

### *Whatever Their Size, Carry Them*

“Whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel’s will save it.” One who knew the meaning of Jesus’ words so well was Flannery O’Connor, the distinguished Catholic novelist who died in 1964 at the age of 39. From the age of 25 she lived with the knowledge she had a terminal disease, Lupus, – not to mention her sufferings from bone disintegration, shingles, anemia, and a tumor. Yet it was during fourteen years of sickness and suffering that she produced her greatest works of literary art. Her strong faith enabled her to say: “I have never been anywhere but sick. In a sense sickness is a place, more instructive than a long trip to Europe. Sickness before death is a very appropriate thing and I think those who don’t have it miss one of God’s mercies ...”

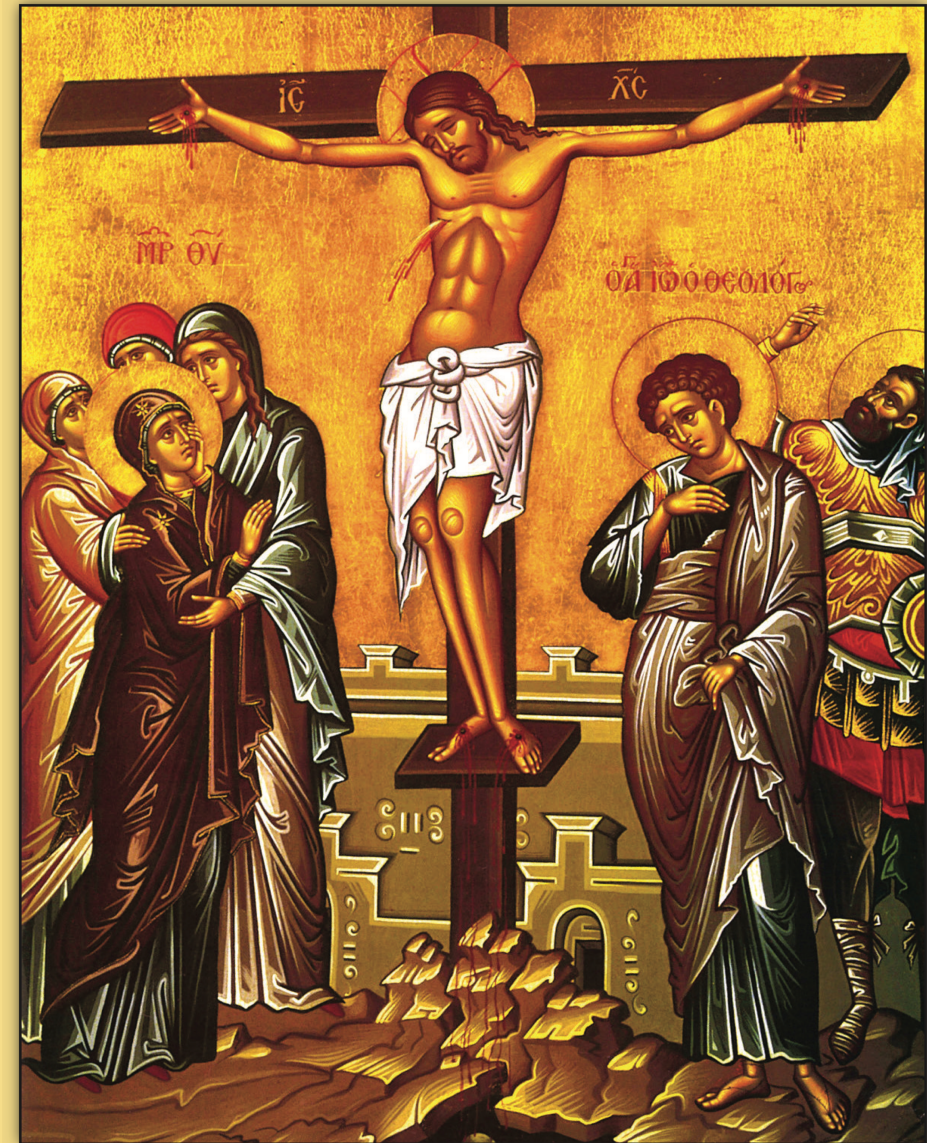
Those are strong words! How could a young woman call sickness one of God’s mercies? Yet Jesus’ words in the Gospel are just as strong: “If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his

cross, and follow in my steps.”

In some way Flannery O’Connor was able to accept the cross of her sickness and follow in the Lord’s footsteps. But she didn’t do it with a nice sweet smile on her face. She did it with strong courage and conviction. She realized that her own sickness was the very thing that helped her to look at life around her with the eyes of faith; and to translate that life into literary pages that would win her international fame as a writer. Each one of us is called upon to carry a cross in our life at some time. For some it may be the cross of emotional or spiritual suffering, rather than physical suffering. Sometimes there are big crosses, sometimes small. Whatever their size, Jesus calls upon us to carry them.

Visit [www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com) for more publications.

## SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



*Icon of the Crucifixion of Christ on the Cross*



## Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491  
Office: (708) 645-0241 Fax:(708) 645-0243  
Email: AnnuncByzChurch@aol.com  
Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA  
Deacons: J. Timothy Tkach John Evancho

## Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Parish

*In all decisions regarding parish membership and Sacramental life, the pastor exercises the final decision and the confidentiality of the persons involved must be respected.*

**Parish Membership** is determined by three things:

1. Being registered in the parish for a sufficient amount of time
2. Faithful and consistent participation in the liturgical life of the parish especially on Sundays and Holy days.
3. Regular financial support of the parish. Use of offertory envelopes by parish members is required for weekly donations

**The Sacred Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation and Matrimony** are available only to those persons who comply with the above requirements of parish membership.

**A Biblically based stewardship** is part of the vision of Annunciation parish. Parishioners are encouraged to practicing tithing and also to consider Annunciation parish in planned giving such as trust funds, etc.

**Couples who are planning to be married** at Annunciation parish must be free to be married in the Church and must contact the pastor at least six months prior to their proposed wedding date. Persons applying for annulments of a previous marriage should not set a Church wedding date unless their annulment has been granted.

**Couples who are cohabitating or involved in same sex civil unions or so-called same sex "marriages,"** as well as couples who are contracepting are asked to seek the pastor's help in understanding the Church's teaching and in conforming their lives to the moral teaching of the Church. Such persons **cannot receive Holy Communion** until their lives are reconciled with the Church.

**Parish members entering the hospital or who are home-bound** should contact the pastor or parish business office.

**Prior to undergoing surgery or going under anesthesia** parish members should contact the pastor.

**No eulogies** or public addresses by laity are permitted during funeral services.

**Cremation is permitted but not encouraged.** Ashes are not permitted in the church. Funeral services with the body of the deceased in the church must take place prior to cremation. Ashes are to be buried according to the burial rite of the Church. Ashes cannot be scattered or kept in homes.

**Appropriate behavior and dress** are required for all liturgical services. No audible conversations, or waving across the church. Electronic devices must be turned off. No food, candy, or gum chewing. Dress code is formal and modest for all services.

**Abstinence from meat is to be observed every Friday.** If this is not possible an equivalent

### September 17, 2023 - Sunday After The Exaltation of The Holy Cross Schedule of Services

<b>Sunday</b>	17	<b>Sunday After The Exaltation of The Holy Cross</b> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
<b>Thursday</b>	21	7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Karl Schudt by Joe & Jean Schudt
<b>Saturday</b>	23	<b>Conception of St. John the Baptist</b> 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +Peter Sparacio by the Thompson Family  5:00 PM Vespers
<b>Sunday</b>	24	<b>17th Sunday After Pentecost</b> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners

#### We pray for the sick and homebound of our parish, especially:

Kim Hughes	Ken Hrusosky	Jean Rusnak
Dot Wochok	Mary Ann Baran	Mary Ann Horne
Francis Hughes	Gloria Paulson	John Oreeluk
Fr. Bernard Danber	Frank Miko	Sally Hughes
William Horne	William Davis	Claire Resuta
Paul Kaderabek	Linda Tkach	

#### We pray for our Catechumens of our parish:

Lea Rodbarry	Kate Colome
Anthony Mazzeo	Stephen Beardsley

# Grand Raffle Update

**1st Early Bird Drawing - Sunday, October 8th**  
**2nd Early Bird Drawing - Sunday, November 12th**

**Grand Drawing - Sunday, December 10th**  
**Countdown - 85 Days**

**Grand Prize - \$5,000**

## RAFFLE TICKET SALES UPDATE

**Keep up the good efforts...**

**Dont' stop now!**

	# of Tickets	Amount	%
Goal	350	\$35,000	100%
Sold	(113)	(11,300)	32.29%
Unsold	237	\$23,700	67.71%

**NEED MORE TICKETS?...SEE ROBERT PALASZ**

### “TICKET WARRIORS” - Parishioners who have already SOLD tickets

Kathleen Andrews, Bill & Sandy Davis, Dennis & Gerry Davis, Gary & Sharon Dorencz, Jim Forkal, Linda Gaydos, Anne Gazzolo, Catherine Gazzolo, Bill Gulas, Maria Gulas, Bob & Sheila Horne, Mary Ann Horne, Marianne Horvath, Ken & Donna Hrusosky, Paul Kaderabek, Mary Kenes, Marilyn Lopez, Patrick & Teri Manaher, Diane Zelnick Milmont, Dennis Mrowca, Cecelia Okonski, John & Mary Oreluk, Johnny & Hazel Oreluk, Justin Orenic, Richard Palasz, Robert & Jean Palasz, Jack & Jamila Pawchak, Betty Pawlowski, Georgia Peceniak, Joe Schudt, Matthew & Abbie Sheedy, Michael Sheedy, Daniel Snidauf, Mike Triggs, Bill & Nancy Withers, Daryl & Mary Jean Wuske



**Mary's Helpers Potluck**  
**Wednesday, September 20th**

Join the Mary's Helpers this Wednesday for a potluck luncheon at Noon. Lunch will include hot dogs and hamburgers as the main course. Your favorite dish will make it a scrumptious fare. All are welcome to join this afternoon of fellowship with parishioners who are either retired or who can make their own schedule and would enjoy an afternoon out among friends.

**Contact Georgia for more information - 331-457-9935**



## Altar Server Camp

**Saturday, September 23rd**

**9AM - 2PM**

The day will begin with Liturgy at 9AM, followed by instructions, lunch and games. All boys who are currently serving as well as those who wish to serve should attend this camp.

Are you new to our church or have you been here your entire life? Either way, consider being a part of history by attending this first ever Metropolitan Assembly in November. There are all types of activities and events planned for this weekend. You can learn more about the assembly by checking out the website:

[byzantineassembly2023.org](http://byzantineassembly2023.org)



# METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY

Art | History | Presentations | Prayer | Dancing

## NOVEMBER 2 - 5, 2023

**LIVING OUR FAITH  
Moving Forward  
Appreciating Our Past**



- \$250 per person
- \$400 per family
- **Young Adult (18-35)\***  
\*registration underwritten by The Maria Theresa Foundation



**St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church,  
Hillsborough, NJ**

**Assembly Coordinators**  
Fr. Edward Cimbala 212-677-0516 | Fr. Yuriy Oros 609-394-5004  
Email: [byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com](mailto:byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com) | Web: [byzantineassembly2023.org](http://byzantineassembly2023.org)

# O, LORD

## I LOVE THE PLACE WHERE YOUR GLORY DWELLS

Psalm 26:8 (25:8 LXX)  
*The Church as Our  
Spiritual Home with God*



2023-2024 CATECHETICAL SUNDAY  
**9.17.2023**  
GOD WITH US - EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION  
educate, equip, inspire missionary disciples



[www.godwithusonline.org](http://www.godwithusonline.org)



Click for Resources

Family Catechesis will continue on the 3rd Sunday of the month with a potluck luncheon followed by instructions for both adults and children. Any adult is welcome to attend these instructional Sunday afternoons.

**Family Catechesis**  
Sunday, October 15th  
Noon - 1:30pm

ByzanTEENS will meet on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month.

**ByzanTEENS**  
Tuesday, October 3rd & 17th  
6:30pm to 8:00pm

### *For Consideration*

As one candle is lit from another, so good works are caught from others. A nobleman decided to give a gold cross to a church, and found a young but experienced goldsmith, gave him a great measure of gold and told him to make whatever sort of cross he liked. The poor goldsmith, seeing such an offering made by the nobleman for the sake of his soul, was fired in his own heart with love for God, and decided to add ten gold pieces of his own to the nobleman's heap of gold. When the cross was ready, the nobleman weighed it and found that it was heavier than the gold that he had given to the young man. He immediately began to abuse him as a thief, suspecting him of having abstracted some of the gold and substituted a heavier metal. When the young man saw the nobleman in such a rage, he confessed his deed. 'I added', he said, 'some gold of my own, as the widow gave her two mites, to receive Christ's reward along with you.' Hearing this, the nobleman's heart was touched and he said to the young man: 'From this day, you are my son and the inheritor of all my goods.'