

# Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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**July 30, 2017 + 8th Sunday after Pentecost: Tone 7**

<b>Divine Liturgy</b>	Saturday, 5:30 PM · Sunday, 10:00 AM · Holy Days, 7:30 PM
<b>Confessions</b>	Saturday, 4:30-5:00 PM · Sunday, 9:00-9:30 AM
<b>Collection</b>	Last week: <b>\$1,967.00</b> . God bless you for your continued generosity.
<b>Sunday Readings</b>	1 Corinthians 1:10-18 + Matthew 14:14-22
<b>Sacramental Needs</b>	Please call Fr. Deacon James 770-993-0973 or 404-227-5401

## The Light of the East ...

*"The value of fasting consists not in abstinence from food, but in withdrawing from sinful practices; since he who limits his fasting only to an abstinence from meats, is one who especially disparages it. Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works! For let not the mouth only fast, but also the eye, and the ear, and the feet, and the hands, and all the members of our bodies."*

Saint John Chrysostom (Homily 3, *On the Statues*)

**Altar Lamp.** During the month of August, the Altar Lamp burns continuously before Our Lord in memory of +Linda Goodloe, the mother of Susan Russo, and +Mary Ellen Evan, Nick Russo's aunt. May their memory be eternal.



**Eastern Christian Formation.** Parents, please sign your children up for **Sunday School** in the narthex as we will need to order materials and arrange classes. We will offer two-9 week sessions as approved by the Eparchy beginning in mid-September. We are hoping to be able to offer classes for preK-8th grade. We are also in need of teachers. If interested, please see Father Deacon James, Father Deacon Michael or Karen Madrigal for more details. Student texts and teacher's manuals with activities are provided, making planning minimal. Please offer your time to share your love of Christ and His Church in order to help the children of our parish grow in their Byzantine Catholic faith.

**Parish Life Activity.** Today is the last day to sign up in the narthex to join the guided tour of the **Andy Warhol** exhibit at Atlanta's High Museum of Art on **Saturday, August 19** at 10:00 AM. The admission is \$15.00 per person. For those interested, lunch is available at the museum.

**Dormition Fast.** Tuesday, **August 1** begins the **Dormition Fast**, a time of fasting and prayer in the Byzantine Church as preparation for the feast of the **Falling Asleep of the Mother of God**.

*What sacrifices we make, let them be sacrifices that transform us. They are not ends in and of themselves. They are tools by which we can become a little closer to God's image, a little closer to Christ's life.* (Saint John Chrysostom)

Every Eastern Christian is aware of the fasts for Pascha and Christmas, but few are truly aware of the **Dormition Fast**. The Byzantine Church since the 5th century has practiced a period of fasting prior to the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. This ancient custom has much to offer contemporary Christians. Christians of the East have always recognized the mystery of Our Lady's Dormition, her 'falling asleep' at the end of her natural life when in a miraculous way she was assumed into heaven to be with our Lord. The passage of the Mother of God from this life to life eternal is a cause for reflection for all Christians.



*"The Dormition fast was established in honor of the Mother of God; Who, foreknowing Her repose, ascetically labored and fasted for us as always, although She was holy and immaculate, and had no need for fasting. She especially prayed for us in preparation for being transported from this life to the future life, when Her blessed soul would be united through the Divine spirit with Her Son. Therefore, we also should fast and praise Her, emulating Her life, urging Her thereby to pray for us."* St. Symeon of Thessalonica

The traditional Dormition Fast calls for strict abstinence (all meat and dairy products) from August 1-14, with the usual mitigations for Saturday and Sunday. However, today most observe the modified fast through abstinence from meat and dairy on Wednesdays and Fridays, just like the Great Fast. We encourage all to observe this time of fasting.

**Transfiguration.** Next Sunday, **August 6** is the feast of the **Transfiguration of Our Lord**. Christ appeared, transformed in His divine glory, on Mount Tabor; a radiant light overshadowed Him and a voice from heaven was heard: *"This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!"* It is our tradition in the Eastern Catholic Church to commemorate this day with the blessing of fruits which represent the "metamorphosis" or "transformation" of the Christian into a new "creation". After each weekend Liturgy, we will have an anointing with holy oil, veneration of the icon of the feast and distribution of blessed fruit. All are also invited to bring a basket of fruit to Church to be blessed and to take home to celebrate the feast throughout the week.

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