

# Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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**August 27, 2017 + 12th Sunday after Pentecost (Tone 3)**

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>\$1,482.00</b> . God bless you for your continued generosity.
Sunday Readings	1 Corinthians 15:1-11 + Matthew 19:16-26
Sacramental Needs	Please call Fr. Deacon James 770-993-0973 or 404-227-5401

## *The Light of the East ...*

*"Leave the senses and the workings of the intellect, and all that the senses and the intellect can perceive, and all that is not and that is; and through unknowing reach out, so far as is possible, towards oneness with Him Who is beyond all being and knowledge. In this way, through an uncompromising, absolute and pure detachment from yourself and from all things, transcending all things and released from all, you will be led upwards towards that radiance of the divine darkness which is beyond all being."*

Saint Dionysius the Aeropagite



**Altar Server Training.** The first training session for all altar servers is Sunday, August 27 at 9:15 AM. It is an extreme privilege to stand so close to the Holy Table as our loving Savior, Jesus Christ, becomes truly present, body, blood, soul and divinity. Altar service is open to all males age 8 and above. Additional server trainings will follow. Please see Deacon James.

**Epiphany's History.** To highlight our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on October 1 we plan to create a presentation of Epiphany's history here in Roswell. Any parishioners who have photographs, articles, issues of the ECL which highlight our parish, and other items of interest are invited to share them with Reader John Reed; all items will be returned.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A SPECIAL DAY!  
**Founders Day, Sunday October 1, 2017: Our 40th Anniversary**  
+ + + HONORING OUR PAST ... BUILDING OUR FUTURE! + + +

**Eastern Christian Formation.** Parents, please register your children for **Sunday School**; the sign-up sheet is in the narthex. There will be two-9 week sessions for preK-8th grade. We are also in need of teachers; please see Karen Madrigal for more details.

**Holy Day: Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.** This Tuesday, August 29, is the commemoration of the martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist; while this is not a holy day of precept ("obligation"), **it is a day of fast for all Byzantine Catholics.**



Self-knowledge is the greatest of all the spiritual gifts. St. John knew who he was. He was the Forerunner, the last prophet of the coming Messiah, that is, of the Old Testament. Most of all he knew who he was not. He was not the Messiah. We remember John's martyrdom as an end, but also as a beginning. Endings do not close doors, they open doors. John finished his course just as the public ministry of Jesus began. There was no more need for a forerunner. The Messiah had come. The Baptist brought a message of repentance based on the Law of Moses, but Jesus calls us to a deeper repentance based on Grace and Truth. It is not simply repentance of deeds, but of intentions; a transforming repentance that reaches from the exterior to the interior, to the deepest levels of human being, conscious and unconscious. If our spiritual practice is not

leading us to a deepening and daily transformation from the inside out, then it is weak and ineffectual. If so, it is a sign that we have missed the message of the Gospel and must be open to seeing anew what we thought we understood. The spiritual life is a continual movement from death to life, from darkness to light, from turmoil to peace. There is a path from sin and the misery it causes available to us, but it is a road that demands our all. **We are not called by the Lord to simply give all that we have, but to give all that we are.** That includes everything, bad, good and indifferent on every level of human consciousness. As St. Isaac also reminds us, the human heart is an infinitely deep chasm filled with angels and demons. To ascend to heaven is to descend into its depths and allow the light of Christ to penetrate each and every corner to cast out the demons and to welcome the angels.

**In observance of the feast, it is our Byzantine Catholic and time-honored tradition on this day not to eat food from a flat plate, to use a knife, or to eat food that is round in shape.**

**Through the prayers of the Forerunner John, O Christ, our God, have mercy on us!**

**Altar Lamp.** During the month of August, the Divine Presence Altar Lamp burns in memory of +Linda Goodloe, the mother of Susan Russo, and +Mary Ellen Evan, Nick Russo's aunt.

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