

*Our Lady of the Sign
Byzantine Catholic Church*

7311 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, Florida 33073
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Rev. Martin Vavrak

Pastor

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Parish Manager & Cantor

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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

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

EPISTLE 2nd Timothy 3: 10-15
GOSPEL Luke 18: 10-14

Sanctuary Candle:

Health & Blessing of Frantisek Vavrak

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

Vespers

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

EPISTLE 1st Corinthians 6: 12-20
GOSPEL Luke 15: 11-32

Sanctuary Candle:

Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

Saturday, January 31, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

For the Faithful of the Parish

Sunday, February 1, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

+Helen M. Monito
by Susan Scotts

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 Zondagh 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 next Sunday, 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!

Today we have a parable depicting the spirit of prayer that should characterize all kingdom seekers. In the parable both the Pharisee and the hated tax collector (hence "sinner") adopt the same liturgical position of standing and invoking the same God. They also use accepted liturgical prayer forms: a thanksgiving for the Pharisee and a petition for the tax collector. The Pharisee's prayer quickly becomes a catalog of his own achievements. His prayer emphasizes, not that he is less than God but that he is more than others, especially the tax collector. His prayer has degenerated into the accolades of his world; it has not penetrated the reality of God's world. The tax collector's prayer, however, is a humble recital of faults and an inventory of sins. His prayer clearly states that he is less than God. There is no purpose in further comparison, however. By such a prayer the man is in contact with God's real world—a world where honesty undoes sin. Jesus judges that the tax collector went home right with God, whereas the Pharisee went home only right with himself. In the kingdom only those right with God, not right merely with themselves, make it.

"This story is particularly effective because its introduction addresses those who trust in themselves and think they are righteous. Of course, the Pharisee is such a person in the story, but that does not mean that Jesus was only speaking to Pharisees. In fact, Jesus' story also addresses all those Christian readers who have justified themselves at the expense of the Pharisees, counting themselves to be more righteous in their humility than the self-righteous Pharisees. . . . Here Jesus presses the contrast [between tax collectors and Pharisees], probably to the point of a caricature, not in order to glorify the tax collector but in order to illustrate the folly of trying to impress God with one's virtue and the danger of elevating oneself by demeaning others."

(David L. Tiede, *Luke, Augsburg Publishing House, [Minneapolis: 1988], p. 307*).

In Christ,

Fr. Martin Vavrak - Pastor