



Welcome to St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Parish

Thank you for joining us at St. Michael's, a parish of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church serving the people of Fresno, Clovis, and surrounding communities. We are "Eastern Catholics," in full communion with the Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis.

Our Services

As Eastern Catholics, we worship in the Byzantine Rite, with a pattern similar to and yet distinct from Roman Catholic liturgies. Services are in English with some Ukrainian, which many of us are learning!

Vespers: Saturday evenings, a service of psalms and prayers, with confessions available afterwards.

Matins: Sunday mornings, a service of psalms and prayers preceding the Divine Liturgy.

Divine Liturgy: Sunday mornings, the main service, equivalent to the Roman Catholic Mass. The blue *Divine Liturgy* books are used. Most Sundays, the liturgy begins on page 97; other pages are announced as needed. The small black Liturgy books have no music but feature English and Ukrainian on facing pages. Any member of any of the Catholic churches may meet the Sunday Mass obligation by attending Divine Liturgy, and any Catholic who is properly disposed may receive Holy Communion.

Differences You May Notice

Eastern Catholics make the sign of the Cross from right to left.

Eastern Catholics do not kneel during Sunday services, as kneeling is considered a sign of penitence not in keeping with the joyful nature of the day.

When approaching to receive Holy Communion, the faithful cross their arms—in a Roman Catholic church, this would indicate you wish to be blessed but not to receive Communion. In an Eastern church, it indicates the opposite—that you wish to receive.

The bread used for the Eucharist is leavened rather than unleavened. The priest uses a spoon (not touching your mouth) to administer Holy Communion, which is given under both kinds.

On entering and leaving, it is traditional to come up to the small table near the front (the "tetrapod"), and either kiss the icon and the cross beside it, or make a simple bow with the sign of the cross. When you come in, you are welcome to take a small candle from the table near the entrance and place it in the candle stand in front of the tetrapod to represent your prayers and intentions during the service.

Thank You for Joining Us in Worship!

Please feel free to ask any questions, and please join us again!

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St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Parish * Very Rev. Dr. Gregory Zubacz, Pastor
Our Lady of Perpetual Help School Chapel * 856 Harvard Ave., Clovis CA * 559-421-5129
www.stmichaelsclovis.com