

Our Lady of the Sign
Byzantine Catholic Church

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Rev. Martin Vavrak

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Website



Contribute

Fr. Deacon Michael Opalka

Mr. Jon Cipyak, IV & 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 & ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

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

Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday of the Fathers of the
Seventh Ecumenical Council**
EPISTLE 2nd Corinthians 9: 6-11
GOSPEL Luke 7: 11-16

Sanctuary Candle:
Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

Saturday, October 11, 2025, 5:00 p.m.
Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

Sunday, October 12, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
+Barbara Butkerait
by Laura and Scott Snyder

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...

TODAY WE BEGIN OUR PILGRIM VOCATION ICON PROGRAM! Today we begin our Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program! This program is beginning today in every Byzantine Catholic parish in the United States. Everyone in the parish is invited to pray for and encourage others within the Church that they might respond generously to God’s call in their lives. God relies on generous men and women to minister among us as priests, deacons, monks, and nuns. The Church needs people like you to pray for and encourage them. Sign up today to have the Pilgrim Vocation Icon “The Call of the Disciples” in your home for one week. You will be greatly blessed.

Please sign up on the sheet that is posted at the coffee station. For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Fr. Martin or Fred.

2025 HOLIDAY FOOD BANK DONATIONS At Our Lady of the Sign Church, we believe that faith calls us to serve the least among us. This season, we're partnering with The Greek Catholic Union to help feed the homeless and families struggling to put food on their tables. No one should go to bed hungry. Through your generosity, we can live out Christ's teaching to "feed the hungry" and be His hands in our neighborhood. Together, we can turn compassion into action. *"For I was hungry and you gave me food..." - Matthew 25:35*

A collection basket will be placed in the back of the church over the next five-weeks, and the GCU will generously match the total of our final collection, up to \$500.00. All monies collected will be presented to Our Father’s House Soup Kitchen, which is a local not for profit based in Pompano

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.

Pastoral Message

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

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Catholics bless animals mainly as a way of recognizing God as the Creator of all life and affirming that animals, too, are part of God’s good creation. This practice is most often associated with the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi (October 4), since Saint Francis is the patron saint of animals and ecology.

Here are the main reasons why Catholics bless animals:

AFFIRMING GOD’S CREATION

- The blessing acknowledges that animals are part of God’s creation, entrusted to human care.
- It’s a reminder of humanity’s responsibility to be good stewards of the earth and treat animals with kindness.

CONNECTION WITH SAINT FRANCIS

- Saint Francis (1181–1226) had a deep love for all creatures, seeing them as brothers and sisters reflecting God’s glory.
- Blessing animals on his feast day recalls his spirituality and care for even the smallest parts of creation.

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION AND HEALTH

- Just as Catholics bless homes, food, or religious objects, animals are blessed so that God’s care and protection may be upon them.
- Pets are companions to many families, so praying for their health acknowledges the comfort they bring to human lives.

PASTORAL AND COMMUNITY DIMENSION

- The ceremony is a pastoral moment: it draws people together, deepens their faith, and shows the Church cares about all aspects of life—even their beloved pets.

SYMBOL OF PEACE AND HARMONY

- It expresses the hope for a world where humans and creation live together in harmony, as envisioned in the Bible (“the wolf shall dwell with the lamb...” Isaiah 11:6).

So, when Catholics line up with their dogs, cats, birds, or even farm animals for a blessing, it’s not superstition—it’s a way of expressing gratitude to God, honoring Saint Francis, and recognizing animals as gifts of creation.

*In Christ,
Fr. Martin Vavrak - Pastor*

Announcements and Reminders

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 This week you will notice beautiful blue vestments and altar lines as we celebrate and honor the Theotokos. If you would like to make a special contribution in honor or in remembrance of a loved one, please see Fred. A plaque will be displayed in the vestibule notating all who contribute. In addition to the blue set, other colors available to contribute towards include Red, Gold, White, and Green.

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.
- ❖ The Guild is happy to announce their annual **ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** will be held on Sunday, December 7, from 3-6 p.m., at Parkland Golf and Country Club.
 - Tickets are \$40.00 per adult, and \$20.00 per child
 - Ticket includes: Italian buffet lunch, soda, coffee or tea, and pastry
 - Tickets for beer and wine are also available for \$15.00 per drink
 - All tickets (food and drink) must be purchased in advance, and seating is limited
 - See Mike Donegan, Frank Wilson, or David Wilson to purchase your ticket
 - The final day to purchase tickets is November 23, no exceptions
 - See Mike Donegan or Susan Scotts with any questions
- ❖ The Guild is also having a **50/50 RAFFLE!** Tickets will be sold after each liturgy before the St. Nicholas Luncheon. You do not need to be present at the luncheon to win. Tickets are available at the coffee station, and the tally each week will be posted on the bulletin board.

O Mary, Mother of our God

MOTHER OF GOD

1. O Mar - y, Moth - er of our God, Most Pure — One,
2. O Most Pure One, you were en - throned as heav - en's Queen.

In - ter - cede for us be - fore our Lord and God, your Son.
E - ven an - gels bow to you and hold you in es - teem.

Robed in ra - di - ance, more than all the stars a - bove,
Ho - ly vir - gin Queen, made so by God's love.

Text: English translation of *O Marije, Mati Boža, Prečista* by Fr. William Levkulin
Melody text: traditional

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

The following is an outline to use with the Green Hymnal.
Opening Hymn and Liturgical Propers are found in the bulletin.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 75:12,2)

Make vows to the Lord your God, to the Lord your God and ful-fill them,
and ful - fill them.

Verse: God is known in Judah; in Israel his name is great.

Alleluia (Psalm 94:1,2)

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - - - ia! Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Verse: Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us acclaim God our Savior.

Verse: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving, and let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

Communion Hymn for Sunday (Psalm 148:1): (music found on pages 78-81)
Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the highest. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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	55	Anaphora
22	Third Antiphon	56 Melody A	Holy, Holy, Holy
25	Entrance Hymn		Take, eat... PROFOUND BOW
See bulletin	Troparion SIT		Drink of this... PROFOUND BOW
See bulletin	Kontakion	60 Melody F	We praise you...
27	Thrice-holy Hymn STAND	62	It is truly proper...
See bulletin	Prokeimenon	63-65	Preparation of Communion SIT
	Epistle SIT	74	Our Father STAND
See bulletin	Alleluia STAND	81 Melody F	Communion Hymns
35	Preparation for Gospel	83	We have seen...
	Gospel	84	May our mouth... SIT
	Homily SIT	87	Arise! Now that we... STAND
35-37	Litany of Fervent Supplication	88 Melody A	Blessed be the name...
47 Melody F	Cherubikon STAND	454 Melody A	Beneath your Compassion

Readings

EPISTLE
2nd Corinthians 6: 16-7: 1 You are the temple of the living God, just as God has said: “I will dwell with them and walk among them. I will be their God and they shall be my people. Therefore, ‘Come out from among them and separate yourselves from them,’ says the Lord; ‘and touch nothing unclean. I will welcome you and be a father to you and you will be my sons and daughters,’ says the Lord Almighty.” Since we have these promises, beloved, let us purify ourselves from every defilement of flesh and spirit, and in the fear of God strive to fulfill our consecration perfectly.

GOSPEL
Luke 6: 31-36 The Lord said, “Do to others what you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, how can you claim any credit? Sinners do as much. If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what merit is there in it for you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. Love your enemy and do good; lend without expecting repayment. Then will your recompense be great. You will rightly be called sons of the Most High, since he himself is good to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be compassionate, as your Father is compassionate.”

Opening Hymn:

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1. Do un - to oth - ers what you would have them do.
2. Love all your en - e - mies though their love is small;
3. "My grace shall be e - nough for you, all your days.

Lov - ing on - ly those who love you? Where's the cred - it due?
Give your help to all who need, and God will bless it all.
For when you are weak, the pow'r of Christ fills all your ways."

Refrain

Be com - pas - sion - ate As your Fa - ther is to you:

Chil - dren of our God, this we all must do!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Luke 6: 31-36 (vv. 1-2), 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9 (v. 3)
Melody: *O Marije Mati Boža / O Mary, Mother of our God* (traditional)

ORDINARY SUNDAY IN TONE 8

Troparion of the Resurrection - *Tone 8*

You de - scend - ed from on high, O mer - ci - ful One. You ac - cept - ed
bur - i - al for three days to free us from our pas - sions. O Lord, our
Res - ur - rec - tion and our Life, glo - - - ry to you.

Cantor

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, now and ever and
for - ev - er. A - men.

Kontakion of the Resurrection - *Tone 8*

Ris - ing from the grave, you raised the dead. You lift - ed up Ad - am,
and Eve rejoices in your res - ur - rec - tion. The whole world cel - ebrates your
resurrec - tion from the dead, O Most Mer - ci - ful One.