February 21, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Saints Cyril and Methodius
Byzantine Catholic Church

2510 Piney Plains Road
Cary, NC 27518-6870
919-239-4877

Rev. Fr. Vasyl Sokolovych
Parochial Administrator
908-404-0777

Sunday
9:00 and 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy
(If unable to attend in person, our Divine Liturgy is streamed via our Facebook page.)

E-Mail: sscyrilmethodius@gmail.com
Web Site: sscyrilmethodius.org
| **SUNDAY**  
| **February 21**  
| **Tone 5** | **FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**  
|  | Heb 11:24-26; 32-12:2  
|  | Jn 1:43-51 | 8:30 AM Confession  
|  |  | 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil (for the Intention of the Parishioners)  
|  |  | 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
| Monday  
| **February 22** |  | Finding of the Relics of the Martyrs of Eugenia  
|  | Gen 3:21-4:7  
|  | Prov 3:34-4:22 | **Second Week of the Great Fast**  
| Tuesday  
| **February 23** |  | Polycarp - Bishop - Martyr  
|  | Gen 4:8-15  
|  | Prov 5:1-15  
| Wednesday  
| **February 24** |  | First and Second Findings of the Head of John the Baptist  
|  | Gen 4:16-26; Prov 5:15-6:3  
|  | 2 Cor 4:6-15; Mt 11:2-15 | 6:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  
| Thursday  
| **February 25** |  | Tarasius - Patriarch  
|  | Gen 5:1-24  
|  | Prov 6:3-20  
| Friday  
| **February 26** |  | Porphyry of Gaza - Bishop  
|  | Gen 5:32-6:8  
|  | Prov 6:20-7:1 |  
| Saturday  
| **February 27** |  | Second All Souls Saturday  
|  | Heb 3:12-16  
|  | Mk 1:35-45 | 8:00 AM-12:00 PM Eritrean or Coptic Orthodox Divine Liturgy  
|  |  | 4:00 PM St. Nicholas Mission Divine Liturgy  
| **SUNDAY**  
| **February 28**  
| **Tone 6** | **SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST**  
|  | Heb 1:10-2:3  
|  | Mk 2:1-12 | 8:30 AM Confession  
|  |  | 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil (for the Intention of the Parishioners)  
|  | Panachida for the Second All Souls Saturday (February 27)  
|  | 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil |  

Call the parish office (919-239-4877) to make an appointment or to speak with Fr. Vasyi (908-404-0777).

**SSCM CHURCH/HALL SCHEDULE**

The **St. Nicholas Mission** celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church every Saturday at 4:00 PM.

The **Eritrean Orthodox** celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.

The **Coptic Orthodox** celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meets the second Tuesday of every month. If you have any questions or concerns you would like addressed at the next meeting, please contact one of the members: Mike Carpenter, Marie Taylor, Paul Tooley, Lance Morgan, Dan Pope, Lou Gigliotti and Mike Sapsara.
FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
February 21, 2021

If you are new to our area or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. If you do not have a church home, or your church is not a home for you, we warmly invite you to become part of our parish family.

If you wish to register with our parish, please email Michelle Rubush at sscyrilmethodius@gmail.com

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!
GLORY FOREVER!

SLAVONIC: SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU! SLAVA NA VIKI!

Please remember in your prayers:
Jerry and Holly Kingery; Lance Morgan; John Patrick Rose; Rachel Blair; David Hoover; Cameron Shuey; Dale Blair; Bernadette’s parents and aunts: Andrew, Etta, Martha and Yolanda; Father Mark and family; Father Vasyl and family.

Please pray for the repose + of the souls of our faithful departed:
+Elizabeth Macario; +Luke Morgan, +Natalie and John Morgan, +Rev. Fr. Richard Rohrer, +Gloria Shuey

In Blessed Repose, Grant O Lord, Eternal Rest to the Soul of Your Departed Servants and may their Memory be Eternal.

In spite of the pandemic, the maintenance of our church continues and bills still must be paid. Thanks to all who continue to serve our church with their time, talent, and treasure. May God bless you abundantly! Sincere thanks to all who contributed to the St. Nicholas Tree. Thanks to your generosity, we raised $1,800.38 which has now been sent to Ukraine. Of this, $1,120.38 is going to the St. Nicholas Village of Mercy orphanage, the balance has gone to Fr. Iouri Koslovskii and to assist students at Ukrainian Catholic University who may need some assistance with expenses. Last semester, our gifts allowed a student who had no money for food to stay in school rather than return to her family home. The cost of keeping her in school was $50.00. Even modest amounts can make a big difference! Should you wish to contribute again, there is no need to wait until next Christmas. Please let us know if you want to make a contribution during the year.

FATHER VASYL’S MESSAGE FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Every Sunday of Lent can be called a spiritual step, which should help us to strengthen ourselves spiritually in this magnificent journey and struggle, and to make sure of the correctness of life and spiritual path. This is another step to get closer to Jesus.

If the purpose of fasting is to be spiritually cleansed and resurrected to a new life in God's love, then the task of fasting is to help us to know Jesus better as our God, our Savior. As Nathanael said of Jesus, “Teacher, you are the Son of God. You are the king of Israel” (Jn 1:49). Can I say today that Jesus is really my God, my Savior, who came to earth for me and became a man, who suffered for me, to show me his love, to pave the way to heaven?
The importance of this was testified by King David in the words of the psalm, "Taste and see how good the Lord is, blessed is he who comes to Him." And the apostle John confirms this in his epistle, saying, "We have known and believe the love that God has for us" (1 Jn 4:15). Knowing Jesus, the apostles came to know and feel in Him God's love for themselves, felt ready to follow Him and preach His doctrine, and even to lay down their lives for Him. Confirmation of the importance of knowing Jesus for the awakening of the spirit of repentance are the words of the prayer of St. Ephraim, in which he addresses God with the following words, "Lord and Lord of my life! Drive away the spirit of laziness, carelessness, greed, and nonsense from me." He sees God as someone close and dear to himself, so through the prayer of repentance he wants to be cleansed of sins and restore his intimacy with God, the bond of love with Him.

Abstinence from certain foods and pastimes, confession and Communion in Lent, are not just the observance of church customs, a tribute to tradition. They are a powerful medium that helps us to know Jesus better so that we can know ourselves better, including God's gifts and the shortcomings that limit God's access to us. Knowledge itself leads the Christian to the purification of the soul; that is, the mind, will, our thoughts, desires and feelings, leading to spiritual renewal through repentance. The level of knowledge of Jesus becomes a measure of our repentance.

We see this principle clearly in today's Gospel. Andrew met Jesus and then brought his brother Simon to Him; then Philip met Jesus and then brought Nathaniel to Him. As we see, Jesus is the first to meet a person, to make himself known, and this arouses His interest in man and encourages him to follow Him. To know Jesus is also to know in oneself his image, the icon of God, one's true dignity as a child of God, to know what brings us closer and unites us to Him, makes us like Him. After all, this is the main task of the fast. For what is the use of fasting for a Christian, if it does not bring us closer to God, does not unite more closely in faith and love with Him. Every Sunday of Lent tries to help us to understand the state of our spiritual life. That is the state of God's image in me, gives us some advice, and shows us how to purify, restore it; i.e., comprehend new knowledge of God, build new spiritual relationships with Him through the Gospel, prayer, repentance and confession.

So let us respond to the call of Christ at least in this sacred time of Lent, because here, in the temple of God, He appoints a meeting with us, here His gracious grace works, our spirit is strengthened and our way of life becomes brighter.

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**Important**

A FACE MASK COVERING MOUTH AND NOSE MUST BE WORN DURING DIVINE LITURGY, WHICH SHOULD BE REMOVED BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Parishioners who are considered “high risk,” and more vulnerable to the virus should consider not attending Liturgy in the church and continue to participate via Facebook.

- Parishioners are dispensed from attending Divine Liturgy on Sunday and Holy Days.
- Please bring your own mask as the church has a limited number available.
- Social distancing (six feet) of people not living in the same household should be followed. A family living together can sit in the same area.
- Please refrain from physical contact.
- Please sanitize hands when entering and leaving church.
- There will be no Agape meal in the hall after Liturgy; please do not bring food.
- Please maintain social distancing after Liturgy and continue to wear a mask while on church property.
- A collection basket is under the Tetrapod for your weekly donation. You may also mail in your donation or donate online via our website or Tithely.
- As you approach Fr. Vasyl for communion, please state your name.

THE HALL IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
Our Eparchy will be hosting monthly Byzantine Gatherings. Mark your calendars for each date. Gatherings will begin at 6:00 PM. Email contact: FrDeaconTom@gmail.com

Leon the GREAT AND GREAT HOLY FORTY DAYS

**SUNDAYS OF PREPARATION**
- Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)
- Publican and Pharisee (Luke 18:10-14)
- Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)
- Last Judgement (Matthew 25:31-46)

**LATIN COMPUTATION**
- 6 weeks
- 86 days/weeks
- 36 days
- 44 days
- Including Holy Week

**BYZANTINE COMPUTATION**
- 6 weeks
- 87 days/week
- 42 days
- 2 days
- Not including Holy Week

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“Hwo do not kneel on Sunday as a sign that our fall has been corrected through the resurrection of Christ. We do not kneel until Pentecost because we observe the seven days after Easter seven-fold, seven times seven is forty-nine, and Sunday makes fifty.”

St. Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople (715-730) On the Divine Liturgy