

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

LITURGY & ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

EPISTLE 2nd Corinthians 6: 1-10

GOSPEL Luke 5: 1-11

Sanctuary Candle:

Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

Saturday, September 27, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

Sunday, September 28, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

Theotokos, Star of the Sea – Guild Meeting

Wednesday, October 1, 2025, 5:45 p.m.

Protection of the Theotokos – Solemn Holyday

Wednesday, October 1, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

EPISTLE 2nd Corinthians 6: 16-7: 1

GOSPEL Luke 6: 31-36

Sanctuary Candle:

Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

Saturday, October 4, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, October 5, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Health & Blessing of Frank Wilson
by the F. Wilson 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.

ROSARY SCHEDULE

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

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, Lesia, Brian Butkerait, Chris Finnegan, Dan Asche, 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.

Please support these local businesses, who contribute to the financial wellbeing of our parish.

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

GCU

Offering insurance products that insure the
lives of our members and annuity products to
safeguard a family's financial future.

855-306-0607

Option 2: 2.5 x 1.25

\$1,400.00 per year

Option 3: 3.08 x 1.25

\$2,000.00 per year

Option 1: 2.5 x .5

\$850.00 per year

To advertise, contact Fred Wilson:

fwilson@SouthFloridaByzantine.org

Announcements and reminders continued...

PILGRIM VOCATION ICON PROGRAM TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK! The seeds of God’s grace are planted in our hearts hoping to find fertile fields that will bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit and, in particular, ministerial service in the Church. Prayer is integral in the process of nurturing Church vocations. On Sunday, 5 October, the entire Byzantine Catholic Church in America is beginning a Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program. Each week, the icon is taken by a household in the parish. Those who accept the icon agree to pray during that time for religious and priestly vocations. Everyone in the parish is invited and encouraged to have this icon in their home for one week. Prayer booklets are provided.

“THE CALL OF THE DISCIPLES”

Our Lord reminds us that “the harvest is truly plentiful but the laborers are few. Pray, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that he send laborers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38) As Christian faithful, we all have a responsibility to foster future leaders of the Church – priests, deacons, nuns, and monks – dedicated to serving God’s people. One way we can be involved in the nurturing of vocations is to pray. Next Sunday begins a special time of prayer for vocations for the Byzantine Catholic Church in the United States. Each parish has received an icon specially written for this program. Every member of the parish is invited to have “The Call of the Disciples” icon in their home for a week of special prayer for vocations. Please sign up on the sheet that is posted by the coffee station. For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Fr. Martin or Fred.

WILLS AND TRUSTS Our Lady of the Sign welcomes charitable donations made by bequest through your Will or through Trust. A Bequest is a unique gift of money or assets left through your will and is an investment in the future of your Parish. By leaving a bequest, you are making a lasting difference in the life of the Parish community. Please contact parish manager Fred Wilson or lay trustee Michael Donegan if you have any questions.

LITURGY INTENTIONS & SANCTUARY LIGHT If you would like a Liturgy offered or the week-long sanctuary candle lit for the blessed memory or health of a loved one, please fill out the form located by the coffee station and place it in the collection basket or hand it to Fred. Requests can also be made online via the contribute QR code found on the bulletin cover. Remember, we have three liturgies per week to choose from. We will do our best to calendar your request as noted, however it is first-come, first-calendared.

SOCIAL MEDIA

If you have yet to follow us on FaceBook, Instagram, or X (formally Twitter), please take a moment to do so. When you follow our social media accounts and like or share our posts, you help us with outreach and parish growth. Links to all our social media accounts can be found on the homepage of our website: SouthFloridaByzantine.org

Pastoral Message

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

Glory to Jesus Christ!

OCTOBER 1 - THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS

The Feast of the Protection celebrates the day, over one thousand years ago, when St. Andrew, Fool for Christ, and his disciple, St. Epiphanius, stood in church during the Vigil Service and beheld the Most-pure Virgin. Accompanied by St. John the Baptist, the Holy Apostle John, and other Saints, she stood tearfully praying for the people. Contemplating that event, we pause to consider the church building, to consider who is present, and who prays in, the church.

We have become accustomed to seeing clergy, choir, and parishioners in attendance, but we have completely forgotten that others are invisibly present: God’s holy Angels, His holy Saints, the Most-holy Virgin, and our Lord Himself, are there as well. St. Andrew, St. Epiphanius, Venerable batiushka St. Seraphim of Sarov, and many other righteous ones could see this. We do not see, because it is “the pure in heart [who] see.” It is only the pure in heart who are capable of beholding what mystically transpires within the church; only they behold those who stand alongside us in church. I suppose that we could not bear the actual sight of the spiritual world as it really is. The more one grows spiritually, the more one can see and understand. For our part, we occasionally hear “Now the Hosts of Heaven invisibly worship with us.”

The Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God reminds us that Heaven reaches all the way to the earth. The Russian people have fixed this event, which took place in far-off Constantinople so many centuries ago, well in their memories. They have made the day of its commemoration their own day, a Russian holiday in honor of the Most-pure Mother of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In times of national misfortune, as in times of individual trials and sorrows, Russian people rush to God’s temples, rush to the Protection of the Mother of God, and ask of the Queen of Heaven her defense and assistance: “Remember us in thy supplications, O Virgin Lady and Theotokos, that we not perish because of the multitude of our sins. Protect us from all evil and grievous perils, for in thee do we put our trust, and honoring the feast of thy protection, we magnify thee.”

At many different times, many Orthodox peoples have received help, comfort, strength, and salvation from the Mother of God. Thus, right now, at a time when the whole world is deeply worried by the recent tragic events of 11 September and by the possible consequences of those events, we would all do well to come to church and ask of the Theotokos her grace-filled intercession.

O Most holy Theotokos – Cover us with thy wondrous omophorion, and preserve us from all evil!

*In Christ,
Fr. Martin Vavrak - Pastor*

Announcements and Reminders

BLESSING OF ANIMALS Next Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5, each parishioner is invited to bring their pets or service animals to church for their annual blessing. All types of animals are welcome, (dog, cat, rabbit, turtle, frog, etc.) as long as they are kept on a leash or in a carrier. Please plan ahead, and remember it is never okay to leave your furry friends in the car or tied outside in the heat.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Are you celebrating your 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, etc., wedding anniversary in 2025 or 2026? If so, a jubilee Divine Liturgy will be held at our sister church in Orlando, St. Nicholas of Myra, on January 17, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. The liturgy will be followed by a luncheon. There is no fee associated with the luncheon, other than travel expenditures. If you would like to attend, please register with Fr. Martin or Fred by **October 19.**

FLOWERS Parishioners are encouraged and should feel free to bring fresh flowers as a devotion. The wall containers placed inside the church surrounding some icons are for everyone's use.

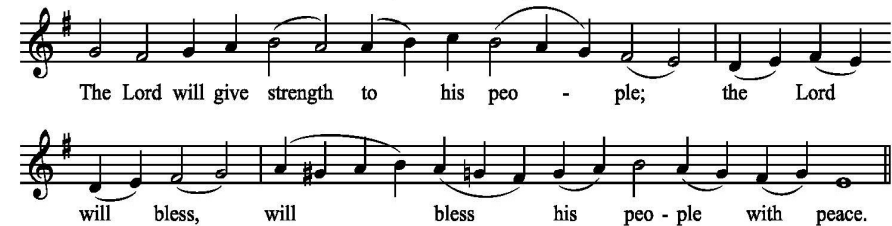
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS A few updates have been made / or are in the process of being made around the church, and sponsorship is available. Each person or family sponsor will receive a plaque noting their contribution in the vestibule. If interested, please speak with Fred.

- Altar Candelabra & Processional Candles
 - Gospel Book Gilding
 - Vestments
 - Altar Cloths
- Security Cameras
- Sound System

Theotokos, Star of the Sea

- ❖ We have a family who is in need of transportation, financial assistance, and prepared meals that can be easily be heated. If you are willing to help a fellow parishioner, please contact Susan Scott at 561.859-9110 for more details.
- ❖ Volunteers are needed for our weekly Sunday coffee social. A sign-up sheet is posted at the coffee table. See Angie with any questions.
- ❖ Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 5:45 p.m.
- ❖ The Guild will be hosting their annual St. Nicholas Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 7, from 3-6 p.m. Tickets will go on sale shortly, so be sure to save the date.

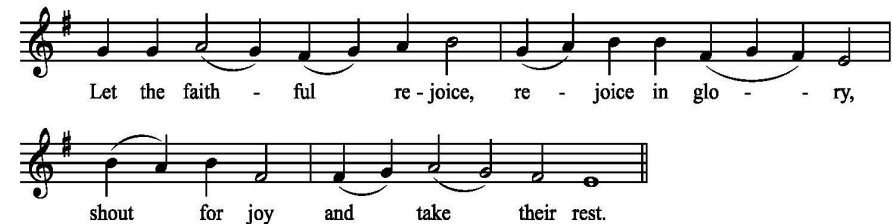
Prokeimenon of the Resurrection - Tone 7 (Psalm 28:11,1,2):



Verse: Bring to the Lord, you sons of God; bring to the Lord glory and honor.

and then immediately:

Prokeimenon of a Venerable Martyr - Tone 8 (Psalm 149: 5.1)



Alleluia of the Resurrection - Tone 7 (Psalm 91:2,3):



Verse: It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to your name, O Most High.

Verse: To proclaim your mercy in the morning, and your faithfulness throughout the night.

and then immediately: