

*St. Basil the Great  
Byzantine Catholic Church*

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*Website*



*Contribute*

**SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU! SLAVA NA VIKI!  
GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!**

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**First Sunday of the Great Fast**

EPISTLE Hebrews 11: 24-26 & 32-12: 2  
GOSPEL John: 1: 43-51

**Saturday, February 21, 2026, 10:30 a.m.**

Typika Psalm Service

*Sanctuary Candle: Health & Blessing of Daniel Powel  
Happy Birthday, Nanny*

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**no weekday services** ----

**Second Sunday of the Great Fast**

EPISTLE Hebrews 1: 10-2: 3  
GOSPEL Mark 2: 1-12

**Saturday, February 28, 2026, 10:30 a.m.**

Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

*Sanctuary Candle:  
Health & Blessing of the Parish Family*

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**CONFESSION SCHEDULE**

Fr. Martin is available to hear confession immediately following each Divine Liturgy.  
You may also schedule an appointment in advance by contacting Fr. Martin.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** Please continue to remember in our prayers all the needs of the parish family, the sick and suffering, those who have asked for our prayers, especially Frantisek Vavrak, Helena Hukova, George Stojkovic, Mateo Stojkovic, Danny Leckliter, Luz Mirella Vargas, Miguel Angel Alarcon, Viviana Rosa Munoz, Natasha Lemeshova, Heather Thomas, and Fr. Ed Kakaty. Let us remember the priests and bishops of the Catholic Church, those people who have been denied their basic human rights and dignity, the oppressed, the lonely, the homeless and those who suffer, and those who have no peace of mind or heart. Please contact Fred to have a name added or removed.

**WELCOME!**

We welcome our guests and visitors, and are happy to have them join us in prayer. If you have not officially registered in the parish, and would like to, please speak with Fred.

*Announcements & Reminders*

**GREAT FAST LITURGICAL SCHEDULE** Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts will be celebrated on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m. on March 11 and March 25.

**ICON PLEDGE DRIVE** Scan the QR code posted on the bulletin board to view the remaining 9 icons. Icons will not be ordered until each icon has a sponsor. To pay via check, or set-up a payment plan, speak with Fred.

**GOLD VESTMENTS** Additional donors are still needed. To make a contribution, please speak with Fred.

*Directives for the Great Fast*  
**from the Office of the Bishop**

Our Tradition is to abstain from meat after Meatfare Sunday and from dairy products after Cheesefare Sunday until Easter. The following are the minimum requirements:

1. All who receive Communion in the Eparchy of Passaic are required to abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast.
2. All adults who receive Communion in the Eparchy of Passaic are required to abstain from meat, eggs, and milk products on the first day of Lent, Monday, February 16, and on Great and Holy Friday, April 3.

*Pastoral Message*

Dear faithful parishioners, and you who have come to our church for the first time – welcome!

The Great Fast of Lent began this past Monday. This solemn and reflective period focuses on repentance, fasting, and spiritual preparation for the resurrection of Christ.

In the Gospel of John, specifically in verses 43-51 of chapter 1, we encounter an intriguing account of Jesus' early ministry and the calling of his disciples. After Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist, he begins to gather followers, and one of the first is Philip. Philip then finds Nathanael and excitedly tells him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. "Initially skeptical, Nathanael questions, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" However, Philip invites him to "come and see." As Nathanael approaches Jesus, Jesus greets him with a profound statement, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." Astonished, Nathanael asks Jesus how he knows him, and Jesus replies, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." This revelation convinces Nathanael that Jesus is indeed the Son of God and the King of Israel. This passage highlights the power of personal encounters with Jesus and the transformative effect it can have on individuals. It also emphasizes Jesus' divine knowledge and ability to see beyond the surface, illuminating the depths of one's soul.

The First Sunday of the Great Fast is also called the Sunday of Orthodoxy in commemoration of the victory of orthodoxy-true faith in controversy over Holy Icons in the year 843. This day serves as a reminder of the importance of visual representations in worship and the role of icons in connecting believers with the divine. It is a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving for the preservation of our faith and its traditions.

*In Christ,*  
*Fr. Martin Vavrak - Administrator*