

Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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April 29, 2018 + Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

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: \$1,986.00 . <i>God bless you for your generosity.</i>
Sunday Readings	Acts 11:19-26, 29-30 + John 4:5-42
Sacramental Needs	Please call Fr. Deacon James 770-993-0973 or 404-227-5401

In April, the Altar Lamp burns before our Lord in the tabernacle in loving memory of +Louise Campbell, sister of Peg & Ging Ciborowski. *Vičnaja jeh pamjat.*



Eternal Memory. Our dear friend and former parishoner, **Julie Leggin**, fell asleep in the Lord this past Monday, April 23. We all remember Julie's love of our parish and the Byzantine Catholic Church. Please keep her husband, Mike, in your prayers that the Lord God will grant him peace and comfort during this time of his great loss. A Panachida will be offered for the blessed repose of Julie after Sunday Liturgy, April 29.

Our New Pastor. His Grace, Bishop Kurt, has appointed **Father Lewis Rabayda** as our new full-time resident pastor. Father will arrive the week of June 11 and celebrate his first Divine Liturgy with us the following **Sunday, June 17**. There will be no Saturday Liturgy on June 16 so that the entire parish family can worship together to welcome Father Lewis.

We are grateful to God for the many years of Father Philip's dedicated service to Epiphany and we wish him a very happy and blessed retirement. May God grant him peace, health and happiness for many years.

For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and the people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 2:7).



Very Important Parish Meeting. There will be an extremely important parish meeting this **Sunday, April 29**, in the rectory immediately after Liturgy. So grab a quick cup of coffee and a sweet and meet us across the driveway. The meeting will not take long.

The rectory is in a serious state of decline and must be made ready over the next six weeks so Father Lewis will have a proper and comfortable place to live. The renovations are going to be costly, including the roof replacement which is now almost 35 years old. We need everyone to know what must be done, so we will need your help with ideas, time and treasure in order to get this undertaking done, both interior and exterior, by June 10.

God has answered our prayers and has now sent us a full-time resident pastor. It is our obligation, duty and responsibility to provide for him.

And the LORD commanded the people to give their just due to the priests, that they might give themselves completely to the Service of the Lord. As soon as the command went out, the people gave in abundance the first fruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field. And they brought in abundantly their tithes (2 Chronicles 31:4-5).

Christ is Risen! ✠ Indeed He is Risen!

For the Fifth Sunday of Pascha, the Byzantine tradition lifts up St. Photina, the Samaritan woman who met Christ at the well, as a representation of what Christ offers us as the fruit of his resurrection: the gift of the Holy Spirit.

It was not with a man, but with a woman, and not just any woman, but a Samaritan woman, a woman who was looked down upon by society, even by Jesus' disciples, who was called by him to share in the gifts of the kingdom of God. We all suffer an existential thirst, and the water of life, the Holy Spirit who flows from the Son, is able to satisfy that thirst, even as Jesus, the bread of life, is able to satisfy our spiritual hunger.

The Evangelist Apostle John was able to show the reordering of creation which would happen as a result of the Incarnation itself. Sin disfigured the world, and in that disfigurement, cracks were formed along the great chain of being, where relative distinctions became the basis for hostile division such as race against race, man against woman, and humanity against nature itself.

The light of grace unites everyone in the bond of love so that the effects of sin are overturned, and humanity finds itself united as one, "for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28b).



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