

Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church
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Father Michael D. Kunitz, Administrator

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022
THE SUNDAY OF THE TRIUMPH OF TRUE WORSHIP
(THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE HOLY GREAT FAST)

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR TRUE-WORSHIPPING WEEK

Sunday, March 6:	11:00 a.m. – Sunday Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom <ul style="list-style-type: none">• * <i>For the Intention of our Holy Spirit Parish</i>• + <i>Charles and Ruth Bacasa by Joseph and Dolores Bacasa, brother</i>
Monday, March 7:	8:30 a.m. – First and Third Hour 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. – Confessions (Priest’s Sacristy) 5:30 p.m. – Vespers
Wednesday, March 9:	11:30 a.m. – Third and Sixth Hour 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. – Confessions (Priest’s Sacristy) 5:30 p.m. – Liturgy of The Presanctified Gifts
Saturday, March 12:	<i>Second All Souls Saturday</i> 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. – Confessions (Priest’s Sacristy) 9:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
Sunday, March 13:	<i>The First Sunday of the Holy Forty-Days Fast:</i> <i>The Sunday of The Triumph of True Worship</i> 11:00 a.m. – Sunday Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great <ul style="list-style-type: none">• * <i>For the Intention of our Holy Spirit Parish</i>• + <i>Gerald John Bacasa, Jr. (20th Anniv.) by Mr. & Mrs. Gerald J. Bacasa Sr., parents</i>

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51

AN INTERFAITH PRAYER GATHERING FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE TODAY.....

All are invited to attend an interfaith prayer gathering for peace, in solidarity with the Pittsburgh-area Ukrainian community, at St. Paul Cathedral today at 2:30 p.m. Acknowledging the crisis in Ukraine, it will follow segments of a traditional Ukrainian service, but punctuated with psalms, prayerful petitions, and other elements of a contemporary interfaith service suitable for participation by westerners or non-Christians. It will be streaming at [YouTube.com/dioPitt](https://www.youtube.com/dioPitt).

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE HOLY GREAT FAST.....

The first Sunday of the Great Forty-Days Fast is called **The Sunday of the Triumph of True Worship**, for today we commemorate the victory of the Byzantine Catholic Church over the heresy known as **iconoclasm**. This eighth-century heresy held that the veneration of sacred images known as **icons** was unlawful. It began in 726 A.D. with an edict issued by the Byzantine Emperor Leo II, the Isaurian, which led to the destruction of all icons and the persecution of their defenders. This heresy continued to rage throughout the Church for more than one hundred years. The Seventh Ecumenical Council at Nicea, which was held in 787 A.D., declared that icons were to be placed in the churches and that the honor paid them was only relative, that is given for the sake of what they represent, and not for the sake of the images themselves. The final defeat of iconoclasm, that is the destroying of holy images, came under the **Byzantine Empress Theodora** in 842 A.D. On the first Sunday of the Great Fast in that particular year, the sacred images or icons were restored solemnly to the churches. During the iconoclastic controversy, the principal defenders of the Church’s form of True Worship were **Saint John Damascene** and **Saint Theodore the Studite**. On this first greatfast Sunday, our Byzantine Catholic Church tells us that our souls are “icons” of the Divine Image of God, and we are exhorted to purify this sacred “image” of our soul with various penitential acts of true sorrow and sincere repentance.

FROM THE RECENT VATICAN BULLETIN.....

All the churches have been asked by the Archeparchy to include the following in today's bulletin:

Change of the circumscription *Saints Cyril and Methodius of Toronto, Canada, and appointment of apostolic administrator *sede vacante et ad nutum Sanctae Sedis**

The Holy Father has approved the change of the circumscription of Saints Cyril and Methodius of Toronto of the Slovaks of the Byzantine rite in Canada, from eparchy to exarchate, transferring its jurisdiction from the *sui iuris* metropolitan Church of Prešov of the Byzantines to that of Pittsburgh of the Byzantines.

The Holy Father has appointed Bishop Kurt Richard Burnette of Passaic of the Ruthenians, U.S.A., as apostolic administrator *sede vacante et ad nutum Sanctae Sedis* of the Exarchate of Saints Cyril and Methodius of Toronto of the Slovaks of the Byzantine rite in Canada.

WE SHALL OBSERVE THE SECOND ALL-SOULS SATURDAY THIS WEEK

As part of our greatfast preparation for the Feast of the Holy Resurrection, we call to memory all of our faithful departed and pray for their repose, for it is through Jesus' victory over death that we have a "New Life." Three of the five **All-Souls Saturdays** are observed during the Holy Forty-Days Fast. Not only should we offer our prayers and be mindful of all the departed of our human family and of all those who had been closest to us, but we should above all endeavor to pray especially for those "poor souls" who have not fully atoned for past transgressions and have no one to remember them or to pray for their eternal repose. The sacrifice to attend the requiem services in honor of our faithful departed and to pray for their immortal souls is an additional way of our observing the season of the Holy Great Fast.

THE FORTY MARTYRS OF SEBASTIA WILL BE HONORED ON FRIDAY

The feastday that commemorates **The Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebastia** will be observed on **Penitential Wednesday, March 9th**. During the reign of the Roman Emperor Licinius, these forty men from Sebastia in Armenia (which today is in Turkey) were condemned to death because of their Christian Faith. Having been discovered to be practicing Christians, these forty Armenian men were to suffer an excruciatingly cruel death. These Armenians were martyred for Christ in 320 A.D. on what was Penitential Wednesday, the third Wednesday of the Great Fast. This coming Wednesday's Presanctified Divine Liturgy lauds the Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebastia whose steadfast faith, perseverance, and exemplary courage are presented to us as greatfast deals.