

# Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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**January 21, 2018 + Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee**

<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>\$1,581.00</b> . God bless you for your continued generosity.
<b>Sunday Readings</b>	2 Timothy 3:10-15 + Luke 18:10-14
<b>Sacramental Needs</b>	Please call Fr. Deacon James 770-993-0973 or 404-227-5401

During the month of January, the Altar Lamp burns before our Lord in the tabernacle in memory of +Rose Tisma by her son, Fr. Deacon Michael. *Vičnaja jeh pamjat.*



## The Light of the East ...

**“Even if we have thousands of acts of great virtue to our credit, our confidence in being heard must be based on God’s mercy and his love for mankind. Even if we stand at the very summit of virtue, it is by mercy that we shall be saved.”**

Saint John Chrysostom

**Have Mercy ....** Today we continue our preparation for the Great Fast as we hear the Gospel of the **Publican and Pharisee**. The focus is on the two men who went into the temple to pray — one a Pharisee, a very decent and righteous man of religion, and the other a Publican, a sinful tax-collector who was cheating the people. The first, although genuinely righteous, boasted before God and was condemned according to our Lord. The second, although sinful, begged for mercy and received it and was justified before God. The meditation is that neither the religious piety of the Pharisee nor the repentance alone of the Publican can save us. We are called to see ourselves as we truly are in the light of Christ’s teaching and to beg for his boundless and loving mercy.

**Annual “State of the Parish” Meeting.** Remember to mark your calendars for our **Parish Meeting** following the Divine Liturgy next **Sunday, January 28, 2018**. The purpose of the meeting will be to distribute the 2017 financial statements and to openly discuss our financial position, the spiritual growth of the parish, the major upcoming maintenance needs of our property, and ways in which to grow the parish. These are very important issues which need to be discussed; we need everyone’s involvement. **God has entrusted this parish to us; its future is in our hands.**

**Eastern Christian Faith Formation.** Children’s “Sunday School” starts today and will continue each Sunday after the Divine Liturgy through March 25, with the exception of the Sundays of Meatfare and Cheesefare (February 4 and 11).

The Church teaches that parents, who have given life to their children, have the most serious obligation to ensure their offspring are educated in the Catholic faith, the values of human life and are shown the depths of significance to which the faith and love of Jesus Christ can lead. The Church, therefore, mandates that all parishes provide the necessary education programs to assist parents in fulfilling their obligation. For this end, our Eparchy has developed a curriculum designed to ensure that the tenets of our Catholic faith and the essentials of Byzantine spirituality are properly and fully provided to our children. All parents are urged to ensure that their children in grades 1-8 attend these Eastern Christian Formation classes throughout the year. For any questions, please see Karen Madrigal, the Director of our program.



For high school students and adults, Fr. Deacon James will continue his class on the **Pentateuch** of the Old Testament starting **February 19** and Fr. Deacon Michael will offer his class on the essential **Pillars of Byzantine Spirituality** starting **April 8**. These classes are also a wonderful way to introduce friends outside the parish to the jewels of Church’s eastern lung: the *Light of the East*.

As the harvesters of the Lord’s vineyard, it is our duty to be educated and well-informed of our Eastern Catholic faith in order to build up the Kingdom of God and to grow in our own personal relationship with the Most Holy Trinity. Our Adult Faith Formation programs seek to develop a fuller understanding of our Eastern Catholic beliefs and to nurture an encounter with God that leads us into a deepening communion with Him. Please make every effort to attend these classes.



**Bishop’s Annual Appeal.** If you have not yet made your annual contribution to the Bishop’s Appeal, there is still time. Envelopes are in the narthex. Our assessment this year by the Eparchy is \$10,800 of which \$5,275 has been received by the Chancery so far. Remember, if we meet our goal, the Bishop’s Office will send us back 40% (\$4,320). Not only does your contribution to the Appeal assist the Bishop in the vital and necessary work of the Eparchy, it also benefits our parish directly. For more information, please visit the Eparchy’s website [www.eparchyofpassaic.com](http://www.eparchyofpassaic.com).

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