

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

## ~ LITURGY SCHEDULE ~

### Pentecost Sunday w/Fifth All Souls Panachida

EPISTLE Acts 2: 1-11  
GOSPEL John 7: 37-52 & 8: 12

**Saturday, May 23, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**

For the Faithful of the Parish

**Sunday, May 24, 2026, 10:00 a.m.**

+Rose Mary Monito  
by Susan Scotts

*Sanctuary Candle:*

*Health & Blessing of Fina Gonzalez & Raul Gonzalez*

### Moleben to the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

**Wednesday, May 27, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**

### Sunday of All Saints

EPISTLE Hebrews 11: 32-12: 2a  
GOSPEL Matthew 10: 32-33, 37-38 & 19: 27-30

**Saturday, May 30, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**

Health & Blessing of Anna Vavrak  
by F. Wilson Family

*Sanctuary Candle:*

*Health & Blessing of Fina Gonzalez & Raul Gonzalez*

**Sunday, May 31, 2026, 10:00 a.m.**

+Nick Stefanyshyn  
by Alexandra Stefanyshyn

### 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, 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 ~

**WHY GREEN?** On the feast of Pentecost, the Byzantine Catholic Church clothes herself in green, not only as decoration, but as a living proclamation of faith. Green is the color of life, of growth, of things that flourish when touched by breath and light. When the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, He did not come quietly. He came as rushing wind and tongues of fire, and where He touched, dead souls became living witnesses. The Church was in that moment, made new. When the clergy vest in green on Pentecost, it is as if to say, we believe the Spirit still moves, and that we are not merely remembering an event from two thousand years ago. Let the green remind you that you too have been breathed upon. You are not dry wood. You are a living branch, grafted into the vine that cannot die.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS** Join us Wednesday evening for a very special prayer service to the Theotokos, the patron and protector of our church. The service is under 40-minutes, and offers a way to ground ourselves during the busy weekday hustle.

**CONGRATULATIONS** We are excited to announce Clayton and Gabby have graduated university with degrees in architecture. Your extended family at OLOS wishes you both heartfelt congratulations!

**BISHOP'S APPEAL** The annual Bishop's Appeal is drawing to a close, with May 31 being the final day to submit contributions. If you would like to contribute, checks should be issued to "Eparchy of Passaic" and can be placed in the collection basket. We will take care of the mailing. If you have contributed already, thank you!

**PARISHIONER DIRECTORY & PHONE TREE** Forms confirming contact information etc. are due by May 31. For those who have not submitted a picture for the directory, we will take pictures on May 30 and 31.

**BULLETIN** As you browse this week's bulletin, you will undoubtedly notice formatting changes. The Greek Catholic Union (GCU) has generously offered to donate the bulletin paper for the second half of 2026, which will provide our parish with a savings of roughly \$150.00. Please see the back of the bulletin for information of their services. Take note of the following:

- The bulletin is printed on Wednesday. If you have an announcement you'd like to post, it must be submitted prior to Wednesday.
- Names posted on the Prayer List will be updated the first of each month. If you would like continued prayers for a loved one, no problem! Simply send an email.
- To ensure all requests are received, all announcements, prayer requests, etc. should be sent to Fred via email, not text.

## ~ 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 ~

Pentecost Monday  
WHO ARE EVERYWHERE  
By Fr. Basil Stroyen

"Why a Holy Spirit? Why can't I just talk to God directly?" This was the question an inquirer asked, trying to understand the grand Mystery of the Trinity. There is no such thing as a silly question. To understand we must ask.

But how do we explain the most Mysterious in the Mystery of the Trinity, since He hides Himself so well? It is not so hard to imagine the Father because of His very name, even though the image that arises of a good and powerful Old Man does not really describe the One Who is the Source of Divinity. The Son made it easy for us to imagine Him because He became a historic Person well described in the Gospels.

But how do we describe someone Who appears as a Bird, as a Flame or as Wind? It is the nature and the mission of the Holy Spirit to not show Himself, but rather to show, proclaim and represent the Son, just as the Son represents the Father. Perhaps it would be best to simply say that the very act of putting this question is a sign that the Spirit is already present in a mysterious way in the one who questions. Without Him there would be neither questions nor answers regarding the immense mysteries of life and the universe. The Holy Spirit is God who lives in us - in each being who asks, who answers and who tries to understand and live the mysteries of existence as the prayer of Pentecost puts it, He is the One "who is everywhere present and fills all things."

### Day of the Holy Spirit

The feast in honor of the Holy Spirit, "one of the Trinity of God, one in honor, one in essence and one in glory with the Father and the Son" is celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost. This feast has been established by the Church "for the majesty of the Most Holy and Life-creating Spirit, for He is one of the Holy and Life-originating Trinity", in reaction to the teaching of the heretics who rejected the divinity of the Holy Spirit and that He is equal-in-honor with God the Father and the God the Son. "The Holy Spirit", as it says in the Synaxarion, "is called the Comforter because He can encourage and calm us; we received Him "in place of Christ" and through Christ we have Him; He intercedes before God for us with unspeakable sighs as the Lover of mankind, interceding for us in exactly the same way as Christ, for He is the Comforter. Therefore the Holy Spirit is called the other Comforter; wherefore the Apostle says: we have the Comforter Jesus before God. He is called according to the unity in essence; wherefore in one sense "one and the other" we understand identical and consubstantial, and the words: "one and the other" is about various natures. This Holy Spirit is one with the Father and the Son in everything; He therefore accomplishes everything with Them, even the future resurrection, and everything that He wants, He creates, sanctifies, divides, renews, sends, makes wise, anoints the prophets, and briefly to say: does everything, being all-powerful, omnipotent, good, correct, and reigning. Through him is granted every wisdom, life, activity, as He is the source of sanctification and all life. In general He has everything that Father and the Son has "except for being unbegotten and begotten", proceeding only from the Father <sup>1)</sup>). When the Holy Spirit was poured out on all flesh, then the world was filled with every kind

*Pastoral message continued...*

of gift, and through Him all peoples were guided to the knowledge of God, and both any illness and any infirmity are driven out" 2).

The Leave-taking of Pentecost and the feast in honor of the Holy Spirit falls on the following Saturday. During the entire week after the feast of Pentecost, including Wednesday and Friday, it is permitted to eat meat, therefore this week is called fast free or all foods. This week is devoted in honor of the Holy Spirit, as the Paschal Week was in honor of the Son of God, and the decision not to fast is in accordance with the Church that confesses that the Holy Spirit is one in honor to Father and the Son.

Rev. Martin Vavrak  
Pastor

### ~ PENTECOST SUNDAY ~

*The following is an outline to use with the Green Hymnal.*

Page Number		Page Number	
11-13	Enarxis & Litany of Peace <b>SIT</b>	49-50	For the precious gifts...
203	First & Second Antiphons	53 Melody B	Creed
18 Melody A	Hymn of the Incarnation <b>STAND</b>	56 Melody A	Holy, Holy, Holy
204	Third Antiphon		Take, eat... <b>PROFOUND BOW</b>
205	Entrance Hymn		Drink of this... <b>PROFOUND BOW</b>
204	Troparion <b>SIT</b>	60 Melody F	We praise you...
205	Kontakion	206	Instead of "It is truly proper..."
32	All you who have been... <b>STAND</b>	63-65	Preparation of Communion <b>SIT</b>
206	Prokeimenon	74	Our Father <b>STAND</b>
	Epistle <b>SIT</b>	208	Communion Hymn
207	Alleluia <b>STAND</b>	83	We have seen...
35	Preparation for Gospel	84	May our mouth... <b>SIT</b>
	Gospel	87	Arise! Now that we... <b>STAND</b>
	Homily <b>SIT</b>	88 Melody A	Blessed be the name...
35-37	Litany of Fervent Supplication	432	Panachida
47 Melody F	Cherubikon <b>STAND</b>	454 Melody A	Beneath your Compassion

### ~ HYMNS ~

*First by priest, then people respond x2*

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life, come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O gracious One. (pg. 203)

*O Holy Spirit, mighty defender*

- Holy Spirit, mighty defender, to all who love you, comfort you give. Everywhere present, fountain of virtues, without your kindness, no one could live.
- Holy Spirit, treasury of blessings, come as was promised, lifegiving Flame. Come, dwell within us, quicken our cool hearts, strengthen our purpose, to praise your name.
- Carju nebesnyj, Bože mohučij, Ty Ut'išitel', duch pravdy Ty, Iže vezd'I syn i vsevidučij, tvojeji laski nam nizposli.

### ~ READINGS ~

EPISTLE

Acts 2: 1-11

When the day of Pentecost came it found the Apostles gathered in one place. Suddenly from up in the sky there came a noise like a strong, driving wind which was heard all through the house where they were seated. Tongues as of fire appeared, which parted and came to rest on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to express themselves in foreign tongues and make bold proclamations as the Spirit prompted them. Staying in Jerusalem at the time were devout Jews of every nation under heaven. These heard the sound, and assembles in a large crowd. They were much confused because each one heard these men speaking his own language. The whole occurrence astonished them. They asked in utter amazement, "Are not all of these men who are speaking Galileans? How is it that each of us hears them in his native tongue? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites. We live in Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pantus, the province of Aisa, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt, and the regions of Libya around Cyrene. There are even visitors from Rome – all Jews, or those who have come over to Judaism; Cretans, and Arabs too. Yet each of us hears them speaking in his own tongue about the marvels God has accomplished."

GOSPEL

John 7: 37-52 & 8: 12

On the last and greatest day of the feast of Booths, Jesus stood up and cried out: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me; let him drink who believes in me. Scripture has it: 'From within him rivers of living water shall flow.' " Here he was referring to the Spirit, whom those that came to believe in him were to receive. There was, of course, no Spirit as yet, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. Some in the crowd who heard these words began to say, "This must be the Prophet." Others were claiming, "He is the Messiah." But an objection was raised: "Surely the Messiah is not to come from Galilee? Does not Scripture say that the Messiah, being of David's family, it to come from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?" In this fashion the crowd was sharply divided over Jesus. Some of them even wanted to apprehend him. However, no one laid hands on him. When the temple guards came back, the chief priests and Pharisees asked them, "Why did you not bring him in?" The guards replied, "No man ever spoke like that before." The Pharisees retorted, "Do not tell us you too have been taken in! You do not see any of the Sanhedrin believing in him, do you? Or the Pharisees" Only this lot, that knows nothing about the law – and they are lost anyway!" One of their own number, Nicodemus (the man who had come to Jesus [by night]), spoke up to say, "Since when does our law condemn any man without first hearing him and knowing the facts?" They taunted him: "Do not tell us you are a Galilean too! Look it up. You will not find the Prophet coming from Galilee." • Jesus spoke to the people once again: "I am the light of the world. No follower of mine shall ever walk in darkness; no, he shall possess the light of life."