

# Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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**February 11, 2018 + Sunday of Forgiveness — “Cheesefare”**

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>\$2,284.00</b> . God bless you for your continued generosity.
Sunday Readings	Romans 13:11-14:4 + Matthew 6:14-21
Sacramental Needs	Please call Fr. Deacon James 770-993-0973 or 404-227-5401

Throughout February, the Altar Lamp burns before our Lord in the tabernacle in loving memory of +Maria and +Mykola Laschuk, parents of Michael Laschuk. *Vičnaja jim pamjat.*

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

**“There is no sin which cannot be pardoned except that one which lacks repentance, and there is no gift which is not augmented save that which remains without acknowledgement.”**

St. Isaac the Syrian, *Six Treatises on the Behavior of Excellence*

***The Armor of Light.*** Today is *Forgiveness Sunday* and the *Sunday of the Exile from Paradise*. It is the day the Gospel calls us to cleanse our

souls with fasting and our hearts with forgiveness ... the day on which we most sincerely and from the bottom of our hearts ask forgiveness of all our relatives and friends, so that we might enter into this sacred season with clean hearts, minds, and consciences. Forgiveness is the essential action to grow in the likeness of God, because it is what He freely offers to us. On this day, our Lord teaches us that we must carry both fasting and forgiveness on our journey of repentance.

***“Let us begin the fast with joy! Let us prepare ourselves for spiritual efforts! Let us cleanse our soul and cleanse our flesh! Let us abstain from every passion as we abstain from food! Let us rejoice in virtues of the spirit and fulfill them in love! That we all may see the passion of Christ our God and rejoice in spirit at the holy Pascha!” (Vespers for Forgiveness Sunday)***

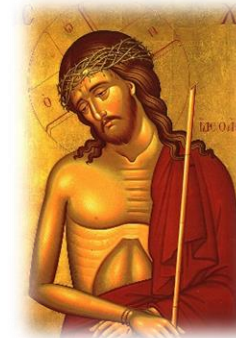


***Cheesefare Sunday.*** Please stay after Liturgy this Sunday for our Cheesefare fellowship.

***Sunday of Icons.*** Next Sunday, February 18, is the First Sunday of the Great Fast when we commemorate the ***Triumph of the Holy Icons*** in 843 AD following the Seventh Ecumenical Council. Remember to bring your family icons to be blessed and to carry in the icon procession.

## **+ The Lenten Spring +**

The Great Fast is the time of preparation for Pascha. It is the living symbol of our entire life which is to be fulfilled in our own resurrection from the dead with Christ. It is a time of renewed devotion: of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time of repentance, a real renewal of our minds, hearts and deeds in conformity with Christ and his teachings. It is the time, most of all, of our return to the great commandments of loving God and our neighbors. Let us resolve to spend more time in prayer, to attend the Lenten Liturgies and to observe the fast so that, when the glorious day of Pascha arrives, we will rejoice in the joy of our own resurrection into life everlasting.



***Eparchial Fasting Directives:*** All who receive Holy Communion are required to abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast. All adults who receive Holy Communion are required to abstain from meat, eggs, and milk products on the first day of Lent, Monday, February 12, and on Great and Holy Friday, March 30. While these are the minimum obligations, the faithful are encouraged to fast more often and to offer sacrifice during the Great Fast.

***Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts: Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 PM:*** The **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**, which dates back to the early Church, is the solemn celebration of Lenten Vespers with the administration of Holy Communion. In order for us to sustain our journey through the Great Fast with the Body of Christ, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is served in the evening after a day of spiritual preparation and abstinence. All are urged to attend as frequently as possible to pray to be strengthened by the Divine Eucharist.

***Lenten Suppers:*** The Friday liturgy is followed by a potluck meatless Lenten supper; each week two families are asked to prepare the main course and others are asked to bring favorite sides to be shared by all. Please sign up in the narthex to ensure the meals and cleanup are covered.

***The Most Holy Rosary and the Third Hour:*** Each Sunday, the **Holy Rosary** will be recited at 9:15 AM, followed by the **Third Hour** at 9:40 AM. The Third Hour is from the Church's Divine Praises; with its emphasis on repentance and God's mercy, it is particularly appropriate during the season of the Great Fast. All are urged to come a little earlier to church to join in prayer.

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