

Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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**February 25, 2018 + Second Sunday of the Great Fast
Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas**

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: \$1,975.00 . <i>God bless you for your generosity.</i>
Sunday Readings	Hebrews 1:10-2:3 + Mark 2:1-12
Sacramental Needs	Please call Fr. Deacon James 770-993-0973 or 404-227-5401
Lenten Services	Friday, 7:30 PM: Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts; followed by a meatless potluck Lenten Supper Sunday, 9:15 AM: The 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 +



The second Sunday of the Great Fast is the commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas. It was Saint Gregory (d.1359) who bore living witness that we all can become divine through the grace of God in the Holy Spirit.

When asked how it is possible to have knowledge of the unknowable God, he showed the difference between knowing God in His "essence" and knowing Him in his "energies". Understanding that we cannot find God in the logic of this world, Saint Gregory taught that it remains impossible for us to know God in His person. Yet we can, with sufficient prayer, fasting, by turning oneself over to God and through purification of our soul, come to know Him in His being. It is in this way that we become divinized and participants in the uncreated light of God's divine glory. This is the central doctrine of *theosis* in the Eastern Christian Church.

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



Welcome to God's holy house and this celebration of the Divine Liturgy. If you have never been to an Eastern Catholic church before, you are about to have a wonderfully rich and deep spiritual experience. We are in full communion with Pope Francis and the Universal Catholic Church; we follow the ancient rites of Constantinople, founded by Saint Andrew the Apostle. We hope you will stay and join us for coffee hour in the narthex afterwards.

Please feel free to speak with one of our Deacons to answer any questions you may have and to receive a packet of information on the Eastern Catholic Church. May God's blessings be upon you!

Bringing the Word of God to Life. Beginning today, **February 25 and continuing 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. This Bible study is the ideal companion for our spiritual journey through the Great Fast as we grow in our knowledge of the Gospel and the salvation brought to us by Jesus Christ. All are encouraged to participate in these spiritually rewarding classes.



Come to Receive ... The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, given to us by Saint Gregory the Great, sixth century Pope of Rome, is one of the great liturgical masterpieces of Eastern Christian piety and spirituality.



It reveals the central Christian doctrine and experience in its form and content; namely that our life must be spent in prayer and fasting in order to be in communion with Christ who will come like 'a thief in the night'. It tells us that all of our life, and not only on fast periods, is completed with the Presence of the Victorious Christ who is risen from the dead. It witnesses to the fact that Christ will come at the end of the ages to judge the living and the dead, and to establish God's Kingdom "of which there will be no end". It tells us

that we must be ready for His arrival, and to be found watching and serving; in order to be worthy to "enter into the joy of the Lord".

This Liturgy, one of the most beautiful and meaningful liturgies of the Eastern Church, is celebrated every Friday evening during the Great Fast. After a week of fasting and prayer, our souls are strengthened and nourished by psalms, scripture readings and the reception of Holy Communion. The Great Fast is a time of spiritual renewal. It prepares us for our arrival at the empty tomb of the Resurrection; it can pass us by quickly if we don't make a point of putting forth the effort to fast, to pray more and to attend the Lenten services.

Lenten Suppers. After a hectic day of work and family matters, join us for our potluck meatless supper following the Friday evening Liturgy. 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.

