

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 ~

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

EPISTLE 2nd Corinthians 4: 6-15
GOSPEL Matthew 22: 35-46

Saturday, September 5, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

For the Faithful of the Parish

Sanctuary Candle:

Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross

EPISTLE 2nd Galatians 6: 11-20
GOSPEL John 3: 13-17

Saturday, September 12, 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, Fr. Dcn. Michael Opalka, Fr. Ed Kakaty, Claudia Alarcon, 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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS If you would like a Liturgy offered for the blessed memory or health of a loved one, please fill out the form located in the back of the church.

SANCTUARY CANDLE Each week we light a seven-day candle that remains lite inside the church symbolizing the presence of Jesus within the Tabernacle. The faithful can offer the week-long burning light in remembrance or for the health and blessings of a loved one. This is a long-standing tradition within many of our churches. If you would like to make an offering, please complete the form located in the back of the church.

~ PASTORAL MESSAGE ~

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

Jesus said that upon the two greatest commandments hung both the Law God gave to Israel and everything spoken by the prophets -Mt. 22:40). The first of these commandments is, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy strength and with all thy soul and with all thy mind." And the second commandment is, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." These two commandments are equally holy, equally of God, and are equally to be observed, but they do not possess equal power over the soul. There are times when they may actually come into conflict with each other, and in every such case, the first takes precedence over the second. That is why Jesus called it "the first and the great commandment". What we should understand by the word "greatest" is that it is to be fulfilled before any other and, if need be, instead of any other.

In practical terms, to keep the first and greatest commandment means that whenever God speaks, His word is to be embraced and obedience is to be yielded without regard to love of neighbor or of anything else, including love of self. Loving God with all one's heart means to obey God without reservation or consideration of consequences. He who hesitates does not love God with all his heart. When God plainly speaks, then he who fears, he who worries, or even he who questions, does not love God with all his heart.

A wise man understands that "love thy neighbor as thyself" is a commandment that can only be kept rightly after one's obligation to keep the greatest commandment has been fulfilled. The one who fails to respond whole-heartedly to a word from God for fear that his obedience may alienate others, has failed to keep either of the two greatest commandments. "Love thy neighbor" is certainly to be done; it is the commandment of God. But it can be done rightly only after one has fully obeyed the greatest commandment. This is what Preacher Clark did.

Often, when people thought he was unloving, it was only because he had not yet finished establishing his commitment to God by keeping the greatest commandment first. That done, he had great love of his neighbors and demonstrated it bountifully. Some people, however, do not like waiting in line.

Rev. Martin Vavrak – Administrator