

# **Saint Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church**

(Saint Mary's Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church, Inc.)

On the Corner of East 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Second Avenue

Father Edward G. Cimbala, MAOL, D.Min. ~ Pastor

Boris Derow ~ Music Director/Cantor

Parish Office

246 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street \* New York, New York 10003

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*January 14, 2024*

*Sunday of Zaccheus*

*January 21, 2024*

*Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee*

## LITURGICAL SERVICES

**Sunday, January 14**

**Sunday of Zaccheus**

**David, Joseph, and James**

**10:00 AM ~ Divine Liturgy**

+Deceased Members of the  
Chillak Family  
by Mary Chillak

**Sunday, January 21**

**Sunday of the Publican and  
the Pharisee**

10:00 AM ~ Divine Liturgy

+Irene & +Larry Palumbo  
by Elenor Ruschak

**Sunday, January 28**

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

10:00 AM ~ Divine Liturgy

+Mary Vislocky  
By Mary DiMatteo

**Christmas Decoration**

**Take-down**

**After Coffee Social**

**Thursday, February 1**

6:00 PM

Vigil Divine Liturgy

Feast of the Meeting

Of Our Lord With Simeon  
and Anna

For the Parish Families  
of St. Mary's and Holy Cross

**Sunday, February 4**

**Sunday of Meat Fare**

10:00 AM ~ Divine Liturgy

+Adam & Anna Cassiak

by Diane Smertiuk

***Festal Anointing***

***and Blessing of Candles***

Followed By Panachida

and the

Reading of the Hramoty

for the

First All Souls Saturday

**Sunday, February 11**

**Sunday of Cheesefare**

10:00 AM ~ Divine Liturgy

Deceased Members of the Sic

and Ruschak Families

by Margie Ruschak

with Service of Forgiveness

to Begin the Great Fast.

Followed by Fashengy!

# *Fashengy!*

Sunday, February 11

Mark Your Calendars.

More Details Soon.

If you would like to

Volunteer to help put

this event together,

please see Fr. Ed.

## **WELCOME VISITORS!**

**“MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER  
FOR ALL PEOPLES.” - Isaiah 56: 7**

If you are a visitor to St. Mary’s, we want you to know how welcome you are, whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish. We hope you find our worship true and reverent and our people here friendly and cordial. If you seek a spiritual home, we would be honored by your presence in our family. For more information about becoming a parishioner, please see Fr. Ed.

**House Blessings** - It is our tradition to have our homes blessed after the feast of Theophany on January 6. If you wish to have Fr. Ed come and bless your home, please see or email him to schedule a time. Blessings will begin after the Sanctification of the Water on January 7.



## **PRE-CANA FOR COUPLES MARRYING IN 2024 and 2025**



**CROWNED IN LOVE:** Are you planning to marry before the spring of 2025? Then, you should enroll in this one-day Pre-Cana program sponsored by the New Jersey Byzantine Catholic parishes. The event will be hosted on Zoom on Saturday, February 10, 2024, from 9 am to 4:00 pm

with a break for lunch. The cost per couple is \$75.00. See Father Ed for information and registration, or contact Fr. Jack Custer at [passaiccathedral@gmail.com](mailto:passaiccathedral@gmail.com). The deadline to register is January 26, 2024.



**Some Volunteer Opportunities At St. Mary's**

**Office Help**

- Organizing – Ushers - Church Tour Docent**
  - Greeters - Collection Counters - Social Events – Parties**
  - Special Event Hospitality – Photography - Flower Care**
  - Anything that you see that needs to be done!**
- Please see Fr. Ed to Volunteer.**

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** will be sent by January 15 to those who requested them in previous years. If you did not receive one and wished one to be sent, complete the form and drop it in the collection box or email Fr. Ed, and the statement will be sent to you.

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

2023 Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*(It is not necessary if all your gifts were made online)*



**Christmas Decoration  
Take-Down  
January 28<sup>th</sup>  
Following  
The Coffee Social**

Following the Coffee Social on Sunday, January 28th, please stay and help take down the Christmas decorations. The more people who stay, the quicker the work will go.

# Saint Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church

## ALL SOULS 2024



If you didn't receive an ALL SOULS list from last year, or you didn't submit a list, and you wish to have your loved ones commemorated – please use this form and return your list and the offering by January 28 – you may drop it in the collection basket or return by mail. Your deceased loved ones will be mentioned at the services held for the deceased on the All Souls Saturdays.

**As we did last year, the celebration of All Souls will be on Sunday near the designated Saturday – the dates will be February 3, 25, March 3,10, and May 26.**

The regular Sunday Divine Liturgy will be celebrated followed by a Panachida and the reading of the Hramoty.

St. John Chrysostom assures us that:” It is a great honor to be worthy of mention, while the celebration of the Holy Mysteries is going on.” (Homily on the Acts 21, 4) Family members are encouraged to attend these services on All Souls Saturdays (Sundays), for by their presence and personal prayers and receiving Holy Communion, they strengthen the bond of love with their departed loved ones and keep their memory everlasting!

**Please commemorate the following people during the upcoming ALL SOULS SATURDAYS. (Sundays)**


**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Offering Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_

*Theosis In Action &  
the Eparchy of Passaic Presents:*

# Poustinia

**An Evening of**

**Encounter and Hospitality**

**In the Light of the Byzantine East**

*Featuring the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal*

**January 20th, 2024**

**7:00 - 10:00 pm**

**St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church  
246 East 15th St. Manhattan, NY  
10003**

**Open to all young adults (18-35)**

**Evening to include**

- Compline
- Confession
- Silent prayer/reflection
- Social & fellowship

*For more information, contact:  
FatherTomByz@gmail.com or  
facebook.com/theosisinaction*



Featuring Br. Simeon, CFR



**Registration:**



**St. Mary's is Hosting .....  
Poustinia  
An Event For Young Adults  
Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 PM to 10:00 PM  
Invite your friends!**

# Sunday of Zacchaeus

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday, the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus, the tax collector. It tells how



Christ brought salvation to the sinful man and changed his life simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent toward Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our Lenten journey begins with recognizing our sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God’s mercy and compassion by Christ’s words to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation has come to this house” (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is Tone 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection “Today salvation has come to the world,” which echoes the Lord’s words to Zacchaeus.



Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature. Therefore, we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

St Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.

## The Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon and Anna



The Feast of the Encounter of our Lord is celebrated forty days after Christmas on February 2. The Church commemorates the event on this feast is described in the Gospel of St. Luke (2:22-28). From the words of this Gospel and the Liturgical texts pertaining to the feast, we can identify a threefold character: the purification of Mary, the dedication of Jesus as the first-born son, and the meeting with Simeon and the prophetess, Anna.

According to the Mosaic Law, a mother who had given birth to a boy was considered unclean for seven days and, for thirty-three days, was excluded from public worship. When the appointed forty days were past, she was expected to offer a sacrifice for her purification. Here, in the Gospel of St. Luke, the sacrifice offered by Mary, two young pigeons, is described. Mary, since she was not bound to this law, being the chaste spouse of the Holy Spirit, was yet still inspired by the Holy Spirit to comply with the law in fulfilling the will of God.

Secondly, the prescription of the Mosaic Law ordained that every first-born son was considered to belong to the Lord. This son was to be brought back to the temple as an offering to God. Jesus was



presented in the temple according to the command of God, saying, “Every male opening the womb shall be called holy to the Lord” (Lk. 2:23). The Mother of God brought our Lord to the temple to fulfill the command of the Word of God, her own child Jesus.

Simeon was an old man who lived in Jerusalem and longed to see the Messiah. He went to the Temple at the time that Mary and Joseph brought Jesus. Mary welcomed him through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who assured Simeon that he would see the Christ. The canticle, “Now you can dismiss your servant, O Lord, according to your word in peace, because my eyes have seen your salvation...” sung at our Vespers service, echoes the word of Simeon about the truth of life. The prophetess, Anna, was there in the temple to meet our Lord, and she was not disappointed.

This feast was celebrated by the Church of Jerusalem in its early years and spread to the entire Church. Celebrated on different days of the year, finally, it was transferred to the second of February, the present date of the feast. On this day, candles were carried out in the procession. Beginning in the eleventh century, having the candles blessed on this day became a custom. Candles are significant as a symbol of Christ who is the light of the world. The candle is given to us at our Baptism with the words, “Receive the Light of Faith.” We are to carry that faith throughout our lifetime and shine forth with the light of Christ in us to all People



### **Mystery of Reconciliation**

Fr. Ed is always available to celebrate the Mystery of Reconciliation before the Divine Liturgy and at any other time. If Fr. Ed is not in the confessional, please look for him; he will gladly help you.

# ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP



St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church  
Parish Hall

335 Adeline Street, Trenton, NJ 08611



The cost is **\$350**

includes icon boards and painting material

you will need to bring your own lunch or dinner

**There will be time for**

- Prayer
- Talk and discussion
- Personal instructions
- Reflections

**Workshop will be held**



**March 15 - 17, 2024**

Beginners as well as advanced artists  
are welcome



The workshop will be led and guided by Fr. Marek Visnovsky. Fr. Marek is a married Byzantine Catholic priest, serving the Eparchy of Parma. With his wife Miriam they raise three children. For 21 years he has been teaching iconography classes in the USA and Europe. He has painted over 700 icons which are venerated in churches and private homes around the world.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



609-394-5004



marekvisnovsky@yahoo.com

**The deadline for registration is Sunday, March 10, 2024**

## A Prayer for Our Parish

Lord, God, and Savior of all, we thank You for the blessing of St. Mary's parish in our lives. May Your word become alive in each and every one of us who strive to follow You. Please bless and multiply all the gifts — time, talent, and treasure — which are given in thanks to benefit our mission and glorify Your name. Bless and multiply the givers and help us all to make present Your Kingdom. For You are the Giver of all that is good, O Christ our God, and to You we give glory, together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

# The Sunday of The Publican and Pharisee



The name for this Sunday is taken from the parable of our Lord Jesus Christ found in Luke 18:10-14. This is the story of two men, one a Pharisee, a member of a Jewish sect known for its diligent observance of the Law, and the other a Publican, a government official charged with the responsibility of collecting taxes. Both men enter the temple, and the Pharisee stands openly and prays, thanking God that he is not like other men, specifically extortioners, the unjust, adulterers, “or even this tax collector” (v. 11). He then begins to list his religious accomplishments by stating, “I fast twice a week, and I give tithes of all that I possess” (v. 12).

In direct contrast to the pride of the Pharisee, the Publican goes to a place where he will not be noticed by others and beats his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” (v. 13).

Having told this story, Jesus affirms that the Publican returned home justified and forgiven rather than the Pharisee. He states, “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (v. 14).

The theme of this parable is repentance. Repentance is the door through which we enter Lent, the starting-point of the journey to Pascha. To repent signifies far more than self-pity or futile regret over things done in the past. The Greek term *metanoia* means “change of mind.” To repent is to be renewed, to be transformed in our inward viewpoint, to attain a fresh way of looking at our relationship with God and with others. The fault of the Pharisee is that he has no desire to change his outlook; he is complacent and self-satisfied, and so he allows no place for God to act within him.

The Gospel depicts him as a man who is pleased only with himself and thinks that he has complied with all of the requirements of religion. But in his pride, he has falsified the meaning of true religion and faith. He has reduced these to external observations, measuring his piety by the amount of money he gives.

The Publican, on the other hand, truly longs for a “change of mind.” He humbles himself, and his humility justifies him before God. He becomes, in the words of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3), “poor in spirit.”

He acknowledges that he is a sinner, and he knows that salvation is only found in the mercy of God. Here, we find an example of true humility, an essential aspect of repentance. A “change of mind” and the transformation of our lives can only happen when we humble ourselves before God, acknowledge our willingness to turn from sin, and receive His grace into our lives.

Our preparation for Lent thus begins with a prayer for humility, the beginning of true repentance. Through repentance, we can find and return to the true order of things, a restoration of our spiritual vision that will guide us in a very difficult and challenging world. By entering Great Lent in humility and repentance, we can attain deeper communion with God as we receive His forgiveness and He blesses by guiding us to greater spiritual heights.

**GOD WITH US** **FREE ONLINE WEBINARS**  
**WITH US** JAN-MAR 2024 *Formed for Life!*



**FORMING SAINTS THE BYZIKIDS WAY**

Come and explore the way to make saints the ByziKids Way! Join Fr. Dn. Robert Klesko as he hosts ByziMom, Lynne Wardach, and the Melkite Momma, Kh. Jocelyn Abyad, about their work in catechesis and curriculum, forming hearts and minds to be faithful to the Gospel as Eastern Catholics.

60 MIN WEBINAR ON FRI 1/12 - 4PM EST



**THEOPHANY & CHRISTIAN INITIATION**

Want to learn more about the relationship between the Baptism of Jesus Christ and our own Mysteries of Christian Initiation? Fr. Daniel Dozier and Fr. Dn. Robert Klesko discuss Archbishop Joseph Raya's *Theophany and Sacraments of Initiation*. Join us as we explore our salvation in Christ!

90 MIN WEBINAR ON MON 1/29 - 7PM EST



**SPRINGS IN THE DESERT**

**THE CHALLENGE OF INFERTILITY FOR CATHOLIC FAMILIES**

One of the Spiritual Works of Mercy which we focus on during Great Lent is “comforting the afflicted.” Many struggle with the difficulty of infertility while affirming the goodness of their marriage and living according to the principles of faith. Join Ann Koshute, MTS as we discuss this important life-affirming topic.

60 MIN WEBINAR ON 2/12, 2024 - 2PM EST

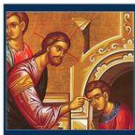


**NOW THE POWERS OF HEAVEN**

**THE LENTEN LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS**

Every Great Lent the Byzantine Churches celebrate a unique form of weekday liturgy known by the name “The Presanctified Liturgy of Saint Gregory the Great.” But what is the meaning of this rite, especially in the context of the Fast? Join Fr. James Bankston as we explore Fr. David Petras’ new book!

FOUR 90 MIN WEBINARS ON 1ST & 3RD THURS OF FEB/MAR - 7PM EST



**COMPANIONS OF THE CROSS**

**COMPASSION AND SUFFERING IN MINISTRY TO THE SICK**

“Visiting the sick” is an important Corporal Work of Mercy that involves sharing in the suffering of others. How do we bring and find Christ in our service to the sick? Join full time staff chaplain and Melkite seminarian, Subdeacon Riley Wonstead, as we discuss this important ministry to the sick and the dying.

60 MIN LIVE WEBINAR ON THURS 3/14 - 7PM EST

JANUARY 2024

FEBRUARY 2024

MARCH 2024

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