

*Our Lady of the Sign  
Byzantine Catholic Church*

7311 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, Florida 33073  
[www.SouthFloridaByzantine.org](http://www.SouthFloridaByzantine.org)

**Rev. Martin Vavrak**

*Pastor*

[fr.martin@SouthFloridaByzantine.org](mailto:fr.martin@SouthFloridaByzantine.org)  
(732) 501-2810

**Mr. Fred Wilson**

*Parish Manager & Cantor*

[fwilson@SouthFloridaByzantine.org](mailto:fwilson@SouthFloridaByzantine.org)  
(631) 974-1011



*Website*



*Contribute*

Fr. Deacon Michael Opalka

Mr. Jon Cipyak, III & Ms. Lynn McFadden  
*Assistant Cantors*

Ms. Susan Scotts & Mr. Mike Donegan  
*Parish Guild Co-Chairs*

Mr. Jon Cipyak, IV & Mr. Mike Donegan  
*Lay Trustees*

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

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sunday of Zacchaeus**

EPISTLE 1st Timothy 4: 9-15

GOSPEL Luke 19: 1-10

*Sanctuary Candle:*

*Health & Blessing of the Parish Family*

**Saturday, January 17, 2026**

No services

**Sunday, January 18, 2026, 10:00 a.m.**

Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

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**Vespers**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 6:00 p.m.**

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**Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee**

EPISTLE 2nd Timothy 3: 10-15

GOSPEL Luke 18: 10-14

*Sanctuary Candle:*

*Health & Blessing of the Parish Family*

**Saturday, January 24, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**

+Archpriest Michael Zaparyniuk

by Jon and Suzie Cipyak

**Sunday, January 25, 2026, 10:00 a.m.**

+JoAnn Toth

by Bob and Sharon Toth

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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.

**WELCOME!**

We welcome our guests and visitors, and are happy to have them join us in prayer. If you are visiting our parish for the first time, be sure to pick-up a welcome card, which shares some key information about the Byzantine Liturgy. If you have not officially registered in the parish, and would like to, please speak with Fred.

**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, Nadiia Mykytiak, Angie Nemeth, Lesia, Chris Finnegan, Dan Asche, Natasha Lemeshova, Henry Zondag and Stephen Finnegan. 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.

**HOUSE BLESSINGS** If you would like your house, condo, business, etc. blessed, please speak with Fr. Martin or Fred to be placed on the schedule. Blessings are performed now through February 15.

**ALL SOULS** If you wish to have your faithfully departed loved ones remembered this year during the five All Souls Panachidas, please fill out the form located in the back of the church. Completed forms should be placed in the collection basket by February 1. Lists from prior years will not be used, so you must complete a form if you want your loved ones remembered.

**COFFEE SOCIAL** Starting in February, the post-liturgy coffee social will be held on the first Sunday of each month. Volunteers are needed to bring a tasty treat, make or bring coffee, and cleanup. A sign-up sheet is posted by the coffee station.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** Whether you would like to receive the holy sacraments and join the Catholic Church, or learn more about it, ECF classes are available. Speak with David Wilson for more information.

**2025 / 2026 BISHOP'S APPEAL** This year's appeal has officially kicked off, and you should have received a mailer from the Chancery. If you did not, please see Fred for a copy. Our goal, \$6,200.00, equates to \$175.00 per family. If we are successful again in reaching our goal, Bishop Kurt will generously refund our parish 40%. This year, we ask you to submit your contribution directly to the Chancery via the mailer, or via the link on our website.

*Pastoral Message*

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

**Patristic Commentary**

Overview: As Jesus approaches Jericho, he encounters a blind man and Zacchaeus, both of whom are outcasts upon whom Jesus will show mercy (Ambrose). Zacchaeus is the chief tax collector, and therefore a great sinner who would be included with the prostitutes by the Pharisees as examples of complete depravity (Cyril of Alexandria). Zacchaeus shows that it is difficult but possible for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven (Jerome). Climbing a sycamore tree is unusual for someone of his position, but in order to see Jesus he must rise above the earth, including all the foolish sins of the world (Cyril of Alexandria). Like Christ, who was lifted on the cross to show the foolishness of God, Zacchaeus is willing to be foolish so that he may see Christ crucified (Augustine).

Jesus has welcomed Zacchaeus into his heart, and now he is ready to be welcomed by Zacchaeus into his house (Augustine). The Lord, who knows Zacchaeus's thoughts, calls him to come away from his life in the law and to descend into Jesus' presence so that he might become a true son of Abraham (Ephrem the Syrian). These possessions became his when Zacchaeus used them for salvation, so that what had been a hindrance to him in attaining eternal life now had become a benefit when used properly (Maximus of Turin). Jesus is that one man without sin who came to save those who were lost because of sin (Augustine). God promises salvation for those who are the true children of Abraham, which Zacchaeus shows that he is by his almsgiving (Cyprian).

*In Christ,  
Fr. Martin Vavrak - Pastor*