

St. Basil Catholic Church

A Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Church of the Eparchy of Passaic
1475 NE 199 Street, Miami, FL 33179
www.MiamiByzantine.org

Served by:

- ❖ **Rev. Martin Vavrak, Administrator**
fr.martin@SouthFloridaByzantine.org 732.501.2810
- ❖ **Mr. Fred Wilson, Parish Manager & Cantor**
fwilson@SouthFloridaByzantine.org 631.974.1011
- ❖ **Fr. Deacon Michael Opalka**
mno333@comcast.net 954.232.9179

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

~ LITURGY SCHEDULE ~

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
EPISTLE 1st Corinthians 4: 9-16
GOSPEL Matthew 17: 14-23

Saturday, August 1, 2026, 10:30 a.m.
For the Faithful of the Parish

Sanctuary Candle:
Health & Blessing of Danny Leckliter by Nanny

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
EPISTLE 1st Corinthians 9: 2-12
GOSPEL Matthew 18: 23-35

Saturday, August 8, 2026, 10:30 a.m.
For the Faithful of the Parish

Sanctuary Candle:
Health & Blessing of Danny Leckliter by Nanny

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Fr. Martin is available to hear confession immediately following each Divine Liturgy, or by appointment.

~ 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 Huk, Danny Leckliter, and George Stojkovic. 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.

PLAN AHEAD: ADVANCE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENT PROGRAM Losing a loved one is never easy, and the last thing families should have to worry about during such a difficult time is navigating funeral logistics and unexpected costs. Funeral home services, burial sites, and related church fees can add up quickly, often creating financial and emotional strain on grieving family members at the worst possible moment. To help ease this burden, we're pleased to introduce a new program that allows you to make advance arrangements for your church plans and associated fees. By planning ahead, you can clarify your wishes, and spare your loved ones the added stress of making difficult decisions while grieving. Taking this step now is a meaningful gift to your family and one less thing for them to carry later. Please see Fred for more information and to begin making your arrangements.

~ PASTORAL MESSAGE ~

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

On this 10th Sunday after Pentecost, Jesus heals a boy possessed by a demon after the disciples were unable to do so. The father pleads, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers terribly” (Mt 17:15). This cry for mercy echoes the heart of Byzantine spirituality, where the Jesus Prayer, “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner”, is central. Jesus rebukes the demon and heals the boy instantly. Then He tells the disciples, “Because of your little faith... if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move” (Mt 17:20). This is a reminder that faith is not just intellectual assent but a living trust in the power of Christ, cultivated through prayer, fasting, and sacramental life.

Jesus also says, “This kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting” (Mt 17:21). This verse is deeply resonant for Byzantine Catholics, where ascetic disciplines are seen as essential tools for spiritual warfare. Healing and deliverance are not merely acts of divine power. They are synergies between God’s grace and our cooperation. Finally, Jesus foretells His Passion, “The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men... and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day” (Mt 17:22–23). This moment shifts the focus from miraculous healing to the mystery of the Cross, the ultimate act of love and redemption. In our liturgy, this is never separated from the Resurrection. Christ’s suffering is always viewed through the lens of Paschal victory. Ultimate, prayer, fasting, mercy, and hope all form a rhythm of life that draws us closer to Christ and transforms even the smallest acts into channels of grace.

August 6th – PRAYER TO OUR TRANSFIGURED LORD JESUS ON THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION!

Lord Jesus, you want to take me up the mountain, before I reach the summit, I ask: transform me. Transform my life with your grace, so that your image in me becomes transparent. Transform my eyes with your light, so that I can find you in every brother. Transform my heart with your power, so that I praise you as my only Lord. Yes, Lord; transform me with your presence, so that I never go unnoticed by your company. Transfigure me with your eyes, so that in everything I discover your cozy face. Transform me with your love, so you can understand how valuable I am to you. Transform me with your strength, so I can go down to the plain or climb to the summit of Calvary. Transform me, Lord, for my life, like yours, be a spark with the taste of God, a glimpse of His immense love. Amen!

Rev. Martin Vavrak – Administrator