

*Our Lady of the Sign  
Byzantine Catholic Church*

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**Rev. Martin Vavrak**

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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 after Theophany**  
EPISTLE Ephesians 4: 7-13  
GOSPEL Mark 4: 12-17

*Sanctuary Candle:  
Health & Blessing of the Parish Family*

**Saturday, January 10, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**  
Typika Psalm Service

**Sunday, January 11, 2026, 10:00 a.m.**  
Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

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**Vespers**

**Tuesday, January 14, 2026, 6:00 p.m.**

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**Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sunday of Zacchaeus**  
EPISTLE 1st Timothy 4: 9-15  
GOSPEL Luke 19: 1-10

*Sanctuary Candle:  
Health & Blessing of the Parish Family*

**Saturday, January 17, 2026**  
No services

**Sunday, January 18, 2026, 10:00 a.m.**  
Health & Blessing of the Parish Family

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**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, 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.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT VESPERS** Starting this week, instead of Divine Liturgy on Wednesday evenings we will celebrate Vespers. The weekly Vespers service stands as one of the Church's most ancient and contemplative acts of worship. As evening falls and we gather to mark the transition from day to night, we participate in a rhythm of prayer that has sustained Christian communities for nearly two millennia. In the Byzantine tradition,

Vespers is not merely a brief devotion but a rich liturgical experience that invites us to pause and recollect ourselves before God. Through its psalms, hymns, and incense, we acknowledge both the day that has passed and the approaching darkness, recognizing in this natural cycle a deeper spiritual reality – that Christ is the Light who conquers all darkness, including the darkness of sin and death.

The weekly gathering for Vespers offers something increasingly rare in our hurried world: intentional stillness. It calls us away from the noise and demands of daily life into a sacred space where time itself seems to slow. Here, standing together in prayer, we join our voices with generations of faithful who have offered this same evening sacrifice of praise. Perhaps most significantly, Vespers reminds us that our faith is not meant to be lived only on Sunday mornings. By returning to prayer together during the week, we weave our worship more fully into the fabric of ordinary time, sanctifying not just the Lord's Day but every day, transforming the mundane into the holy. The Vespers service lasts under an hour, so consider taking time away during your busy week to join us in prayer.

*Pastoral Message*

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

**Sunday After Theophany**  
*Commentary:* St. Augustine

The gospel tells us that some people were rebuked by the Lord because, clever as they were at reading the face of the sky, they could not recognize the time for faith when the kingdom of heaven was at hand. It was the Jews who received this reprimand, but it has also come down to us. The Lord Jesus began his preaching of the gospel with the admonition: *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.* His forerunner, John the Baptist, began his in the same way: *Repent, he said, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.* Today, for those who will not repent at the approach of the kingdom of heaven, the reproof of the Lord Jesus is the same. As he points out himself. *You cannot expect to see the kingdom of heaven coming. The kingdom of heaven, he says elsewhere, is within you.*

Each of us would be wise therefore to take to heart the advice of his teacher, and not waste this present time. It is now that our Savior offers us his mercy; now, while he still spares the human race. Understand that it is in hope of our conversion that he spares us, for he desires no one's damnation. As for when the end of the world will be, that is God's concern. Now is the time for faith. Whether any of us here present will see the end of the world I know not; very likely none of us will. Even so, the time is very near for each of us, for we are mortal. There are hazards all around us. We should be in less danger from them were we made of glass. What is more fragile than a vessel of glass? And yet it can be kept safe and last indefinitely. Of course it is exposed to accidents, but it is not liable to old age and the suffering it brings. We therefore are the more frail and infirm. In our weakness we are haunted by fears of all the calamities that regularly befall the human race, and if no such calamity overtakes us, still, time marches on. We may evade the blows of fortune, but shall we evade death? We may escape perils from without but shall we escape what comes from within us? Now, suddenly, we may be attacked by any malady. And if we are spared? Even so, old age comes at last, and nothing will delay it. *(Sermon 709. 7: PL 38. 636)*

*In Christ,  
Fr. Martin Vavrak - Pastor*