

*St. Basil the Great
Byzantine Catholic Church*

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Contribute

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast w/4th All Souls Panachida

EPISTLE Hebrews 6: 13-20
GOSPEL Mark 9: 17-31

Saturday, March 14, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

For the Faithful of the Parish

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

no weekday services -----

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast

EPISTLE Hebrews 9: 11-14
GOSPEL Mark 10: 35-45

Saturday, March 21, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

For the Faithful of the Parish

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

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.

SLAVIC KITCHEN Order forms are now available! Paska will be baked by our church, while other items will be ordered from Ft. Pierce. All orders due next Saturday, March 21.

PYSANKY Have you always wanted to learn the art of pysanky? Join us at Our Lady of the Sign on Thursday, March 26, at 6:00 p.m. to learn how to write your own pysanka! Cost is only \$20.00, and includes supplies and a light bite to eat. Speak with Fred to RSVP.

Pastoral Message

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

As we gather on this 4th Sunday of the Great Fast, we reflect on the life and teachings of St. John Climacus, the Venerable, and the Gospel reading from Mark 9:17-31. In today's Gospel, we witness a powerful encounter between Jesus and a father desperate for his son's healing. The father cries out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24). This plea resonates deeply with us, especially during this season of Lent. We are reminded of our own struggles with faith and the moments when we, too, feel overwhelmed by doubt and uncertainty. Yet, it is in these moments that we are called to turn to Christ with humility and trust, just as the father did.

St. John Climacus, known for his spiritual masterpiece "The Ladder of Divine Ascent," provides us with a guide for our Lenten journey. He teaches us that the path to God is a gradual ascent, requiring perseverance, prayer, and repentance. Each step on this ladder represents a virtue we must cultivate, such as humility, patience, and love or a vice we must strive to unload. As we climb this spiritual ladder, we are reminded that our journey is not solitary. We are supported by the prayers of the saints, the teachings of the Church, and the grace of God. St. John Climacus encourages us to remain steadfast in our efforts, even when the climb seems arduous.

In today's Gospel, Jesus demonstrates His power over evil and His compassion for those who suffer. He reminds us that nothing is impossible for those who believe. As we continue our Lenten journey, let us echo the father's prayer, "I believe; help my unbelief," and trust that Christ will strengthen our faith and guide us towards His eternal light. May the intercessions of St. John Climacus inspire us to persevere in our spiritual ascent, and may we find comfort and strength in the loving embrace of our Savior.

The context: Today's Gospel passage describes an exorcism and healing which Jesus performed after coming down from the mountain of Transfiguration.

Why did the Apostles fail to heal the epileptic? The father of the epileptic boy complained to Jesus about the inability of the apostles to cure his son. They failed to heal the boy because: 1) although they had been given the power of healing, they failed to vitalize or activate it by prayer as Jesus did; 2) they did not have strong, trusting and expectant Faith in God's power; 3) as Jesus remarked, exorcism requires not only healing power but also a life of prayer and penance. Jesus heals the epileptic by a word of Divine command: Jesus demanded strong Faith from the boy's father as a condition for healing. Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" Then Jesus commanded the evil spirit, using His Divine authority: "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." As the evil spirit left the boy, he was healed of his epilepsy.

Life messages: 1) God will work daily miracles in our lives, provided we pray with trusting Faith. 2) Jesus offers us freedom from bondage to sin, evil habits, and addictions. 3) Let us make full use of the protection and help God offers to those who seek Him with Faith in His power and trust in His mercy.

*In Christ,
Fr. Martin Vavrak - Administrator*