the burial. Since he was anxious to look for a last time on the Theotokos, the apostles opened the tomb – and found it empty.

Without insisting on the literal truth of every element in this account, Eastern tradition is clear and unwavering in regard to the central point: the Holy Virgin underwent, as did her Son, a physical death, but her body – like His – was afterwards raised from the dead and she was taken up into heaven, in her body as well as in her soul.

Bishop Kallistos of Diocletia

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