



Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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Parish Councils: Father Steven, Fr. Deacon James, Fr. Deacon Michael

Pastoral: Gina Bridges, Julie Leggin, Mike Madrigal, Dennis Reidy, Dave Spontak

Finance: Carol Evanco, John Fuchko, Paul Hickel

September 18, 2016

Divine Liturgy	Saturday, 5:30 PM · Sunday, 10:00 AM · Holy Days, 7:30 PM
Confessions	Saturday, 4:30-5:00 PM · Sunday, 9:00-9:30 AM
Collection	September 10-11, 2016: \$2,465.00 . Thank you for your generosity.

Holy Mysteries of Christian Initiation During the Sunday Divine Liturgy today, the parish family welcomes a new child of God, **Fiona Marie Madrigal**, the daughter of Michael and Karen Madrigal and new baby sister of Liam, Brendan and Patrick.



The word “Mystery” is used in the Eastern Christian Churches to denote what is known in Western Christianity as a Sacrament. It is through the Mysteries of Initiation that a person is joined to the Body of Christ; they are the vessels of our mystical participation in divine grace. We as Byzantine Catholics administer Holy Baptism, Chrismation and Eucharist to newborns and to all who come into the Church who have not been previously baptized.

It is through the **Mystery of Baptism** that the remission of sins and the union with Christ is effected; this is clearly affirmed in the Nicene Creed when we profess “we acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins”. It is in this first mystery of initiation that we are united to Christ and raised together with Him in the likeness of His Resurrection. We are made new creatures in Him.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death...For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:3-5)

In the **Mystery of Chrismation** (also called Confirmation in the Roman Catholic Church) which immediately follows Baptism, the infant or candidate is anointed with holy oil, similar to how the

priests in the Old Testament were anointed. It is through Chrismation that our initiation into the Church is sealed and we become indwelt by the Holy Spirit; this empowers all believers to serve as priests in God’s Kingdom and equips them with the Holy Spirit to grow in their spiritual life. If Baptism is our personal Resurrection, Chrismation is our personal Pentecost.

But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; He has put his seal upon us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (2 Cor. 1:21-22)

The **Holy Eucharist** is the culmination and perfection of every Mystery (Sacrament). It is the center of our life and the primary means by which we believers are united to Christ and nourished by his Body and Blood. Thus, the newly baptized infant receives for the very first time as a full member of God’s Holy Church the precious Body and Blood of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ and partakes of the Divine nature.

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:53-56)



Welcome Fiona Marie. Your life journey is about to begin a new and exciting chapter as a disciple of Christ who really does make all things new! God grant you many blessed and happy years.

Sunday School and Adult Education. Sunday School for grades 1-8 will begin Sunday, October 2 following Divine Liturgy and will run until November 20; Adult Education will also follow the same schedule so parents can attend Deacon Michael’s classes on the Divine Liturgy.

Liturgy Intentions. To have a Divine Liturgy or *Panachida* served for your intentions, please email the parish office (epiphanybyzantinechurch@gmail.com) stating the name of the person(s) to be remembered, whether living or deceased, or the specific intention; please indicate the date you wish to have the service offered and any details which may be helpful. Every effort will be made to honor specific date requests. You will then be advised by return email of the date and time. It is customary to make an offering for a Divine Liturgy.



Parish Census. Please remember to complete the 2016 Census (front and back) as soon as possible and leave it in the designated box in the narthex. It is very important that our parish records be up to date. We will continue the census until October 10.

Icon Project. There are still a few icons available if you wish to contribute to the icon fund or towards the purchase of necessary liturgical items for the Altar and Holy Table. Please see Father Deacon Michael for details. The icons have all been ordered and should be here in about six weeks. God bless you for your continued generosity for our parish needs and expenses.