

Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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November 12, 2017 + 23rd Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 6

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: \$2,635.00 . God bless you for your continued generosity.
Sunday Readings	Ephesians 2:4-10 + Luke 10:25-37 (<i>Lucan Leap for 25th Sunday</i>)
Sacramental Needs	Please call Fr. Deacon James 770-993-0973 or 404-227-5401

Altar Lamp. During the month of November, the Altar Lamp burns before our Lord in the tabernacle for the family and friends of Randy and Karen Rapach.



The Light of the East ...

“And all this I say, not to depreciate fasting, God forbid, but rather highly to commend it. But I grieve when other duties being neglected, you think it enough for salvation, having but the last place in the choir of virtue. For the greatest thing is charity, and moderation, and almsgiving.”

Saint John Chrysostom, *Homily 46 on the Gospel of St. Matthew*

Saint Phillip Fast: November 15 – December 24. This coming Wednesday, the Byzantine Catholic Church begins its preparation for the great feast of the Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Often confused with the Roman Catholic observance of Advent, the time of the Phillip Fast is for forty days, beginning the day after the feast of Saint Phillip and ending on Christmas Eve. Its observance by Eastern Christians dates back to ancient times as the faithful prepared themselves for the Incarnation and Theophany of our Lord in order to better understand and appreciate all of God’s saving plan for all mankind.

All great things in life must be prepared for—we human beings can’t just casually “walk up to” significant events without readying ourselves for them. In the secular world the shopping season is at hand. Some people will spend it jostling for bargains; others will pass the time lamenting the

commercialization of Christmas. However, our Church urges us sanctify this pre-Nativity time by fasting, repentance, prayer and almsgiving.

We can observe Philip's Fast in our own way, by doing the same sorts of things we do during the Great Fast (Lent) — abstaining from meat (especially on Fridays), not eating between meals and restricting the amount of food that we eat. Combining these practices with almsgiving (this time of year is particularly hard for the poor and lonely) and an increase in our prayer time (and perhaps to come early to Liturgy and spend a bit of time in private with our Lord), we can return these 40 days before Christmas to their proper role as a season of preparation.



We as Christians are called to put our faith into action, to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and to build the Kingdom of God. This year, our Phillip Fast parish outreach will be in the service of God and in kindness towards the elderly of **Saint George Village** here in Roswell; the residents of this Catholic retirement home and assisted living facility are often forgotten and lonely; they are so in need of our compassion, assistance and kindness, especially during the holiday season. For the elderly and those without families, the holidays can be a painful, lonely time.

Over the next few weeks an “Angel Tree” will be in the narthex in order to gather an array of gifts of needed items for the residents: coverlets, soaps, books, bathroom and personal hygiene items, slippers, pajamas, sweaters and other gifts. Nothing excessive or extravagant, just basic needs for those



who are often forgotten. Once all the needed items have been collected, we as a parish family plan to drive over to Saint George’s after Divine Liturgy and personally deliver the Angel Tree gifts to the residents. And to bring even more Christmas joy, no party would be complete without holiday cookies and the innocent voices of our children singing a carol or two for the residents. And who knows, we might even be able to convince Saint Nicholas to drop by too!

Together with the whole of the Byzantine Church let’s strive to meet Christ as he deserves to be met and as it will, in His mercy, best serve our spiritual benefit. When Christmas Day finally arrives, we may find that our fast has truly increased the joy of this blessed Feast.

Adult Education. Fr. Deacon James continues his introduction to the **Pentateuch**, the first five books of the Old Testament, after the Divine Liturgy each Sunday. We encourage everyone to join us to learn more of the eternal Covenant and relationship which God has with His people.

Saint Nicholas Committee. Our annual Saint Nicholas celebration is just a little over a month away. We will be decorating the church for Christmas on **Saturday, December 2** with the Saint Nicholas luncheon after the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, November 10**. Please consider volunteering to be on the planning committee. We have only had a few volunteers so far and a lot of hands are still needed to make our annual celebration a great success for everyone, especially our children. Please see Fr. Deacon James for details, our meeting date and to volunteer.



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