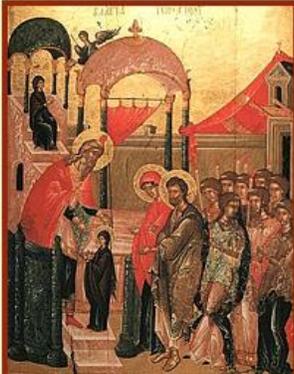


NOVEMBER 2017

KOINONIA

Greco-Catholics in Charlotte,
Western North Carolina & South Carolina



The Pre-Nativity Season

“O angelic hosts of the Lord, do ye hasten to the village of Bethlehem in Judea to prepare a noble place for Him who cannot be contained, the Author of creation.”



Let us journey towards
the Feast of the Nativity
with joyous hearts!
Fast not only from food,
but also from hatred and fear.
Bring forth goodness
and kindness to all.
Forgive. Be generous.
In all things, give glory to God.

FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR
Glory to Jesus Christ!



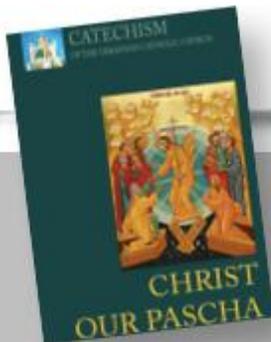
Dear Faithful,

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.

Matthew 5

Living in the United States of America, you are undoubtedly very familiar with the Western (Latin) Christian tradition of the Advent Wreath. This delightful custom is a way in which the “domestic church” - families - can bring the liturgical preparation for the coming of Our Lord and Savior into their homes. With each passing week, a new candle is lit as a reminder of the approaching Light of the World, the Infant Christ. Christians of the Byzantine (Greek) tradition have a longer period of preparation, known as the “Philip’s Fast,” so called because it commences after the Feast of St. Philip the Apostle (November 14). In recent times, I have witnessed Orthodox Christians adopt and *adapt* the tradition of the Advent Wreath. The number of candles is increased to account for more weeks in our fast. As we are about to begin the Philip’s Fast, I would like to commend this pious practice to you and to your families, always in harmony with the liturgical celebrations of our Byzantine (Greek) Tradition. Whenever we continue our celebrations and preparations *after* church, we are taking the divine presence with us wherever we go, and especially into our homes and family lives. Finally, remember to spend this period in prayer and fasting with joyful and charitable hearts, for *God is With Us* (Emmanuel). Unto us a child has been born, and our prayers and penances are a celebration that we are redeemed in the Most Innocent One.

Fr. Joseph Matlak



Excerpt from ***Christ Our Pascha***

Christian tradition regards sin as an illness, which distorts one’s divine image. In one of the troparia of the Parastas service, we sing, “I am the image of your ineffable glory, though I bear the brands of transgressions.” Therefore, a sinful person does not so much deserve condemnation as require healing - God’s mercy and forgiveness. Thus, a sinner is ill and Christ is the physician. “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick” (*Mt 9:12*) (# 757)



**PYLYPIVKA (ADVENT) PASTORAL LETTER
TO OUR CLERGY, HIEROMONKS AND BROTHERS,
RELIGIOUS SISTERS, SEMINARIANS AND BELOVED FAITHFUL**

Glory to Jesus Christ!

“Pylypivka” or Philip’s Fast that begins on November 14th is upon us. It is a time of preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are once again called to embark on a journey to welcome Emmanuel among us! In a short forty days we will celebrate the Feast of Nativity of Our Lord. At the Matins of the Nativity we will sing:

“Christ is born, let us glorify Him. Christ comes down from heaven; let us go out and meet Him. Christ lives on earth, let us exalt in joy. All you faithful sing to the Lord, for He has been glorified.”

Irmos 1, Canon, Matins of the Nativity of Our Lord

How can we prepare ourselves to welcome God among us? How will we glorify Him? Can this Christmas season be a profound and spiritual experience for me?

In order to properly prepare to meet Christ on His feast of the Nativity, Mother Church is giving us forty days to challenge ourselves to live our Christian calling and vocation: to deepen knowledge of the Word of God, to live a life of community and personal prayer, and to perform acts of charity and mercy both in the church, and in the world. In these three points, we can describe our vocation as a Christian, as well as the vocation of the entire Church.

’ If every parish is called to be a place to encounter the living Christ, then Christ the Teacher must have a central place in our lives and our parish life. Now is the time to daily set aside time for reading the Sacred Scripture and to meditate upon it. We are also called to learning of Divine truth, the truths of the Christian faith and the foundations of Christian life.

Gathered together “at the breaking of the bread”, that is at the Eucharistic Sacrifice, we are mystically united among ourselves, and are also united with Christ’s sacrifice, offered to God the Father for us and by us. The Eucharist is the center of the Christian life. The parish – the community gathers for the “breaking of the bread”, that is for the Eucharistic service. The Eucharist is at the same time the culmination of the parish life and also the source of all its spiritual blessings. Let us invite a friend or neighbor to join us for the liturgical services in our parish community.

During these days, we are called both personally, and as a member of the community to pray, for oneself, and for others, to offer one’s self as a sacrifice to God, to forgive others and to ask God for forgiveness, to bless God and to be a blessing for others. What is most important: all of us together are called to strive for holiness, to be a truly holy people. What does this mean? In parish life, every liturgical service and all of our liturgical practices and prayer life is to promote the sanctification of the time and the place where we are, and we ourselves become sanctified as well, as a gift consecrated to God. That is why during the time of preparation for coming of our Lord we should guard oneself from sin, and strive to grow in the virtue of moderation, purity of body and soul, according to one’s state in life.

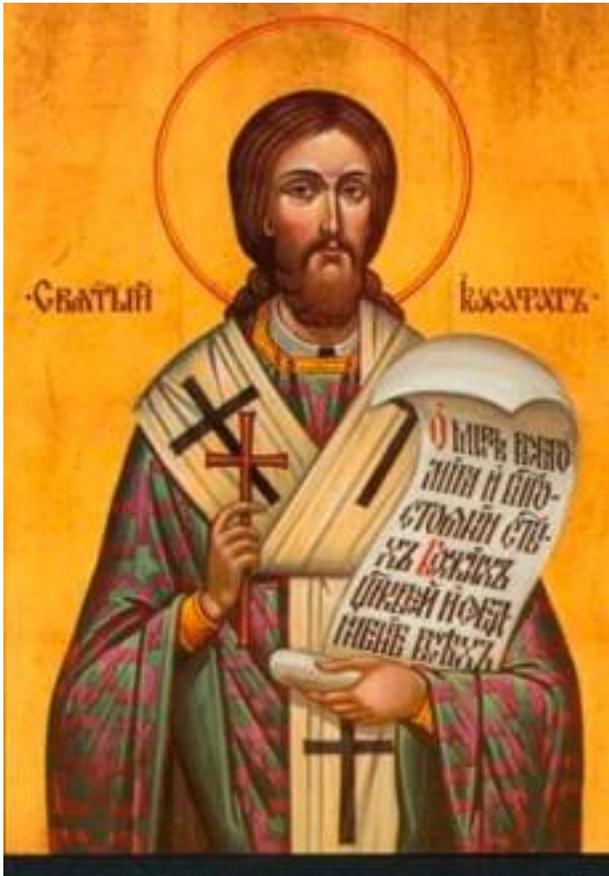
We are also called to look beyond ourselves and be of service to others, especially the less fortunate among us. During the Philip Feast let us look at our community and find those who need our help and assistance. We can visit the sick, assist the poor, give food for the hungry, care for orphans, support those who suffer injustice, promote peace, and offer comfort for those grieving. We can perform all of this in our community where we live and work, as the needy live among us.

Let us start this season together! Let us pray, meditate upon the Word of God, sacrifice for one another and trust in God. Then with joy we will be able to welcome God among us!

**His Excellency
+ Bohdan (Danylo)**

Eparch of Saint Josaphat in Parma

UPCOMING FEAST



FEAST OF SAINT JOSAPHAT ARCHBISHOP OF POLOTSK

MARTYR FOR CHURCH UNITY
&
PATRON SAINT OF OUR
EPARCHY

Saturday, November 11

5:00pm:

GREAT VESPERS

Following:

Confessions

Veneration of the Relic

Sunday, November 12

10:00am:

Confessions

11:00am:

DIVINE LITURGY

Following:

Veneration of the Relic

Potluck Lunch

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

DIVINE OFFICE

OF THE BYZANTINE SLAVONIC RITE

**HOROLOGION - OCTOECHOS
TRIODION - MENAION**

**ENGLISH TRANSLATION
AVAILABLE NOW**

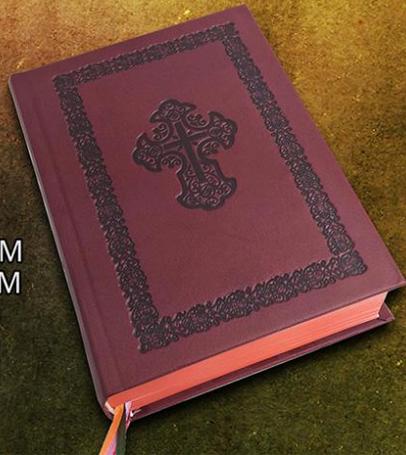
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FROM THE
CONGREGATION FOR THE
EASTERN CHURCHES:

“Where such practice of celebrating the Divine Praises with the people has diminished, if not completely disappeared, the ancient tradition should be restored without delay, so as not to deprive the faithful of a privileged source of prayer, nourished by treasures of authentic doctrine.... Calling upon the time when the Divine Praises were upheld with special care in the East, not only by the monastic communities, but also by the parishes, the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches reminds us of the obligation – often easily forgotten or abandoned – to celebrate them in the cathedrals, parishes, rectoral churches, religious communities and seminaries.”

- Instruction for Applying the Liturgical Principles of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches

CELEBRATE THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

At Saint Basil the Great Mission in Charlotte, North Carolina

Saturdays:

5pm: GREAT VESPERS or THE VIGIL (Vespers & Matins)

Eves of Feast Days:

5:30pm: GREAT VESPERS

Fulfills the Sunday and Holy Day observance for Eastern Catholics



EASTERN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

PHILOKALIA (The Love of the Beautiful)

As Christians, the foundational texts for our beliefs, practices, and spirituality are the Sacred Scriptures.

Nevertheless, there are a number of other spiritual classics in the Church, which are expressions of the way in which Christians have appropriated and lived the Sacred Scriptures throughout the millennia.

For Eastern Christians, the principal spiritual text is the *Philokalia*, a Greek word meaning “the love of the beautiful.”

The *Philokalia* is an anthology of texts on prayer and spirituality, from writers spanning more than a millennium (fourth to fifteenth centuries).

It was compiled by two monks from Mount Athos, Nikodimos of the Holy Mountain (1749-1809) and Makarios of Corinth (1731-1805), and was published in 1782.

After Great Vespers on Saturdays (5pm) at St. Basil the Great Mission in Charlotte, you will be invited to gather together and encounter the *Philokalia*, which will be presented in accessible, bite-size chunks.

These short texts will be distributed the week beforehand, for your preparation and meditation.

Discover just how relevant it is for our spiritual lives in the modern world!

NEW MISSIONARY OUTREACH



FIRST DIVINE LITURGY IN THE BYZANTINE RITE IN COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

Over 100 members of the faithful were present for the first Divine Liturgy to be served in the Byzantine Rite in Columbia, South Carolina.

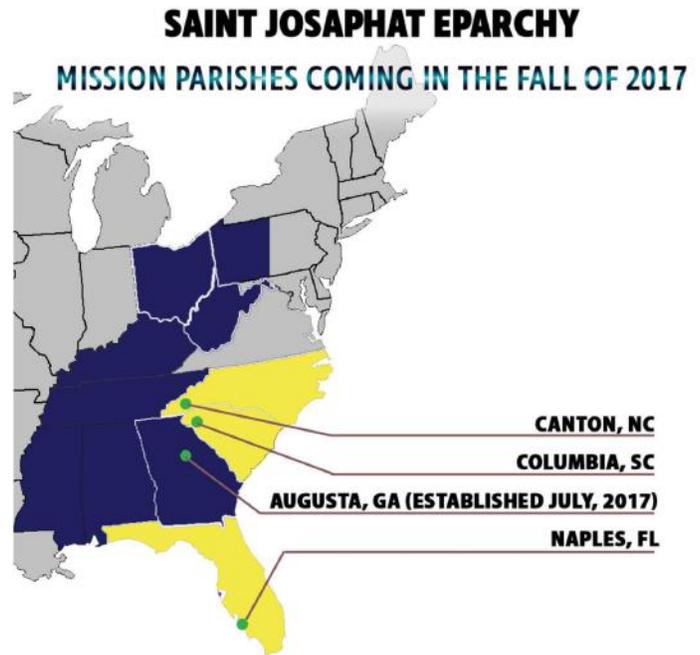
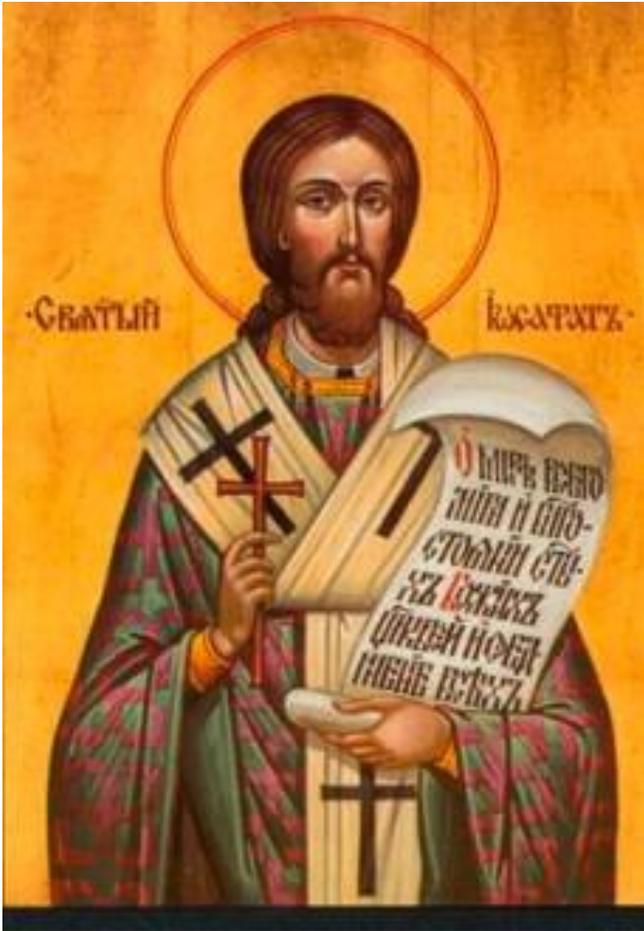
The celebration was organized in view of the faithful's response to the recent call of His Excellency, Bishop Bohdan (Danylo), to establish a mission in Columbia, South Carolina.

The celebration took place at Transfiguration Catholic Church (Blythewood), at the kind invitation and generous hospitality of Monsignor James LeBlanc and parishioners. Fr. Joseph Matlak served the Divine Liturgy, and was assisted by Fr. Deacon Matthew Hanes of St. Basil the Great Mission in Charlotte, as well as by others who travelled from Charlotte, volunteering their time and talents, in order to ensure a beautiful celebration to the glory of Our Lord.

Some of those in attendance had not witnessed the Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Rite since their childhood. The community eagerly anticipated its second Divine Liturgy, which was served on Sunday, November 5. Another Divine Liturgy will be served on Sunday, December 3.

The community will now gather its talents, and await the canonical establishment of a mission in Columbia, South Carolina.

NEW MISSIONARY OUTREACH



DIVINE LITURGY IN THE BYZANTINE RITE IN GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Sunday, November 12

**FEAST OF SAINT JOSAPHAT
ARCHBISHOP OF POLOTSK
PATRON OF OUR EPARCHY**

5:00pm

FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW

ST. RAFKA MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
1215 SC-14,
GREER, SC 29650

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

EPARCHY OF SAINT JOSAPHAT

EMMANUEL YOUTH RALLY

WITH
BISHOP BOHDAN DANYLO

GOD
WITH US

DECEMBER 8-10, 2017
CHARLOTTE,
NORTH CAROLINA

SAINT ANN
CATHOLIC CHURCH
3635 Park Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28209

HOLY TRINITY
CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL
3100 Park Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28209

For More Information, Contact Fr. Joseph Matlak:
frjosephmatlak@gmail.com or 980-785-2764 (Parish)

Online Registration Form:

<https://charlottediocese.org/emmanuel-youth-rally/>

Tracks:

Children (2nd-5th grade)

Middle School (6th-8th grade)

High School (9th-12th grade)

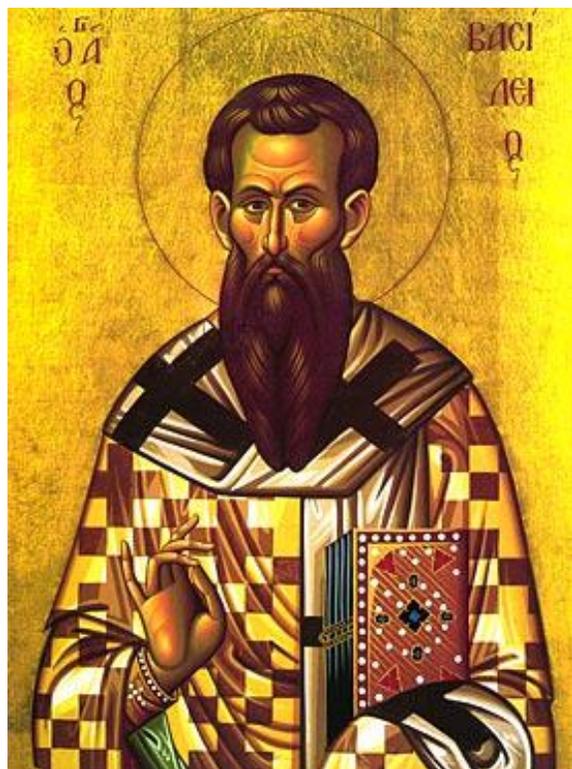
Young Adults (18+)

Parents with Younger Children Welcome!

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

БОГОСЛУЖІННЯ SERVICIOS LITÚRGICOS

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA



SAINT BASIL THE GREAT MISSION

1400 Suther Road, Charlotte, NC 28213

(980) 785-2764

stbasil.weebly.com

SATURDAY (Sabado)

5:00pm: GREAT VESPERS or VIGIL

Grandes Visperas o Vigilia

CONFESSIONS FOLLOWING

Confesiones A Seguir

SUNDAY (Domingo)

10:00am: CONFESSIONS

Confesiones

11:00am: DIVINE LITURGY

Santa Misa

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, THE DIVINE SERVICES ARE CELEBRATED IN ENGLISH.

BI-LINGUAL LITURGICAL BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE.

YOU MAY GO TO CONFESSION IN ENGLISH OR SPANISH.

A MENOS QUE SE INDIQUE LO CONTRARIO, ESTES SERVICIOS LITÚRGICOS SON CELEBRADOS EN INGLÉS.

LIBROS LITÚRGICOS BILINGÜES ESTÁN DISPONIBLES.

SE PUEDE CONFESAR EN INGLÉS O ESPAÑOL.

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST MISSION

(Ukrainian Language Ministry)

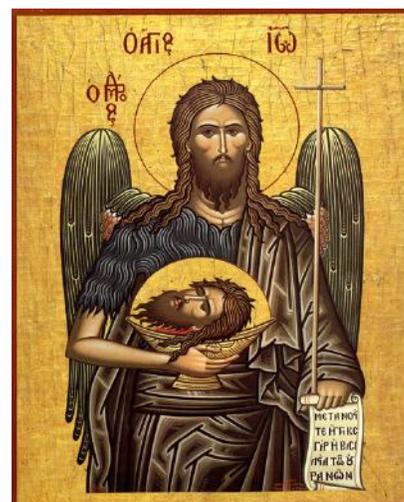
Charlotte Catholic High School

7702 Pineville-Matthews Road

Pineville, NC 28226

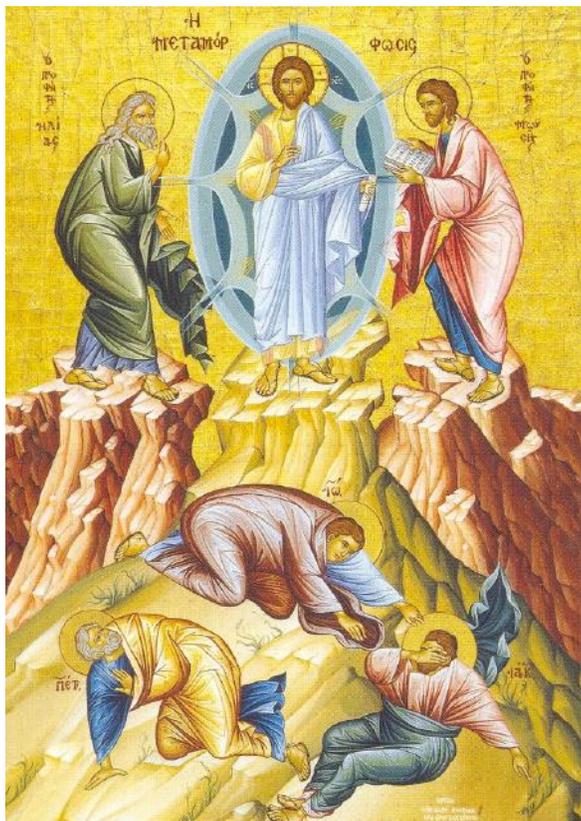
THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

3:00pm: DIVINE LITURGY (Ukrainian)



SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

SOUTH CAROLINA



COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

TRANSFIGURATION CATHOLIC CHURCH
306 N Pines Road
Blythewood, SC 29016

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

5:00pm: DIVINE LITURGY

*Confessions Upon Request
Before & After*

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

SAINT RAFKA MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
1215 SC-14,
Greer, SC 29650

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

5:00pm: DIVINE LITURGY

*Confessions Upon Request
Before & After*

