

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**
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- ❖ **Mr. Fred Wilson, Parish Manager & Cantor**
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**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, 5:00 p.m.

Health & Blessing of Jon Cipyak, IV
by Jon & Suzie Cipyak

Sanctuary Candle:

Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

Sunday, September 6, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

+Mary R. Monito
by Susan Scotts

Moleben to Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross

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

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

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

Sanctuary Candle:

Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

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

+Raya Zabrodski
by Natalie Forster

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 ~

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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 ~

MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS All are warmly invited to join us this **Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.** for a Moleben to the Theotokos, celebrated in honor of her Nativity. The troparion for the feast beautifully states: “Your birth heralded joy to the universe; for from you arose the Sun of Justice, Christ our God.” Come pray with us as we sing hymns of praise to the Mother of God and ask for her continued intercession in our lives.

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 Wison. Thank you to Bob and Sharon Toth for donating the display cases.

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

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 by the coffee station.

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 by the coffee station.

~ 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 ~

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 – Pastor

~ FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~

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	51 Melody A	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
152	Troparion SIT	61	We praise you...
152	Kontakion	62	It is truly proper...
27 & Slavonic	Thrice-holy hymn STAND	63-65	Preparation of Communion SIT
153	Prokeimenon	74	Our Father STAND
	Epistle SIT	78	Communion Hymn
153	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: *All the faithful come before you*

- All the faithful come before you, holy Virgin fair; bowing low before your icon we your name revere.
- Once a lawyer said to Jesus, “Master, tell me true; of the laws of God, which is the greatest one to you?”
- In his turn, he asked the lawyer, “Tell me, if you can, how can Dvid call the Christ his son, within God’s plan?”
- God, who called the light from darkness, shines within our heart that we, too, make known the glory Christ had from the start.
- Merciful and only Mother, greatest help we know; guard us, keep us, and protect us; stand against our foe.

Refrain: You shall love the Lord God will all your heart and soul; you shall also love your neighbor: make this law your goal! Loving God and loving neighbor: these two make one whole!

CLOSING HYMN

O Holy Spirit, mighty defender

- O Holy Spirit, mighty defender, to all who love you, comfort you give. Everywhere present, fountain of virtues, without your kindness, no one could live. Everywhere present, fountain of virtues, without your kindness, no one could live.
- O Holy Spirit, treasury of blessings, come, as was promised, life giving Flame. Come, dwell within us, quicken our cool hearts, strengthen our purpose to praise your name. Come, dwell within us, quicken our cool hearts, strengthen our purpose to praise your name.

~ READINGS ~

EPISTLE

2nd Corinthians 4: 6-15

God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but we are not crushed; full of doubts, we never despair. We are persecuted but never abandoned; we are struck down but never destroyed. Continually we carry about in our bodies the dying Jesus, so that in our bodies the life of Jesus may also be revealed. While we live we are constantly being delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. Death is at work in us, but life in you. We have that spirit of faith of which the Scripture says, “Because I believed, I spoke out.” We believe and so we speak, knowing that he who raised up the Lord Jesus will raise us up along with Jesus and place both us and you in his presence. Indeed, everything is ordered to your benefit, so that the grace bestowed in abundance may bring greater glory to God because they who give thanks are many.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22: 35-46

At the time, one of the Pharisees, a lawyer, in an attempt to trip Jesus up, asked him, “Teacher, which commandment of the law is the greatest?” Jesus told him: “‘You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments the whole law is based, and the prophets as well.” In turn Jesus put a question to the assembled Pharisees, “What is your opinion about the Messiah? Whose son is he?” “David’s” they answered. He said to them, “Then how is it that David under the Spirit’s influence calls him ‘lord,’ as he does when he said: ‘The Lord said to my lord, Sit at my right hand, until I humble your enemies beneath your feet’? If David calls him ‘lord,’ how can he be his son?” No one could give him an answer; therefore no one dared, from that day on, to ask him any questions.