



# Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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## February 12, 2017 + Sunday of the Prodigal Son

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	Last week: <b>\$1,623.00</b> . God bless you for your generosity.
Capital Campaign	Pledges to Date: <b>\$16,412.00</b> · Received to Date: <b>\$15,577.00</b>

### Thought for the Week...



*Our faith is more than a theory about the universe, more than teachings written down on paper; rather our faith is a path along which we journey—in the deepest and richest sense, it is not just what we believe but it is truly our way of life. Modern man has for the most part lost touch with the truest and highest aspect of himself; and the result of this inward alienation can be seen all too plainly in his restlessness, his lack of religious identity, his compromise in liturgical authenticity. The Divine Liturgy is the most central aspect of our existence for it is the worship of God. We must never allow man to be deprived of the authentic liturgical expression of his faith since this will lead ultimately to his loss of hope.*

**All Souls Saturday.** Since the 9<sup>th</sup> century, the Church has prescribed five Saturdays throughout the liturgical year as a time to commemorate our faithful departed; this is a time to implore God to give them eternal rest since, according to the Scriptures, to enter into God's rest means to join Him in an eternal life of happiness. This Lent we are restoring this venerable practice of the Church to our parish. **On Saturday, February 18, 2017, the first All Souls Saturday of this liturgical year, the Divine Liturgy for the Departed will be celebrated at 10:00 AM for the deceased members of our families.** At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, a *Panachida* will be served during which all the names of our faithful departed are read aloud and prayed for. Following the memorial service, a specially prepared ritual dish of wheat, honey, fruit and nuts called *koliva* is

blessed and shared by all. If you have not already submitted the names of those deceased members of your family whom you wish to be remembered, please be sure to see the Deacons today after Liturgy. By our presence and by our personal prayers, almsgiving and receiving Holy Communion at this Liturgy we strengthen the bond of love with our departed loved ones and indeed keep their memory everlasting! It is of great consolation for us, the surviving friends and relatives of our faithful departed, to be able to help them and thus remain united to them by a bond of everlasting love. Please try to attend the All Souls Saturday at our parish on **February 18 at 10:00AM.**

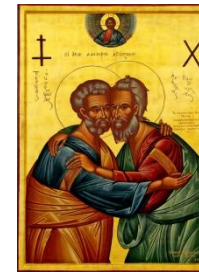


## Faith & Fellowship

**Meatfare and Cheesefare Sundays.** As is our custom here at Epiphany, we prepare ourselves as a family and Christian community for the holy season of the Great Fast with our parish observance of both **Meatfare** (Sunday of the Last Judgment) on **February 19** and **Cheesefare** (Sunday of Forgiveness) on **February 26**. The Great Fast begins Monday, February 27, a day of strict fast and abstinence. **Be sure to sign-up in the narthex to bring your favorite pre-Lenten dish and share Christian fellowship and our pot-luck luncheons.**

*Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.* Psalm 133:1

**Catholic-Orthodox Ecumenical Gathering.** On Monday, **March 6 at 7:00 PM** at the Cathedral of Christ the King (2699 Peachtree Road N.E.) His Excellency, Most Reverend Wilton D.



Gregory, Catholic Archbishop of Atlanta and His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta will offer a joint address on the theme: **"Sowing the Seeds of Hope: The Plight of Refugees and Migrants"**. Our parish, as well as all Eastern Churches in Atlanta, has been invited to this important annual event. This is not only a wonderful occasion to share in an ecumenical dialogue of Christian values as one Body of Christ, but it is also an extraordinary opportunity to make our Eastern presence known in the Atlanta area. Please see Deacon Candidate John Reed for more details and for information on car pooling from the church.

**Adult Education.** Our spring program, **Icons ... a Mystical Language** begins on **March 5**, the first Sunday of the Great Fast which commemorates the **Triumph of the Holy Images**. Icons are an integral part of Eastern Christian belief, tradition and worship. They are referred to as "theology in color" or "windows to the Kingdom"; they express the profound truths of our faith as handed down from the Apostles. Icons are indispensable tools to aid us in our prayer life, spiritual growth and the understanding of our faith. It is for this reason that we have adorned the walls of God's temple with the icons of our Lord, His Holy Mother, the Angels and Saints. To grasp their power and meaning takes study. However, with the right tools, icons serve as a powerful devotional resource that we as Eastern Christians can turn to again and again in prayer. Please join Father Deacon Michael on the Sundays of the Great Fast following the Divine Liturgy as he takes us on a unique journey through the mystical language of icons.

Together in the Holy Trinity ... One Faith, One Church, One Future!