

# Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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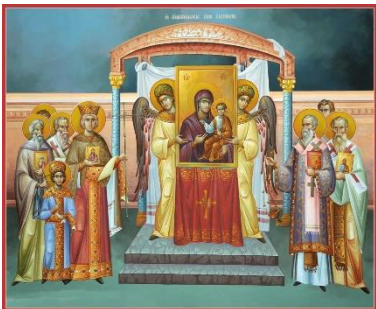
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**February 18, 2018 + First Sunday of the Great Fast  
Sunday of Orthodoxy + The Triumph of Icons**

<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>\$3,179.00</b> . God bless you for your generosity.
<b>Sunday Readings</b>	Hebrews 11:24-26, 32, 12:2 + John 1:43-51
<b>Sacramental Needs</b>	Please call Fr. Deacon James 770-993-0973 or 404-227-5401
<b>Lenten Services</b>	Friday, 7:30 PM: Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts; Supper Sunday, 9:15 AM: Most Holy Rosary; 9:40 AM: Third Hour

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.*

## + Great Fast ... the Bright Sadness +



**Each of the Sundays of Lent has a special spiritual theme of its own. The first Sunday is called the *Feast of Orthodoxy* or the *Sunday of the Triumph of Holy Images*. It is a historical feast commemorating the return of the holy icons to the churches in the year 843 AD after the heresy of iconoclasm was overcome. We focus today first of all on the victory of the True Faith. "This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith" (1 Jn 5.4). Secondly, the icons of the saints bear witness that we, "created in the image and likeness of God" (Gen 1.26), become holy and godlike through the purification of himself as God's living image. "We shall be like him" (1 Jn 3.2).**

**Spiritual Reading.** If you are looking for a great book for spiritual reading during the Great Fast, *Unseen Warfare: The Spiritual Combat and Path to Paradise* is highly recommended.

Rich in its references to the teachings of the saints and the Fathers, this wonderful 16<sup>th</sup> century classic combines the insights of West and East on that spiritual combat which is the road to perfection and the stripping away of all that militates against it. *Unseen Warfare*, ranked by Saint Francis di Sales along with the *Imitation of Christ*, is the perfect complement to the *Philokalia* and a wonderful book of great spiritual worth for Lenten reading. (Available from Amazon.)

**Thus Saith the Lord.** Beginning next Sunday, **February 25 through April 8** (except for March 4 and April 1), Fr. Deacon James will continue with the second part of his **Adult Education** class on the *Pentateuch*, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.

The entire Bible, from the very first verse of Genesis, is a story of redemption. If we only read part of God's Word, we will never fully grasp the whole message. We need to step back and see the big picture by reading all of the Sacred Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments. Right after Adam and Eve distrusted and disobeyed God, the Lord promised that one day He would send a Savior to rescue them and their descendants from the consequences of sin (Genesis 3:15). From that point on, the glorious story of mercy begins down the long road to Calvary's grace. As we see Jesus on every page, we trace that scarlet thread of redemption throughout the entire Bible, and our understanding of the gospel grows and our faith is strengthened.

This Bible study is the ideal companion for our spiritual journey through the Great Fast.



**Lenten Suppers.** In order to enable everyone to participate in the Friday evening Liturgy, especially after a hectic day of work and family matters, we again have our potluck meatless supper following the service. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together to share in the spiritual life of the parish and to spend time in the fellowship of Christ. Please remember to sign up in the narthex to bring your favorite Lenten main dishes and sides for all to share.

**Evangelization and Outreach.** Following our parish meeting in January, we are now undertaking a major plan to make our Byzantine Catholic church better known and to grow the parish. Fr. Deacon Michael has been asked to be our **Director of Evangelization, Catechesis, Outreach and Communication**. Shortly, he will be calling on volunteers to spearhead various committees. These will include preparing regular catechetical information, arranging for guest speakers, planning parish outings and events, organizing a parish retreat, updating our website as a major resource for parish and Eastern Catholic information, getting Epiphany's name in the local and Catholic newspapers, developing an all-important welcome program for visitors, organizing classes for those interested in joining the Catholic Church, developing spiritual and social outreach programs, and more. Please answer the call and offer your time and talent for the glory of God.

**Epiphany was given by God to each one of us ... its future rests in our hands.**

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

