



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 25, 2016

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| 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 17-18, 2016: \$1,475.50 . Thank you for your generosity. |



Feast Day of the Holy Protection of the Theotokos

This Saturday, October 1, the Church commemorates the appearance of the most holy Theotokos in Constantinople in the early sixth century. While the faithful were gathered in church during a barbarian invasion, Epiphanius, through his prayers to Saint Andrew, beheld the Blessed Virgin Mary above the faithful as she spread out her veil over them. After the appearance of the Mother of God, the danger was averted and the city was spared from bloodshed and suffering. The miraculous appearance of our Lady signifies her unceasing protection of all Christians, our homes, our churches and our families. Because of this we keep a yearly feast of gratitude, imploring our Lady never to cease sheltering us in her mighty prayers.

Since the early days, the Church has always glorified the Most Holy Mother of God as the Protectress and Defender of the Christian people, entreating, by her intercession, God's loving-kindness towards us sinners. **To honor our Lady on one of the most beloved feasts of the liturgical year, all are encouraged to devote the day to the Mother of God and especially to pray as a Byzantine Catholic family for her continued intercession and protection.**



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; after that time, a new parish directory will be published.

Eastern Christian Formation

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called--his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. Ephesians 1:18



Next Sunday, October 2, following the Divine Liturgy, we will begin our fall session of **Eastern Christian Formation** for children and adults. It will run through Sunday, November 20.

God has laid up spiritual blessings for us in the Lord Jesus; but He requires us to draw upon them and incorporate them into our lives by being well-informed disciples. The Church's catechetical mission aims to help the faithful of all ages to grow in both human and Christian maturity, enriching the whole of life with the leaven of the Gospel. In response to God's call to holiness, our faith and life as Jesus' disciples is grounded in developing a personal *relationship with Jesus*, "the Holy One of God" (Jn 6:69, Mk 1:24). At the heart of Eastern Christian Formation we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth and we are united with Him.

The Church has always held education in the faith, particularly of children, in the highest regard. Parents in particular have both the honor and the mission of ensuring their children pray and discover their vocation as children of God as well as being taught from an early age the mysteries of faith. Since the parish is the Eucharistic community of faith and the heart of the liturgical life, it also is the privileged place for catechesis. All parents are urged to ensure that their children actively participate in our Sunday School program each week.



As with Sunday School, the goal of Adult Education is to help adults better understand the mysteries of faith in order to grow in Christ, to become effective disciples of His Church as informed Byzantine Catholics, and, as Saint Paul, to experience a true conversion to the Lord.

While the children are in School Father Deacon Michael will teach adult (high school and above) classes on the **Divine Liturgy, The Fountain of Immortality**. Undoubtedly, the central aspect of Eastern Christian life is the Divine Liturgy. By understanding its profound meaning and symbolism, we experience the true reality of "Heaven on Earth". For Byzantine Catholics, the very being and life of the Church consists of the Liturgy, because the very being of the Church is liturgical and her very life is Eucharistic. We understand that worshipping God is not an option but necessary for our salvation. It is not just worship; it is direct communion with Christ God Himself. It is through the Divine Liturgy that we discover the presence of the Risen Christ in our very lives and participate with Him in the divine nature of the Most Blessed Trinity.



We hope all parishioners, high school and above, will spend a little extra time on Sundays at Epiphany to participate in these all important classes in Christian Formation.