

*Our Lady of the Sign
Byzantine Catholic Church*

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Rev. Martin Vavrak

Pastor

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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 Meat Fare with First All Souls Panachida

EPISTLE 1st Corinthians 8: 8-9: 2

GOSPEL Matthew 25: 31-46

Saturday, February 7, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

+Evelyn Oscar Similien & +Oscar Youyou
by Similien McLay

Sanctuary Candle:

+Cristina Guadalupe

Sunday, February 8, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

+Raya Zabrodski
by Susan Scotts

Vespers

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday of Cheesefare

EPISTLE Romans 13: 11-14: 4

GOSPEL Matthew 6: 1421

Saturday, February 14, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

For the Faithful of the Parish

Sunday, February 15, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

+Mary R. Monita
by Susan Scotts

Sanctuary Candle:

Health & Blessing of the Parish 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.

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. **The prayer list is now available on our website!** Please check the list during your daily prayers for an up-to-date listing of those who are in need of our prayers.

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. This is the final week for blessings until after Pascha.

BLOOD DRIVE Our first blood drive last year was a success, so much so that OneBlood has requested to come back! Our next date has been scheduled for Sunday, April 12 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.

PRE-FAST SOCIAL HOUR A pre-fast social “Fašiangy” will be held next Sunday, February 15, immediately following Divine Liturgy. We will have hero, soda, coffee, and cake. A \$5 donation is requested to help lower costs.

ANNUAL PICNIC Our second annual parish picnic is scheduled for Palm Sunday, and will take place on the parish grounds immediately following liturgy. The menu will include hamburgers, hot dogs, lamb chops, garden salad, soda, coffee, and cookies. There will be games for kids and adults. Tickets for the event are \$20 per adult, and \$10 per child under 10 years old. Friends and family are most welcome to attend. A 50/50 raffle will also be held, with advance purchase available starting this week. Please see Fred to purchase your tickets.

2025 / 2026 BISHOP’S APPEAL You should have received a mailer from the Chancery for this year’s pledge drive. If not, copies are available in the back of the church. 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’s Gospel describes the Last Judgment and its criterion, using as an image the Palestinian shepherds’ practice of the nightly separation of the over-active, less docile goats from the docile sheep. Jesus promises that he will come in all his glory as a Judge (Christ’s Second Coming), to reward the good people and punish the bad people. This will be the final and the public separation of the good people from the evildoers.

The parable teaches us that the main criterion of the Last Judgment will be the works of Christian charity, kindness, and mercy we have done, or not done, for others, in whom we have actually served, or not served, Christ, knowingly or unknowingly. The parable tells us that Christ, the Judge, is going to ask us six questions, and all of them are based on how we have cooperated with God’s grace to do acts of charity, kindness, and mercy for others because Jesus actually dwells in them. The first set of questions: “I was hungry, thirsty, homeless. Did you give me food, drink, accommodation?” The second set of questions: “I was naked, sick, imprisoned. Did you clothe me? Did you help me by visiting me in my illness or in prison?” If the answers are yes, we will be eternally rewarded because we have cooperated with God’s grace by practicing charity. But if the answers are negative, we will be eternally punished. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “If sometimes our poor people have had to die of starvation, it is not because God didn’t care for them, but because you and I didn’t give, were not instruments of love in the hands of God, to give them that bread, to give them that clothing; because we did not recognize Christ, when once more Christ came in distressing disguise.”

Life messages:

1) The Holy Bible, the Seven Sacraments, the Ten Commandments and the precepts of the Church are all meant to help us to practice corporal and spiritual works of charity (mercy), in this life so that we may become able to receive God’s love, our eternal reward of Heavenly bliss.

2) Sins of omission (in which, we fail to recognize those in need as our brothers and sisters in Christ, and we fail to serve them in love), are very serious matters leading us toward eternal punishment.

*In Christ,
Fr. Martin Vavrak - Pastor*