

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022
THE SUNDAY OF THE PALSIED MAN
(THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE HOLY GREAT FAST)

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR PENITENTIAL WEEK

Sunday, March 13:	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.,</i>
Monday, March 14:	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 16:	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 19:	<i>Third All Souls Saturday</i> 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. – Confessions (Priest's Sacristy) 9:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
Sunday, March 20:	<i>The Third Sunday of the Holy Forty-Days Fast:</i> <i>The Sunday of The Veneration of the Precious Cross</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>Dr. Stephen M. Yovino by Mrs. Stephanie Yovino, wife, and</i> <i>the Ellsworth Family</i>

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE HOLY GREAT FAST.....

The designation for this second Sunday of the Great Fast comes from our holy gospel account. It is called **The Sunday of the Palsied Man**. On this second greatfast Sunday, our Byzantine Catholic Church presents the premise that the FORGIVENESS OF SINS comes from Jesus when we have strong faith and when we engender true repentance and sincere sorrow. If we desire forgiveness from the Lord Jesus, then we must repent for our sins, express sorrow for having committed them, and manifest that we wish to amend our life-styles in the future for having offended God, our loving Heavenly Father, by our many iniquities. As examples and models for our lives, the Church places before us today the many Christian martyrs—the witnesses who gave-up their very lives in the cause of the faith that they had in Christ. Through their pious works of prayer, fasting, and penance, these holy martyrs (witnesses) received the healing graces of the Lord in order that the weaknesses of their souls and the frailties of their bodies might be overcome. Jesus truly can save each of us as He healed the soul and cured the body of the palsied man of Capernaum. We, however, must exhibit a strong faith in Him and show an ardent desire for His healing powers. This attitude can be exemplified through our prayers; by our acts of fasting, mortification, and self-denial; and with sincere repentance for any and all of the sins that we have committed either voluntarily or involuntarily. In this way, we also, just like the palsied man of Capernaum, can experience the same healing power that comes from the Lord. Our spiritual weaknesses can be healed only by God's graces, and the primary sources for such graces are the holy mysteries—the sacraments of the Church.

RECONCILIATION WITH GOD DURING THE HOLY GREAT FAST.....

The Church encourages us to make a greatfast confession as we now commemorate the redemptive acts of Christ. Let us all approach the loving Lord Jesus during this penitential greatfast season, seeking His merciful forgiveness through sacramental **confession**. In the **Holy Mystery of Penance**, we unburden ourselves of sin, and we reconcile ourselves with God as we receive His true **peace**. During the Great Forty-Days, remember to make your confession.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY TO BE OBSERVED ON THURSDAY.....

This coming **Thursday, March 17th**, we will observe **The Feast of the Venerable Bishop Saint Patrick**. Born in 387 A.D. in Roman-ruled Britain, Patrick did not take his Christian faith seriously or live by its precepts. At age 16, Irish marauders captured him and transported him to Ireland where he was enslaved. Here his life was transformed through God's intervention, and with the zeal of a fiery new faith, he escaped to Britain, eventually becoming a priest and a bishop. Patrick later returned to Ireland as a missionary. Renowned for his effective preaching, he explained the Holy Trinity by using a shamrock. He died at the age of seventy-four on the 17th of March in 461 A.D., which in that year was Penitential Friday, the third Friday of the Great Forty-Days Fast. As Christians worldwide celebrate the memory of Saint Patrick, we likewise honor him as the noted enlightener of Ireland, for he vividly epitomizes what weak yet determined mortals, in the face of admitted shortcomings, can accomplish by dedication to God's holy will.

THE THIRD ALL-SOULS SATURDAY: REQUIEM SERVICES HELD.....

On all of the Saturdays of the Great Forty-Days Fast, the Church provides us with the opportunity of praying for the repose of the souls of our departed faithful. The Holy Apostle Paul tells us: *"We don't want you to be in doubt about those who fell asleep in death.... Those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise."* (**I Thessalonians 4:13 & 17**) These deceased faithful already have been united to the risen and triumphant Christ. Through His noble cross, salvific death, hallowed tomb, and splendid resurrection, Jesus, our compassionate Savior, has given all of us access to His divine "New Life." As we prepare to commemorate these redemptive acts once again, let us endeavor to pray on these greatfast Saturdays for all those souls who are in need of our assistance as they in turn pray to God for us here on earth.

CHURCH FLEA MARKET TO BE HELD SATURDAY, MARCH 26.....

Please spread the word to your family and friends about the upcoming flea market. This is an important fundraiser as we plan to tackle several repair and maintenance projects in our church. The sale will be from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Volunteers are appreciated for both set-up and on the day of the sale. See Mary after church if you can help out.