

Our Lady of the Sign Catholic Church

A Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Church of the Eparchy of Passaic
7311 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, Florida 33073
www.SouthFloridaByzantine.org

Served by:

- ❖ **Rev. Martin Vavrak, Pastor**
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 ~

Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross

EPISTLE Galatians 6: 11-18
GOSPEL John 3: 13-17

Sanctuary Candle:

Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

Saturday, September 12, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Health & Blessing of Suzie F. Cipyak
by Jon Cipyak, III

Sunday, September 13, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

+Slavka Benko Dubas
by Alexandra Stefanyshyn

Moleben to Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross

EPISTLE Galatians 2: 16-20
GOSPEL Mark 8: 34-9: 1

Sanctuary Candle:

Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

Saturday, September 19, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Typika "Psalm" Service

Sunday, September 20, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Typika "Psalm" Service

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Fr. Martin is available to hear confession immediately following each Divine Liturgy, or by appointment.
Reserved Holy Communion will be available for those who wish to receive after confession.

ROSARY SCHEDULE

- Wednesday: 6:40 p.m. • Saturday: 4:40 p.m. • Sunday: 9:40 a.m.

~ OUR CONTRIBUTORS & TRUSTED SERVICE PROVIDERS ~

Supreme Landscape Services

Call Bryan for free estimate
954-371-8600

Trusted service provider for Our Lady of the Sign

Hyvac Mechanical Services

A full-service mechanical contracting firm
headquartered in Deerfield Beach
954-426-3762

Trusted service provider for Our Lady of the Sign

D^Ynam^Ic
Chiropractic

954-938-4321

Sutter Filtration Systems

954-746.5700

Trusted service provider for Our Lady of the Sign

To advertise, contact Fred Wilson:
fwilson@SouthFloridaByzantine.org

~ 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, Claudia Alarcon, Angie Nemeth, Fina Gonzalez, and Raul Gonzalez. 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 check our website during your daily prayers for an up-to-date listing of those who are in need of our prayers.***

~ ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS ~

Twenty-five years ago, the world changed in a single morning. We remember the nearly three thousand lives lost, and the grief that touched families far beyond New York, Washington, and a field in Pennsylvania. A quarter century has passed, but the weight of that day has not lessened, it has simply become part of who we are.

As Byzantine Catholics, our traditions teach us to look toward the icons, not as mere images, but as windows into eternity. On that day, ordinary people became icons of self-giving love: those who carried the injured down dozens of flights of stairs, those who gave their last breath trying to save strangers, the first responders who ran toward danger. During the Divine Liturgy, the deacon intones "...let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.", and on September 11th, we saw that commitment lived out in real-time by people who had no creed in mind, but who embodied it nonetheless. Twenty-five years later, may we hold both our sorrow and hope together by mourning what was taken and trusting that the cross is never the end. Eternal memory! Vičnaja pamjat’!

EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION Are you seeking to grow closer to Christ through the beautiful liturgical and spiritual heritage of the Byzantine Catholic Church? Our Eastern Catholic Formation classes offer a transformative journey into the depths of our ancient faith. Classes will be held once a week, and will start in OCTOBER. Everyone is welcome, whether you're a lifelong Byzantine Catholic or newly discovering our traditions. Contact David Wilson for more information at: 407.985.8834

GIFT SHOP Three display cases have been placed in the back of the church, containing various items including rosaries and crosses. If you would like to purchase an item, please speak with usher Mike Bourdin or Frank Wilson. Thank you to Bob and Sharon Toth for donating the display cases.

~ PARISHIONER CORNER ~

*Do you have a note or announcement you would like to share with your fellow parishioners?
If so, the bulletin is great place to do so! If you would like to have something posted,
please email Fred by the preceding Wednesday.*

~ 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.

~ PASTORAL MESSAGE ~

The Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-giving Cross: A tradition which took shape early and was definitely established in the Sixth century reports that Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine, rediscovered near Golgotha the three crosses which served to execute Christ and the two thieves. The healing of a dying woman permitted Bishop Makarios to recognize, as being the Lord's Cross, the one whose contact effected the miracle. The Holy Cross was preserved in the Basilica of the Resurrection until May 4, 614, the date on which the Persians carried it away after having taken the city of Jerusalem and destroying the Basilica. In 628, Emperor Heraclius defeated Chosroes and brought the Holy Cross back to Jerusalem. Heraclius took the venerable wood upon his shoulders and carried it back to Calvary with great pomp. According to legend, upon reaching the door of the church, the Emperor, magnificently dressed and wearing gold, was stopped by an invisible force. Zachary, the Bishop of Jerusalem, said to him: "Be careful, Emperor, that with these ornaments of triumph, you don't imitate sufficiently the poverty of Jesus Christ and the humility with which He carried His Cross." The Emperor laid aside his splendid clothes to dress himself in an ordinary cloak, and with bare feet, he was able to continue on his way. The site where tradition places the discovery of the Holy Cross by Saint Helen is venerated in the crypt of the Holy Resurrection, in Jerusalem. This commemorative chapel was made form part of an ancient drain which existed in the time of Our Lord in Jerusalem. Filled up later on, it was used by Constantine's architects in the crypt of the basilica. A part of the Cross, brought to Rome in the Sixth century, was exposed for the veneration of the faithful by order of the oriental Pope Sergius I (687-701), in the Church of the Savior. That is why, equally in the East and the West, the feast of the Holy Cross had a considerable importance in the liturgical calendar from this epoch. It is made on Good Friday which is a direct reference. But, whereas the feast of Good Friday insists more on the historic event of Christ's Redemption, in His sufferings and death, today's feast more particularly represents for us the glorious aspect of this event, consequently, the instrument of execution on which the Lord died.

The Church calls to mind for us in the Office the Old Testament signs, the heralds of the Cross: the tree of Eden, by which we were lost (the Cross was meant to save us); Noe's ark which accomplished the salvation of the just (the Cross affected the same to sinners); Jacob crossing his hands to bless his son Joseph; Moses extending his arms to open in the Red Sea a door of salvation to the Israelites, then throwing some wood into the waters of Mara to sweeten their bitterness; the same Moses striking the rock with his staff to make life-giving water spring forth, and praying, with hands crossed, for the victory of the Jewish people over Amalec; the rod of Aaron; the brazen serpent, the predisposition in the Cross taken by the Jewish people around the Ark of the covenant. The Cross is the instrument of the passion, the stool upon which the Lord rested His feet, the trophy of victory, the rampart of the Church, the cure of all ills, the honor of Christians. Nevertheless, the texts of the Divine Liturgy maintain still more the spirit of the sorrowful Passion of the Lord, abandoned by His Father on the Cross, "a scandal for the Jews and a folly for the Greeks" (that is, the pagans). This feast places before us the most profound mystery of suffering, which is no longer for us a revolting fatality, but a proof of supernatural love which lies for us in the Lord for the purification of our faults and already, by desire, in the exultation of His Glory.

Rev. Martin Vavrak – Pastor

~ SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS ~

The following is an outline to use with the Green Hymnal.

Page Number		Page Number	
11-13	Enarxis & Litany of Peace SIT	49-50	For the precious gifts...
14-15	First & Second Antiphons	53 Melody B	Creed
18 Melody A	Hymn of the Incarnation STAND	56 Melody A	Holy, Holy, Holy
22	Third Antiphon		Take, eat... PROFOUND BOW
25	Entrance Hymn		Drink of this... PROFOUND BOW
156 & 250	Troparion SIT	61	We praise you...
251	Kontakion	62	It is truly proper...
27 & Slavonic	Thrice-holy hymn STAND	63-65	Preparation of Communion SIT
251	Prokeimenon	74	Our Father STAND
	Epistle SIT	78	Communion Hymn
251	Alleluia STAND	83	We have seen...
35	Preparation for Gospel	84	May our mouth... SIT
	Gospel	87	Arise! Now that we... STAND
	Homily SIT	88 Melody A	Blessed be the name...
35-37	Litany of Fervent Supplication	454 Melody A	Beneath your Compassion
42	Cherubikon STAND		

~ SLAVONIC ~

THRICE-HOLY HYMN

Svjatyj Bože, svjatyj kripkij, svjatyj bezsmertnyj pomiluj nas.

~ HYMNS ~

OPENING HYMN

Set to melody: *O Mary, Mother of our God*

- God loved the world so much, He have His own Son, that eternal life might be His gift to everyone.
- As Moses raised the serpent up, shown on high, so the Son is lifted high that we may never die.
- The Christ was not sent to the world to condemn, but that all, believing Him, might find their life in Him.

Refrain: Boast of nothing less than the Cross of Christ our Lord! In it, we are blessed; life is our reward! (x2)

CLOSING HYMN

O Mary, Mother of our God

- Mary, Mother of our God, Most Pure One. Intercede for us before our Lord and God, your Son.
- Marije, Mati Boža. Prečista. Prosi za nam svoho Syna, Isusa Christa.
- Most Pure One, you were enthroned as heaven’s Queen. Even angels bow to you and hold you in esteem.

Refrain: Robed in radiance, more than all the stars above, Holy virgin Queen, made so by God’s love.

Svitla Zornice, Nebesnaja Carice. Svjata, Prečista, D’ivo Marije.

~ READINGS ~

EPISTLE

Galatians 6: 11-18

See, I write to you in my own large handwriting! Thise who are trying to force you to be circumcises are making a play for human approval – with an eye to escaping persecution for the cross of Christ. The very ones who accept circumcision do not follow the law themselves. They want you to be circumcised only that they may boast about your bodily observance. May I never boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through it, the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. It means nothing whether one is circumcised or not. All that matters is that one is created anew. Peace and mercy on all who follow this rule of life, and on the Isreal of God. Henceforth, let no man trouble me, for I bear the brand marks of Jesus in my body. Brethren, may the favor of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL

John 3: 13-17

The Lord said: “No one has gone up to heaven except the One who came down from there – the Son of man [who is in heaven]. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that all who believe may have eternal life him. Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.”