

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 ~

Second Sunday after Pentecost

EPISTLE Romans 2: 10-16
GOSPEL Matthew 4: 18-23

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Health & Blessing of Angelina Parada
by Nina & Ruslan Parada

Sanctuary Candle:

Health & Blessing of Pani Anna Vavrak

Third Sunday after Pentecost

EPISTLE Romans 5: 1-10
GOSPEL Matthew 6: 22-34

Saturday, June 13, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Typika "Psalm Service"

Sanctuary Candle:

Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

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, Anna Vavrak, Lillian Weir 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.

~ PASTORAL MESSAGE ~

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

Today's Gospel story of Jesus' calling his first disciples, Andrew and Peter, James and John, teaches us a lot about our life as Christians—the followers of Jesus Christ.

First, it teaches us that anybody can be a disciple of Jesus. These first disciples were fishermen. We can be sure that, in Jesus' time, everyone knew that fishermen would be uneducated laborers. They would know about weather, and tides, and of course fish, but wouldn't be able to read and write, and probably wouldn't have a sophisticated understanding of Scripture and theology. So, there are no pre-conditions for becoming a disciple of Jesus. He can choose fishermen or philosophers, tax collectors or capitalists, housewives or politicians—or housewives who are politicians!

Second, this Gospel passage teaches us that the call to follow Jesus comes without promises—except the promise of doing God's work. Jesus simply says, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Not, "Follow me and I will make you rich or powerful or beautiful." Not, "Follow me and I will cure your diseases or solve your problems or make you happy." Not, "Follow me and I will fulfill and vindicate your political agenda." Just, "Follow me and I will put you to work." So we shouldn't think of our Christian faith as a help or a crutch or a divine insurance policy or a stamp of approval.

Third, this Gospel reading teaches us that being a disciple of Jesus means making some sacrifices. Andrew and Peter abandon their nets—just walk away from their jobs, not really knowing where their next meal or pair of sandals will come from or where they will sleep. James and John leave their boat and their father. They sacrifice not only their jobs, but also their possessions and family. Recalling the tradition that all the Apostles were married, we realize that Andrew and Peter and James and John were also leaving their wives and families and their lives together.

Finally, this reading teaches us that we are called to be part of God's amazing work in the world. With his first disciples accompanying him, Jesus "went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God, and curing every disease and illness among the people." When Jesus said that He would make those fishermen "fishers of men," this is what He meant: by proclaiming the Good News and curing physical disease, the disciples would bring people to believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, the savior of souls.

Rev. Martin Vavrak
Administrator