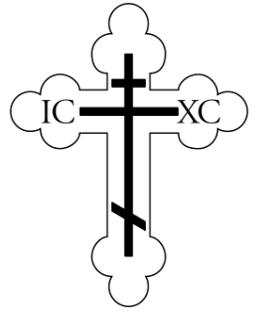


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



A Parish of the
Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle
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Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

Confessions are heard before or
after Vespers or by appointment.

**Welcome visitors!
Please join us in
the parish hall after
Divine Liturgy for
coffee hour.**

March 24, 2019

Eve of Annunciation

2nd Sunday of Great Lent: St. Gregory Palamas

On Sundays of Great Lent we celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, which may be found on page 101 of the newer black Liturgy books.

The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the earliest Christian feasts, and was already being celebrated in the fourth century. The Greek and Slavonic names for the Feast may be translated as “good tidings.” This, of course, refers to the Incarnation of the Son of God and the salvation He brings. The background of the Annunciation is found in the Gospel of

Saint Luke (1:26-38). The troparion describes this as the “beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the eternal mystery,” for on this day the Son of God became the Son of Man.

There are two main components to the Annunciation: the message itself, and the response of the Virgin. The message fulfills God’s promise in the Old Testament to send a Redeemer. The prophets hinted at His coming, which they saw dimly, but the Archangel Gabriel now proclaims that the promise is about to be fulfilled.

The Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth in Galilee. There he spoke to the undefiled Virgin who was betrothed to Saint Joseph: “Hail, you who are highly favored, the Lord is with you: blessed are you among women. And behold, you shall conceive in your womb and bring forth a son and shall call his name Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God shall give to Him the throne of His father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end.”

Then said Mary to the angel, “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” (Luke 1:34).

“And the angel answered and said unto her, “The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you: therefore also that which shall be born of you shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, your cousin Elisabeth has also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.’ And Mary said, ‘Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to your word.’ And the angel departed from her.” (Luke 1:35-38)

The Annunciation falls during Great Lent, but it is always celebrated with great joy. It is one of the two days of Great Lent on which the fast is relaxed and fish is permitted (Palm Sunday is the other).

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 2 – Resurrectional Troparion

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Tone 4 – Troparion for Annunciation

Today is the prelude of joy for the universe.
Let us anticipate the feast and celebrate with exultation:
“Gabriel is on his way to announce the glad tidings to the
Virgin;
he is ready to cry out in fear and wonder://
‘Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!’”

Tone 2 – Resurrectional Kontakion

Hell became afraid, almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation with Adam beheld this and rejoiced
with You, //
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

Tone 8 – Kontakion for Annunciation

You are the beginning of salvation for all of us on earth, Virgin
Mother of God.
For the great Archangel Gabriel, God’s minister, was sent from
heaven to stand before you to bring you joy://
Therefore, we all cry to you: “Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 1.10-2.3

Brethren: God says of the Son, “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.”

But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Therefore, we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him?

Gospel: Mark 2.1-12

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.

Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.”

And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” – He said to the paralytic, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Anthony Leone

David Envall

Debra Caravana

Anna Vahary

Chris Velo

Ev.Mem. Velko Evanoff ('36)

Sava Prow ('47)

John Kulik ('69)

Nikita Hrischuk ('70)

Wassel Carnegie ('84)

John Mosak ('88)

Ann Morosko ('99)

Carl Naum (2007)

Michael Shendrick Sr.

Joy Lepper

Zorka Delich

Health &

Salvation:

Protopr. George

Mat. Anna

Archpr. Peter

Archpr. John

Pr. John

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Kimberly

Gail

William

Jovan

Charles

Barbara

Theodore

Michael

Julia

Warren

Loretta

Gilbert

Carol

Peter

Janie

Tom

Elizabeth

Tina

Adam

Myah

Margaret

Diane

Madelin

Villian

Deborah

Claudia

John

Carisa

Natalia

Elizabeth

Tom

Paul

Alexander

Darlene

Kristin

Mitchel

Brittany

Jennifer

David

Roger

Tina

Chris

Benjamin

Juliana

Joseph

Cathy

Laurie

Lennox

Laila

Richard

Paula

Christopher

Brian

Jennifer

Janet

Nicholas

Kevin

Barbara

Thomas

Allyson

Daniel

*If you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

Do not say, 'The Bible is for monks. am I turning my child into a monk?' No! It is not necessary for him to be a monk. Make him into a Christian! Why are you afraid of something so good? It is necessary for everyone to know Scriptural teachings, and this is especially true for children.

- St. John Chrysostom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This evening we host **His Grace, Bishop Paul**, and the clergy and faithful of the Chicago Deanery for the first **Mission Vespers** of 2019. The service starts @ 6pm, followed by a meal. **Come get to know** our fathers, brothers and sisters in the Chicago area. If you are able, please stay after coffee hour a bit to help us prepare for our guests. See Nick for tasks that need doing.

We have two more **Soul Saturdays** coming up. Liturgy will be at the Church on March 30 and at the Cemetery Chapel on April 6. At these Divine Liturgies we pray for all of our departed loved ones. When you come, **write out a list of your departed** and give them to Fr Jacob to be remembered.

O-Club is hosting a **Trivia Night fundraiser** at St. Mary's Center on Friday, May 3 to support Meals-on-Wheels and its other outreach endeavors. Please help us spread the word! Come and play, or sign up as a volunteer to help us make it as fun and successful as possible.

Mark your calendars:

Mar 25: Divine Liturgy for the **Feast of Annunciation** at Descent of the Holy Ghost @ 10am

Mar 27: **Presanctified Liturgy** @ 6pm

Mar 29: **Presanctified Liturgy** @ 10am

Presanctified at Descent of the Holy Ghost @ 6pm

Mar 30: **Liturgy for the Departed @ 10am**

Mar 31: **Mission Vespers** at Archangel Michael Church in Burbank, IL @ 6pm

Apr 7: **Mission Vespers** at Holy Resurrection Church in Palatine, IL @ 6pm

May 3: **O-Club Trivia Night** to benefit Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord:

General Fund: \$887

Mortgage: \$363

Fasting from "Being Busy" During Lent by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

One of the main struggles faced by families during Lent is the conflict that seems to exist between Lenten expectations and the busy demands of daily family life. It seems as if we try and cram Lenten practices, such as increased service attendance, charitable activity, and youth retreats, into a schedule that maintains the same level of involvement in school-related commitments (sports, music lessons, school band, etc.).

I remember Archbishop Job of blessed memory once speaking about celebrating and attending church for feast days. He asked when families attended services, "Were we celebrating a feast, or just attending another busy activity?" I answered to myself that the experience was just another busy activity to fit into an already busy schedule.

Can families fast from being busy during Lent? This is not an easy question to answer. I know that for some sports events, if children don't attend the scheduled practices, they won't be permitted to play in regular games. And I know how often such activities, practices, and games conflict with Lenten services. I offer the following thoughts for your consumption and further reflection.

- When is too much, too much? Do children have to play two or three sports? Do they have to learn more than one instrument? School bands travel on the weekends; do they have to attend every trip?
- Parishes offer Presanctified Liturgies at least every Wednesday — and some on Fridays. If there is a conflict, can families participate in at least 50% of the services offered (and not attend the school event)? Perhaps your parish priest can write a letter to the coach, teacher, or director requesting that one's child might be excused from a practice or a game to attend a church service or activity. This request could include a request that the child would not suffer any consequences for missing the school or sporting event.
- Can children be sent to school with fasting meals for lunch if none are offered at school? Are we so concerned about fitting in that we can't use these opportunities to witness to our Faith and why we do what we do?

When I served as a priest in Toledo, a former parishioner told me a great story about how his dad dealt with him with regard to sports activities. The father told his son he could play football, but he had to remember Wednesdays and Sundays were church days, and he needed to attend church for scheduled events (not a football event). When a Sunday came up during which the football coach wanted his players to gather to view films from the previous game, my former parishioner went to church that day instead. Whatever consequence he faced for missing out on film viewing, he accepted. Are we willing to do this?

The Lord's blessing be upon you.

Forgive me a sinner,

The unworthy, +Paul

Glory to God for all things!